



## **VICE CHANCELLOR'S REPORT**

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This regular written report presents highlights from the Academic and Student Affairs Division.

## **Academic Affairs**

### Learning Design

- The CCCS Learning Design team is currently working on 46 consortium course shell projects, 15 course blueprints, 6 courses for the BAS in Cyber Security program, and 3 noncredit projects.
- A team of 19 faculty/staff/LD stakeholders from across the consortium that are developing a 3-year plan regarding types of projects, budgets, timelines, and other resources across the 13 colleges. This 3-year drafted plan should be completed by early May.
- The Learning Design Community of Practice is exploring offering the Quality Matters Teaching on Online Certification professional development across the system.

### Concurrent Enrollment (CE)

- The CCCS CE Annual Report for AY24 was released (Special Reports | Colorado Community College System). Key highlights for AY24 include:
- CE served 51,202 Colorado high school students, an increase of 15.3% over the prior year, 41.1% of overall CCCS headcount.
- CE students attempted 443,488 credits (14,783 FTE), an increase of 18.7% over the prior year, 46.4% of total CCCS credit hours and an average 8.7 credits per student vs 7.0 credits per student for non-CE students.
- CE programs saved CCCS students and families \$71,390,301 in tuition alone, a 25% increase in savings over the prior year.
- Course pass rates have remained flat at around 90% for 5 straight years, with small success rate gaps for first generation and students of color (85.6% and 87.5%, respectively). Notably, CE pass rates in online courses trailed at 82.3%, an area for improvement.
- Credentials earned by CE students grew to 3,542, up 3%. 76.3% of credentials earned are certificates, with the balance a mix of associate degree types (in descending order of frequency: AA, AS, AGS, AAS, AES, & AFA).

- While overall college matriculation rates for CE students after high school remain good at 65.6%, matriculation to CCCS colleges again declined, dropping to 13.5% vs 13.6% in the prior year, and a continuation of the 5-year downward trend from 18.4% in AY18.
  - CE continues to show a strong impact on 3-year college graduation rates:
  - 34.7% among students with previous concurrent enrollment
  - 22.7% for students with no previous concurrent enrollment
- We have requested the Governor declare the week of April 12-19 as Concurrent Enrollment Week in Colorado, to coincide with this year's Colorado Concurrent Enrollment Conference being held April 18 at Arapahoe Community College. This year the conference is being organized by the newly formed Colorado state chapter of the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP).

### Academic Technology

Director of Academic Technology, Frank Vazquez met with the project leads for Simple Syllabus from each college. Simple Syllabus is a syllabus content management system. During the meeting, the colleges decided to go-live with Simple Syllabus in Fall 2025. Communication will begin during Spring 2025 to faculty. Team members are hosting an *Introduction to Simple Syllabus* training for faculty. Any faculty within the CCCS may attend. During the first training 171 participants attended. Training will continue in April and August, right before the fall semester starts.

The Banner and Simple Syllabus data integration is almost complete. The integration will allow populating significantly more fields on the syllabus template. Which will be a time saver for faculty with filling out the syllabus before a course starts. Fields such start date, end date, census date, topical outline, learning outcomes, and more, will be auto populated for the faculty.

### Presentations

Dr. Michael Murphy, Director of Learning Design and Professional Development; Dr. Tina Parscal, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Computer Science Faculty, Red Rocks Community College, Dr. Diane Rhodes; and Assistant to Behavioral Health Program, Pueblo Community College, Mary Chavez will present on *"Innovative Curriculum Planning: Colorado Online's BAS Degree Development"* at the 2025 UPCEA Annual Conference.

Community College of Denver Provost, Peter Linstrom; Dr. Tina Parscal, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Dean of Assessment, Strategy, and Performance Excellence, Community College of Aurora, Dr. Kathryn Skulley; and Dr. Tina Parscal, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs will present on *"Collaborative Leadership in Action: CCCS's Innovative Approach to Creating a System-Wide Consortium Agreement"* at the Higher Learning Commission Annual Meeting.

Brittany Dudek, Director of Library and OER Services, presented *"Elements of Humanizing EdTech in Higher Education: Effective Uses and Governance"* at the WCET Virtual Summit on

February 27, 2025, presented at the Northeast OER Summit on “*Open Education vs. Inclusive/Equitable Access: Cage Match vs. Coexistence?*” and “*The Diversity of Requests for Proposals for New Bookstore Contracts and the Consequences of Automatic Textbook Billing*” on March 3, 2025.

Rachel Meisner, Learning Resources Coordinator, Jason Steagall, Online Student Success Librarian, and Marcus Elmore, Access Services Librarian presented “*OER 101*” for Open Education Week on March 5, 2025.

## **Student Affairs**

### Student Affairs Team

With a focus on Empowered Talent, the Associate Director of Student Affairs position has been posted and candidates will be evaluated and interviewed in the next few weeks. A significant priority for this position is to help leverage the Power of 13 by facilitating connections between the colleges, sharing of best practices, and creating efficiencies.

### Equity & Inclusion Team

With a focus on Empowered Talent and Education for All, CCCS hosted Guest Speaker Dr. Michael Benitez, VP for Diversity and Inclusion at Metro State University Denver, and Associate Professor of Multicultural Education the School of Education. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education (NADOHE), the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Higher Education, and the Urban Leadership Foundation of Colorado, and serves as an advisor to the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity (NCORE).

Dr. Benitez spoke to the E&I Council on Having difficult DEI discussions, Assessing Risk in DEI work, and gave an update on NADOHE’s litigation to stop anti-DEI initiatives.

NADOHE had success in two recent rulings by the federal district court that preserved the nationwide preliminary injunction in favor of NADOHE and their co-plaintiffs and that clarified the broad reach of the injunction against enforcement of the executive orders that target diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Several members of the system office and the Equity & Inclusion Council attended the NADOHE Conference in Chicago, IL from March 4-8, 2025.

### Financial Aid Team

With a focus on Empowered Talent and the Power of 13, the Financial Aid Directors at 12 of 13 colleges attended a 2-day retreat to focus on utilizing available tools to make each office more efficient and to enable

all of us to be better partners for students and each other. A follow-up one day session will be held in April to ensure the progress continues.

## Workforce Solutions

### Colorado Association of Career and Technical Administrators (CACTA) Conference

The CACTA Conference was held from February 5th to 7th in Loveland, Colorado, where our Career and Technical Education (CTE) team played a significant role. Highlights from the conference included:

- Dr. Sarah Heath's presentation on the *State of the State for CTE*.
- An in-depth presentation on the modernized Career Cluster Model from our Advanced CTE partners.
- Apprenticeship convenings led by our team in collaboration with industry leaders and Apprenticeship Colorado.
- A specialized training session for new CTE Administrators.
- The introduction of a new advanced-level training for experienced CTE Administrators.
- A breakout session, facilitated by Dr. Heath, on the development of a *Social Capital Curriculum*, funded through a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.
- Active collaboration from our programming team in offering roundtable help sessions, contributing to the overall success of the conference.

### CTSO State Leadership Conference Season

February marks the beginning of the Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) state leadership conference season:

- The *Technology Student Association (TSA) State Conference* took place February 12th-14th at the Denver Marriott Tech Center with over 1,700 learners in attendance. This year, TSA expanded its partnerships, including an exciting collaboration with LEGO.
- The *Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) State Conference* was hosted at the Sheraton in downtown Denver. Attendance has seen exponential growth in recent years, and the event showcased students' life-saving skills.
- The *DECA State Conference* was held at The Broadmoor, marking its 75th anniversary in Colorado. The conference saw a significant increase in attendance, further highlighting the strength of CTE business and marketing programs in the state.

### CTE Program Development and Industry Collaboration

Our CTE program directors continue to lead, coach, and support secondary and post-secondary instructors and district leaders through the program approval process. Current initiatives include:

- Hosting town halls and meet-ups to address technical and programming-related questions.



- Collaborating with industry state advisory boards to update secondary pathways, ensuring alignment with industry standards (e.g., the Sports Medicine pathway for Health Science).
- Engaging with national partners to help guide national standards frameworks, such as our Family and Consumer Science program director's participation on a national committee.
- Supporting the development of a *Health Science High School*, designed to address workforce shortages in high-demand healthcare positions.
- Advancing work on the *Construction Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) Degree* in partnership with Pueblo Community College. This initiative leverages *Colorado Succeeds* to establish an industry advisory board, ensuring the curriculum remains relevant and rigorous.
- Collaborating with *Colorado Succeeds* to define course frameworks for *Project Scale*, an initiative aimed at strengthening Skilled Trades pathways in districts.
- Preparing for the *SkillsUSA State Conference* in Pueblo next month, where Colorado's top Skilled Trades students will compete in events such as cabinet making, welding, and automotive repair. Progress continues in aligning registered apprenticeships within this sector.
- The CTE team began development in February on an updated postsecondary program approval process in the CTE Gateway after feedback from internal and college partners to help streamline program approval and reduce barriers to the Banner entry process as well as updating financial aid documentation and eligibility for added/revised awards at the postsecondary level. Progress on this project, expected to be implemented in early April, is ongoing and currently on schedule.

#### District Collaboration and CTSO Engagement

- The programming team attended a collaborative district CTE meeting for Districts 20, 38, and 49, where they presented on:
  - The key components of *high-quality CTE*.
  - The effective use of *Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs)* as a critical indicator of success.
  - Learner-centered, outcome-focused innovations that enhance student engagement, leadership development, and career readiness, ensuring that CTE education aligns with workforce needs.
- Accountability staff worked with more than 20 districts and colleges in February supporting Perkins planning and CTE processes.
- CTE staff presented at the system-wide Controller's retreat on grants management topics and provided training and technical assistance to the colleges.

#### CTE Conclusion

The month of February has been highly productive, with significant advancements in CTE programming, industry partnerships, and student engagement through CTSOs. Our team remains committed to fostering high-quality CTE experiences that prepare students for future career success.

### Colorado Skills Institute

- On February 26, 2025, Colorado Skills Institute went live, utilizing CampusCE as the platform for learner registration of courses. Current course offerings include Qualified Behavioral Health Assistant (QBHA) Bootcamp, National Endowment for Financial Education (NEFE) financial education microcredential, and approximately 120 courses and programs administered through a partnership with Coursera.
- An additional 50 courses are planned for launch in March 2025.
- Marketing campaign planning is underway.

### Early Childhood Education Skills Guide Grant

- The Skills Guide grant has successfully launched peer mentorship programs at four colleges (ACC, RRCC, MCC, and NJC), expanding support for early childhood education students across Colorado.
- Recruited, hired, and onboarded 24 Skills Guides, with many actively mentoring students in ECE 1011 and ECE 1031 courses across 10 counties.

### Credit for Prior Learning

- Principles of Marketing CLEP exam was approved by the State Discipline Chair (MAR discipline) to be added to the CCCS CPL/PLA matrix with an equivalency to MAR 2016.

### HB21-1149 SPARC

- Spend down has been determined with all partners. CCCS SPARC funds have been provided to more colleges to support clean energy programming. (MCC, CCD).
- Building Science Pathway (validated by Colorado Energy Office) is being built for the Colorado Skills Institute. The pathway will consist of 6 classes; 2 classes are completed.
- Participating within the Electrification Workforce Network (sponsored by Xcel Energy) to highlight electrification workforce pathways.

### SB22-181 Behavioral Health Pathways

- All 13 colleges are participating in the 181 project. As of Fall 2025, Behavioral Health (BEH) offerings will include:
  - 9 colleges offering some or all the five BEH microcredentials
  - 5 colleges offering the BEH Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree
  - 4 colleges offering the BEH Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) degree
  - 1 college offering a 2+2+1 program in collaboration with CSU
  - 1 college offering an Integrative Health Coach credential that will include curricular elements of the BEH microcredentials
- In conversation with 7 four-year colleges/universities to develop articulation agreements from the BEH AAS and BAS degrees to a variety of bachelor's and master's degree pathways.

### NSF CO-WY Climate Resilience Engine



- Working through agreements with multiple colleges (FRCC, NJC, LCC, CCD) for funding to support student work-based learning opportunities in climate resilience.
- Providing professional development for CCCS Faculty/Staff (7 colleges are participating).

#### Financial Education Programming (NEFE)

- Nine colleges are participating and receiving funding for financial education programming.
- Confirmed to present at the Higher Education for Financial Wellness Alliance (HEFWA) conference in July.

#### Skill Advance Colorado

- Skill Advance Colorado has approved 58 CF (Colorado First) or EI (Existing Industry) grants to-date this year. This is a significant increase over last year, and the Skill Advance team continues to review and approve grants through next month for FY25.

#### Workforce Resilience Program

- Twenty-three grantees across rural Colorado (small businesses, nonprofits, municipalities) are concluding the third reporting quarter of the grant this month. Trainings commenced so far includes early childhood education, culinary, GIS, business, and organizational management, among others.

#### Care Forward Colorado

- 10,000 learners received funding towards short-term healthcare credentials through Care Forward since its inception, as highlighted by Governor Polis this month.
- Spending is nearly concluded, with workforce staff reallocating some returned funds to additional CCCS colleges who requested additional dollars. There continues to be learners served by this investment this semester.

#### Career Advance Colorado

- Approximately 7,900 learners received funding towards short-term training programs in Construction, Education, Early Childhood Education, Firefighting, Forestry, Law Enforcement and Nursing since the program's inception.
- College funding agreements expire in June 2025 and workforce staff are working with schools to update budgets and timelines to close out this program next fiscal year.