



President's Report

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The Community College of Aurora (CCA) provides high-quality instruction and student support services to Aurora and Denver, Colorado. With a vision to aspire to be a college where every student succeeds, CCA is the most diverse college in the State of Colorado. Focused on creating social and economic mobility for its students, the college offers courses on two (2) campuses, online, and through its high school concurrent enrollment programs. For more information, visit www.ccaurora.edu.

Economic Mobility

The Office of Grants Development is enhancing professional development opportunities to support learners in securing sustaining wages. On February 25, the Office held its fifth training session, focusing on the relationship between budgets and grants and the importance of integrating grants into the Planning, Budgeting, Assessment, and Innovation (PBAI) Cycle.

Since August, the Office has hosted several training sessions, including Unlocking the Secrets of Grants, Innovation and Grants: Considering the Future, New Grants Processes, and Grants and Planning. These sessions are designed to improve institutional understanding of grants and funding strategies. Recordings are available on the Grants SharePoint for those unable to attend. These efforts strengthen CCA's approach to securing funding that supports students' long-term success and economic mobility.

The Skilled Trades Blueprint BuildStrong Initiative is a comprehensive effort to enhance career and technical education within the Division of Academic Success. Faculty, deans, and industry partners are collaborating to align CCA's skilled trades programs with workforce needs. The initiative has received cabinet-level approval, and the team is actively pursuing grant opportunities, including the Opportunity Now grant and potential funding through the Lowe's Foundation.

In the latest installment of Alumni in Action (AIA), we highlighted Sam Hayne. With a path that started in CCA's Diesel Power Mechanics program and led to an instructor position with Wagner Equipment Co., Sam forged his own way to success with career technical education. Watch his story now [HERE](#).

CCA's Bonnie Hart, Coordinator of Career Coaching & Readiness, was invited by HACU and Career Launch to showcase CCA's innovative implementation of Career Launch. The presentation, delivered to approximately 35 campuses, highlighted best practices in career coaching and readiness. A recording of the session was distributed to all HACU campus members, further positioning CCA as a leader in career preparation and workforce development.

To improve food security across all campus locations, the Office of Student Advocacy launched Foxy's Mini-Mart at Lowry Studios. This alternative market supplements Foxy's Mobile Market, a partnership with Secor Cares, by utilizing recovered food and purchased staple items to support students and employees. The first mini-mart event served 50 students, four faculty/instructors, and six staff members, and will take place twice a month throughout the Spring 2025 semester, providing a sustainable food resource for the Lowry Studios community.

Education for All

The TRIO Student Support Services (SSS) and TRIO ESL programs arranged campus visits to CU Boulder on February 28, and CU Denver on March 14. These visits provide students with the opportunity to explore four-year institutions that align with their educational and career aspirations, helping them envision pathways to bachelor's degrees and beyond.

CCA's Foxy Focus quarterly segment highlighted the Cinematic Arts program and their open auditions. Actors from all over the metro area gave it their all in hopes that they will land a role with one of the school's talented directors. This [Foxy Focus](#) takes you behind the scenes of some of those auditions.

Empowered Talent

The Division of Operations conducted a job search for two security technicians. Four of the five applicants were highly qualified and would be good additions to our team. Historically, CCA has faced challenges in attracting applicants for these positions. However, CCA has worked to strengthen its presence in the community and has adjusted the starting salary to improve recruitment. The success of this search demonstrates that CCA is becoming an employer of choice.

Sheriff Rasheed, the Director of the Office of Disability & Equity has been recently appointed to the Board of Development Pathways for Colorado (www.dpcolo.com) Through serving on this board, Sheriff will be part of an executive team that provides oversight for the Development Pathways community organization that strives to support individuals with disabilities through providing support and case management, expertise and advocacy for individuals from birth to aging. This agency serves as a case management agency for long-term care services and are one of Colorado Community Centered Boards, connecting people to federal, state, county and private funding. They also connect young children to

resources, serving as an Early Intervention Provider.

CCA has expanded its implementation of QPR training for employees, reinforcing the institution's commitment to student and community well-being. The Office of Student Advocacy has trained all three of its Advocacy Coaches to facilitate QPR sessions across campus. The Enrollment Management Team and the Innovative Arts Department—totaling approximately 45 individuals—have already completed training and will be certified for the next two years. Moving forward, the Office of Student Advocacy is developing a two-year training cycle to ensure ongoing certification and institutional readiness to support students in times of crisis.

CCA has achieved 50% completion of mandatory training, with a deadline of March 31, for full compliance.

The college is finalizing a two-year staffing pattern projection to ensure fiscal intentionality as CCA prepares to scale operations at the new CAST building and Centennial location. This effort aligns staffing plans with institutional growth and budget sustainability.

CCA's HR team has conducted three deep-dive sessions this month to audit and organize personnel records and guidelines, reinforcing best practices in compliance and operational efficiency.

Partner of Choice

CCA is in the process of refining a MOU with the City of Commerce City to provide approximately \$400,000 in scholarship funding for short-term workforce programs. This initiative will expand access to career-focused education for Commerce City residents.

CCA has joined the Rocky Mountain Partnership and is working to implement a spoke-and-wheel model, positioning the college as a central hub where community organizations align their services to create a more integrated and collaborative support system. This work is in its early conceptual stages, with efforts focused on strategic planning and stakeholder engagement.

The Division of Operations recently conducted a job search for two security technician positions, receiving five applications—four of whom were highly qualified candidates. Historically, CCA has faced challenges attracting applicants for these roles. However, through enhanced community engagement and an adjusted starting salary, the college has improved recruitment outcomes. The success of this search highlights CCA's progress in becoming an employer of choice.

To improve operational efficiency, CCA's fiscal team is developing a new travel process. This streamlined process will clearly outline the steps required before travel, the necessary approval documentation, and the post-travel submission requirements. Once approved by Cabinet, training will be provided to ensure a smooth implementation across the institution.

CCA is excited to announce a partnership with Aurora Public Schools (APS) for the launch of the first ever Health Sciences High School (HSHS). The state-of-the-art-school aims to enhance educational opportunities in the health sciences field by developing five specialized pathways: Nursing, Medical Imaging, Surgical Technology, Respiratory Therapy, and Behavioral Health. This initiative ensures that

students are well-prepared for careers in high-demand health sciences fields, further solidifying CCA's role as a leader in workforce development. Read more about this announcement [HERE](#).

Power of 13

CCA hosted its 2025 Spring Strategic Summit on February 21, with 200 students, faculty, staff, and college partners in attendance. The summit advanced the college's mission of expanding enrollment, improving quality, and achieving cost efficiencies through collaboration. Workshops introduced and refined themes of the new strategic plan, encouraging alignment with institutional goals. The event also provided updates on federal, state, and system initiatives and recognized the contributions of faculty, staff, and students. Appreciation was expressed for ongoing community support of the CCA Foundation's work. To ensure broader participation, a follow-up session, 2025 Spring Strategic Summit: The Replay, was held on March 7, with an additional 45 participants.