



## FRCC September 2022 Board Report

Colleen Simpson, Ed.D.

President

### Transform the student experience.

With the help of FRCC's student life team and our student sociology club, TRIO student Tiana Haussler coordinated and hosted a **Women of Color Empowerment Panel** at our Westminster Campus. More than 100 people turned out to hear what these impressive education leaders had to say. "The purpose of the panel was to show students that—despite the barriers that come with being a woman of color—our dreams are possible, and that we are not alone in this journey," Tiana said. FRCC President Colleen Simpson, EdD, was joined on the panel by former FRCC VP Gillian McKnight-Tutein, EdD (now at Community College of Denver), Jessica Salazar, JD (Colorado School of Mines) and Tammy Molinar-LeBlanc, MA (CU-Boulder).



FRCC's **Single Parent Programs** and student life team co-hosted this year's school supply drive and kid's clothing swap. Held at the beginning of August, parents could request needed school supplies and find clothing for their kids right as the school year began.

Our [Career & Academic Communities](#) (CACs) are hosting a number of engaging events this semester to connect students with their classmates, teachers and community members who share similar interests in their fields. The **Liberal Arts Communication & Design** CAC worked with our student life team to co-host a **writer's panel** for several classes. Faculty across a number of programs worked with our CAC Navigator to invite poets, authors and journalists to speak with students. Topics included: how to get started as a writer in today's job market, finding your creativity and more. The **Business & Information Technology** CAC and student life co-hosted a **career panel** with professionals who talked about current trends in their field. Students enthusiastically took advantage of this opportunity to network with potential mentors and future employers.

Faculty members Jeff Borg (political science) and Maggie Adams (multimedia graphic design) worked with our Student Life team to co-host a series of **Constitution Day events** at FRCC's Larimer Campus. Students can learn about local initiatives like:

- Rank choice voting
- The Colorado Campus Voter Challenge
- "Get Out and Vote" poster design contest

Geography faculty member Patrick Shabram recently received feedback from a student who participated in the [Geo-Launchpad PRIMERS project](#), which is supported by a grant from the National Science Foundation. The student's message epitomizes the profound impact that the program has on its student participants:

“As someone with an untraditional academic background, little to no STEM courses under my belt, and absolutely no idea what the scientific community was like, I was incredibly intimidated. To be frank, in the early weeks of the internship I felt an extreme sense of imposter syndrome that I considered giving into. Thankfully, under my mentor who was extremely understanding, very informative, and energetic about educating us, the negative feelings I had began to subside. Day by day, week by week, I felt more and more confident about what I was doing. By the time we began to finalize our poster and presentation, I felt -and continue to feel- very proud of the work we did this summer. This experience has made me excited for my future in the scientific field. Transferring to a university for a science degree no longer feels like a far-flung dream.”



### **Transform our own workforce experience.**

FRCC science faculty members Maggie Prater and Ann Riedl and instructor Laura Baumgartner recently developed an **inclusive excellence project**—which has just been awarded a five-year, \$1.3 million Advancing Innovation and Impact Grant from the National Science Foundation. Their project is titled: “Changing Department Culture to Achieve Inclusive Excellence in 2-year STEM Education.” Through the grant, the team will create a professional development program to:

- implement inclusive teaching practices
- foster collaboration among faculty
- increase student persistence in STEM

These efforts will build on the existing Active Learning Institute and Equity Academy trainings that FRCC currently hosts. The new program will include regular workshops to discuss and implement change—and sponsor course- or department-level projects around developing, implementing and assessing student-centered learning practices.

### **Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.**

FRCC has been approved as a new education partner for **Amazon’s Career Choice program**—providing Amazon’s hourly employees access to the college’s more than 200 [degree and certificate options](#). Amazon Career Choice will pay full tuition at FRCC for Amazon employees. In addition to funding certificates, associate and bachelor's degrees, the program also funds high school completion, GEDs and ESL proficiency certifications. FRCC was selected through Amazon’s rigorous selection process for third-party partner educators.



FRCC is the first college in Colorado to be named an [Apprenticeship Ambassador](#) by the US Department of Labor (DOL). The goal of this federal initiative is to expand, strengthen, promote and diversify apprenticeships around the country. The college currently partners with 27 local employers to offer [apprenticeships](#) in high-demand [health care occupations](#), as well as [manufacturing](#) and [tree care](#). FRCC is actively [seeking new business partners](#) to expand its offerings in health care, information technology and other fields. As champions for registered apprenticeship, ambassadors will partner with the DOL to:

- Promote and expand awareness of the benefits of registered apprenticeship in the US;
- Identify and scale innovative practices and partnerships to modernize, strengthen and accelerate the adoption of the registered apprenticeship model;
- Increase access and support for underrepresented and underserved populations in registered apprenticeship—including women, youth, people of color, rural communities, justice-involved individuals and people with disabilities;
- Communicate the business case for registered apprenticeship as a mainstream workforce strategy for high-demand industries—one that creates opportunities for good jobs for all Americans across the economy.



FRCC is developing a new Associate of Applied Science degree in **dental hygiene**. With funding of \$835,000 from Delta Dental, FRCC's current [dental assisting program](#) will add a dental hygiene degree to the college's existing [suite of allied health programs](#). The new [Health Care Careers Center](#) at our Larimer campus was designed with this expansion in its plans, which means construction can begin soon to alter two adjacent classrooms to create a dental hygiene lab. The anticipated start date for the new program is fall 2023.



The demand for in-house **mental health counseling** has become stronger over the years, as many students continue to take advantage of these services. This prompted staff at FRCC's Larimer Campus to pilot a graduate intern program to help meet student demand. This year, for the first time, the campus is offering counseling **sessions fully in Spanish**. Our counseling practicum intern this year, CSU grad student Amaury Rodriguez-Penilla, is providing the Spanish language services. Offering this service in Spanish gives our students the option to use the language they may feel most comfortable expressing themselves in.

FRCC **art students** Sage Mongeon and Robyn Eubanks were chosen to have their work memorialized on green switchgear boxes in Longmont as part of the city's Art in Public Places [Shock Art](#) project. The goal is "to visually transform selected dull electric boxes into dynamic works of art." Selected artists are provided a \$2,000 stipend. Sage and Robyn were selected for this dynamic community art project from a field of more than 20 artists, many of whom are professionals.

