

Student Access Goal: All Coloradans shall have access to comprehensive community college educational programs.

Mini-graduation celebrates accomplishments of Buckley spouses

A ceremony was held August 21 in the Leadership Development Center on the Buckley Air Force Base to celebrate the educational accomplishments of seven spouses of active duty service members. Almost two dozen individuals over the past three years have earned certificates of recognition through the Spouse Employment Program at Buckley. These students worked over the summer to complete a series of courses in Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint. Each participant earned eight college credits from CCA through the program.

Lt. Col. William F. Morrison, II, Deputy Commander, 460th Mission Support Group, presented certificates to each of the graduates and letters of appreciation to CCA representatives in attendance. Lt. Col. Morrison offered a special thanks to CCA President Linda S. Bowman and spoke of the importance of the CCA/Buckley collaboration.

Funding for military spouse participation in the program this year was made available by the Community College of Aurora Foundation and the Air Force Aid Society. Following a reduction in funding from the Air Force Aid Society, CCAF established scholarships for eligible military spouses from Buckley.

Post 9-11 GI Bill Town Hall Meeting hosted at CCA

CCA hosted a Town Hall meeting August 26 to discuss the Post 9-11 GI Bill. All veterans/military and their dependents were invited. Veterans' services representatives from CCA and an education representative from Buckley AFB facilitated other discussion.

CCA Open House offered opportunity to explore CCA programs, enroll in classes, and apply for financial aid and scholarships

On July 11, the Community College of Aurora held its annual summer open house for Aurora-area residents looking to launch a new career, retool job skills, or earn a certificate or degree. Attendees learned about the college's new eXpressEd fast-track certificates that prepare students for new careers quickly. In addition, CCA staff provided help with registration and offered information on how to apply for financial aid and college scholarships.

Aurora legislators discuss disability issues

A special "listening session" with Aurora legislators (state Rep. Nancy Todd, state Rep. Cindy Acree, state Sen. Morgan Carroll, and state Rep. Su Ryden) was held at CCA on June 5 to give individuals an opportunity to hear legislative updates specific to disability-related issues. The event included a series of legislative briefings, a dialogue and question and answer session, and a potluck lunch. According to organizers, the event facilitated an opportunity for Aurora legislators to obtain valuable feedback from the developmental disability community.

Student Success Goal: The demands of Colorado businesses and communities shall be met through the development of a high skilled work force.

The Center for Workforce Development receives recognition

In July, the Community College of Aurora was honored by the U.S. Department of Justice for its “partnership and exemplary contribution to the successful implementation of the Colfax Corridor Weed and Seed Operation” in Aurora. The DOJ also recognized the Community College of Aurora Language Center and the CCA Workforce Development Center for involvement in the program.

In addition, on August 25, Dr. Donald M. Cassata presented CCA President Linda S. Bowman and Executive Director for Grants and Planning Chris Ward with the Adams County Human Services Department “In Recognition of Partnerships for Synergistic Success” award for 10 years of TANF contract Partnership from 1999 to 2009.

AD Works! welcomed to Lowry Campus

The Arapahoe/Douglas Works! Workforce Center opened a branch office in CCA’s Center for Simulation Building on the Lowry Campus. Between 50-100 workforce center clients per day are expected to attend orientations, job-search workshops, client counseling, and A/D Works’ groundbreaking “Employment by Design” boot camp. As clients explore new career directions, CCA staff and faculty will be available to help them transition into college programs.

Student Success Goal: Colorado students shall have seamless opportunities to transition from high school into college and from two-year institutions into four-year institutions.

Cherry Creek teachers participate in CCA workshop

Nearly two dozen high school teachers from the Cherry Creek School District participated in a May 15 Dual Credit Professional Development Workshop at CCA on behalf of the district’s College Ready Program. The participants, primarily English, math, accounting, business, and computer teachers from five schools in the district, will teach high school students seeking college credit from CCA in the 2009-10 school year.

CCA faculty and staff members Karla Adamson-Lesko, James Gray, Scott Reichel, Cheryl Tomlinson, and Tim Wilkerson conducted the sessions, and President Linda S. Bowman met the program participants. A general meeting addressed the benefits of the dual credit program and provided an overview of the College Opportunity Fund, the Banner computer/ information system, and how to access and use CCA e-mail accounts.

Event at CCA honored outstanding business students from APS

Aspiring business students from Aurora Public Schools were recognized at the annual scholarship banquet at CCA, and four outstanding young people accepted scholarships toward the college of their choice.

The APS Business Advisory Committee annually selects deserving students and honors them publicly at the event. The Committee comprises a cross-section of business organizations,

companies, and individuals throughout Aurora who are dedicated to developing and nurturing APS' business programs and students.

Student Success Goal: Colorado students shall have the opportunity to succeed through high quality, cutting-edge instruction and educational services.

National Science Foundation Grant to fund CCA Faculty Institute in GIS

The National Science Foundation awarded a grant of \$149,909 to the Community College of Aurora for support of a project titled Community College GIS Faculty Institute. Under the direction of CCA faculty members Dr. Geoff Hunt and Elizabeth Hirsh, the Institute will train CCA faculty across the disciplines in the application of Geographic Information Systems technologies for implementation in the classroom. CCA faculty members in instructional technology, information technology, police academy, criminal justice, biology, geography, geology, literature, history, astronomy, math, and library services will participate in the Institute.

GIS, or Geographic Information Systems, can capture, store, and analyze data to be used in numerous applications. Institute organizers are eager to establish the program to invest in Colorado and attract Colorado students to this new, high-demand occupational field. The Institute gets under way this fall, and faculty will learn to use basic GIS applications and receive support in designing and delivering their own module for use in the classroom in the spring 2010 semester. Faculty also will learn about occupational applications of GIS in the Denver/Aurora Metro region so that they can better inform CCA students of GIS career opportunities.

CCA student, Phi Theta Kappa member Hanh Hoang named a “Leader of Promise”

Hanh Hoang of Aurora, Colo., a student at the Community College of Aurora, has been named a Phi Theta Kappa Leader of Promise for 2009. She is one of only 30 students in the entire Phi Theta Kappa organization to be selected for this honor. Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for two-year colleges.

As a PTK Leader of Promise, Hoang has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to facilitate completion of an associate degree at CCA and her continued participation in Phi Theta Kappa. Hoang will serve as the vice president of service of CCA's Alpha Pi Pi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa for the 2009-10 academic year. The [Leaders of Promise/Geico Business Student Scholarship](#) is the Society's first scholarship program available to members to be used during the time they are enrolled in their community colleges.

Hoang is pursuing an associate of science degree with an emphasis in mathematics at CCA and plans to graduate next May. She is considering furthering her education at the Colorado School of Mines.

Middle school students build robots in Tech Camp 101

Middle school students participated in this summer's Tech Camp 101, a free technology day camp. The program, hosted by CCA and the Colorado School of Mines, offered instruction in The Alice Project (an educational software that teaches computer programming in a simplified, 3-D environment), GPS technology, and robot-building, as well overviews of careers in technology. The students built robots, which were then tested by running a maze.

Two CCA staff graduate Leadership Aurora program

Sylvester Brandon and Naazlin Dadani graduated on June 4 from the Aurora Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Aurora program. Additionally, Brandon was named to the Leadership Aurora Board. The program serves to promote and foster the development of leadership in the community.

Poetry brings healing in tough times

CCA presented a June 12 program titled "Resilience in Tuff Tuff Times: the Healing Power of Poems and Poem Making." Facilitated by California-based poet and author John Fox, along with CCA faculty member Wayne Gilbert, the event was held in the Larry D. Carter Theatre on the CentreTech Campus. The evening began with "Poems w/Healing Powers," written and read by Fox and Gilbert. Wayne Gilbert is a former high school English teacher and has taught composition, literature, creative writing, and philosophy at CCA since 1986. Following the reading, participants discussed why and how reading and writing poems offers encouragement, strength, and insight during difficult times.

Operational Excellence Goal: The financial stability of the system's institutions and the physical safety of its students shall be ensured.

Richard Maestas named Vice President for Administrative Services

Richard Maestas was appointed as Vice President for Administrative Services at the Community College of Aurora and began work at the college July 9. Prior to his appointment to CCA, Maestas was controller for the Community College of Denver. He brings to CCA extensive experience in higher education, including serving as field controller for the Colorado Community College System, controller and director of fiscal and purchasing services for Pikes Peak Community College, and associate controller for Colorado College. Additionally, he has extensive experience in business and in the military. He holds an MBA and a BS in business administration with an emphasis in accounting.

Fred Brown and Kevin Haggerty appointed to Community College of Aurora Foundation Board

The Community College of Aurora Foundation Board has appointed Fred Brown and Kevin Haggerty to its board of directors. Brown, a member of the Denver Press Club Hall of Fame, officially retired from *The Denver Post* in 2002, but he resumed writing an editorial page column for the newspaper a year later. He also is a principal in the Hartman and Brown media consulting firm, teaches communication ethics at the University of Denver, and does occasional political and legislative analysis for Denver's 9News.

Haggerty is the co-owner of Aurora-based Mesa Systems in Aurora and also serves as its chief operating officer. A Colorado native, Haggerty has a long history of community involvement. He has served as the President of the Holy Family Education Foundation in Grand Junction and in numerous other roles that support student activities and development.