



Report of Activities • January 2012

**Andrew Dorsey
President**

All Coloradans shall have access to comprehensive community college educational programs.

- The new one-stop student services center at the Westminster Campus opened smoothly in December. Besides locating all student services in one accessible space, the center uses a new staffing model to help students get questions answered quickly. Well-trained front desk professionals and student staff are cross-trained in a number of basic knowledge areas and help students solve easier problems while reserving more difficult problems for appointments. Student feedback so far seems quite positive.
- Steve Dirmeyer, GED instructor for the Center for Adult Learning in Fort Collins, received the Adult Educator of the Year Award from the Colorado Adult Education Professional Association. Steve has taught GED classes at FRCC for more than 21 years and has helped hundreds of students pass the GED exam.
- Students Helping Students, a pilot program at the Boulder County Campus, hired and trained students to assist other students with tasks such as completing an application, registering, setting up student email, applying for COF, etc. Two of the student assistants were bilingual, resulting in more assistance for new students whose primary language is Spanish. Research found that a higher percentage of applications were completed properly.
- Twenty Larimer Campus students presented their Honors Program projects in December. The Honors Program gives students the opportunity to earn honors credit for individual courses, and if they successfully complete the full program, an honors designation at graduation.
- The new disabilities counselor at the Boulder County Campus worked with 127 students in November and December, and 124 of whom registered for spring term.

The demands of Colorado businesses and communities shall be met through the development of a highly skilled work force.

- FRCC President Dorsey and academic vice presidents and deans met with over 15 economic development and workforce center directors from throughout the FRCC service area to better understand workforce needs in the region. A recurrent theme in these meetings and in some related events is the need for skilled workers in machining and manufacturing. The college is partly addressing these needs through a “Manufacturing Boost” non-credit program that has been very well received, but also will be adding a temporary staff person to help explore programming in these areas.

- Larimer Campus faculty and College Workforce Development directors met with the CEOs of five start-up companies at Rocky Mountain Innosphere in Fort Collins. They explored partnering on an Advanced Manufacturing Center. Discussions centered on ways that FRCC faculty and students could support the companies in the incubator with manufacturing, design, prototyping, and other start-up functions.
- The Interior Design Program at the Larimer Campus received initial accreditation from the National Kitchen and Bath Association.

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

- Thanks in part to front page coverage in the Denver Post, 17 new high school teachers and several new high schools joined the Amgen-Bruce Wallace Biotechnology Laboratory Program. (As reported last time, FRCC received a grant of \$186,825 from the Amgen Foundation for this program that funds FRCC faculty to train high school science teachers in biotechnology.) More than 20 high schools are involved. This program enables high school teachers to integrate recombinant DNA technology into their science curriculum – at no cost to the participating schools. One new participant wrote in an email, “It was the best professional development experience I've had. I cannot wait to try the curriculum this year in Chemistry. I was originally interested in proposing a biotechnology science elective next year, but as I looked through the curriculum I saw a ton of chemistry connections that would be awesome for my students.”
- Fifteen Gateway to College students graduated with their high school diplomas in January. These students from Mapleton and Adams 12 school districts earned college credits as well. Many plan to continue their education at FRCC. Each graduate received a \$1,000 We Believe in You Scholarship from the FRCC Foundation.
- The FRCC Foundation awarded a total of \$20,000 to four school districts to provide scholarships to students enrolled in College Now, FRCC's concurrent enrollment program.
- The FRCC Foundation also awarded \$500 scholarships to five students who had completed requirements for the GED.

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

- An FRCC Ethics Bowl Competition Team performed very well in its debut entry in the Rocky Mountain Regional Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl. As the only community college entry in the competition, the team finished third.
- Amara Murray, a multimedia graphics design student, was chosen to design a new logo for the Artist Association of Northern Colorado.

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

- A nationally known space planning firm, JBA Inc., is developing space planning models of the Larimer and Westminster campuses. The models will allow the college to

test a variety of operating, scheduling, and pedagogical styles, and will include implementation recommendations.

- A comprehensive facilities audit is underway at the Westminster Campus and is scheduled for completion this spring. A Larimer Campus audit was finished this fall. The audits will guide controlled maintenance spending.
- Good progress is being made on HVAC upgrades at the Westminster Campus. The new high pressure systems are allowing removal of old duct work from throughout the campus.
- The college continues to roll out training to staff on how to respond to active shooter situations and held crisis simulation training at its Brighton and Longmont sites.

Miscellaneous

- Carolee Goldsmith, director of Financial Aid, has been invited to be a member of the Nelnet Regional Advisory Council representing the Rocky Mountain Region.