



## Section A – LEAD STORIES

### *Dr. Jill Biden Returns to Visit Arapahoe and Red Rocks Community Colleges*



As RRCC Industrial Science Operations Department Coordinator Chuck Beck looks on, Xcel Energy Regional Manager and RRCC adjunct-instructor Ed Gonzales describes one of the college's workforce development initiatives.

In 2009, CCCS was honored when **Dr. Jill Biden**, wife of U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and a community college educator for 16 years toured the Community College of Aurora. This year she came back to witness more excellence when she visited two renowned CTE programs at **Red Rocks** and **Arapahoe** Community Colleges on April 30.

In the morning, she toured the RRCC-Arvada Campus Industrial Science and Operations Building and learned about the school's **Renewable Energy Technology** programs. In the afternoon, she toured the ACC **Automotive Technology** department, which is ranked among the top programs in the nation.

Dr. Biden met with students, faculty, administrators, and local industry partners. The visits were part of her efforts to highlight models for student success at community colleges across the country in advance of a summit on the topic that is being held in Washington this fall. She was joined by **Dr. Jane Oates**, *Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training Administration* at the U.S. Department of Labor.

#### **Red Rocks Community College**

While at RRCC, Dr. Biden toured the training ground of the industrial shadow professions, getting an up-close look at the technologies that keep the nation's infrastructure running. During the tour RRCC faculty, staff, students, and corporate partners demonstrated what they were doing in terms of workforce development, alternative-energy training and industrial processing.

"Red Rocks is proud to showcase our programs that are contributing to a strong workforce for the new emerging economy," said **RRCC President Michele Haney**.

According to Dr. Biden's primary RRCC tour guide, **Industrial Science Operations Department Coordinator Chuck Beck**, her tour of the college demonstrated how students are taught to operate the systems that "keep the lights on and the water flowing."

Students demonstrated equipment used in an energy audit, showing Dr. Biden how a blower door and infrared camera are used to trace leaks where energy escapes from buildings.

Industry partners from **Wazee Wind** discussed the important role of technicians in maintaining the equipment and the need for well-trained technicians as this energy production sector grows in the future.

Dr. Biden also toured a **36-foot long fifth wheel trailer** that RRCC uses for both student recruiting and training at local schools.

Finally, a representative from **Suncor Energy** discussed the importance of attracting people to the foundational energy and resource production industries and revitalizing the workforce by getting people interested in careers in the new energy economy.

### Arapahoe Community College



**Labor Assistant Secretary Dr. Jane Oates looks on as ACC Automotive Technology Director Jerry Viola presents Dr. Biden with her own personalized automotive lab coat.**

*Photo courtesy of ACC Media Specialist/Photographer Craig Ferguson.*

During Dr. Biden's tour of ACC's Auto Tech program, students and faculty presented demonstrations on a General Motors scan tool, which can display sensor values and system data and can also be used to perform various tests such as checking the operation of parts like fuel pumps and cooling fans. She also saw demonstrations of several of the department's vehicles, including one of the program's hybrid vehicles, a Yukon. One student revved up ACC's race car, and Dr. Biden was presented with her own personalized automotive lab coat.

**ACC Auto Tech Director Jerry Viola**, a graduate of the program and adjunct Instructor before joining the college full-time, explained that after graduation from the program students can make between \$40,000 and \$50,000. After eight to ten years in the industry and with a master ASE certification, many make \$100,000.

Dr. Biden said, "***You've really taken this program into the future.***" Dr. Oates added that the automotive facility was more like a science lab than an auto shop.

This year, the ACC Auto Tech program was one of four finalists for *program of the year* in a national competition. ACC also recently began offering an intensive training program in hybrid vehicle conversion and hybrid technology repair. Through a grant and partnerships with other educational institutions and businesses, ACC has received seven hybrid vehicles for use in the training. It is one of the few training programs today to have such a wide variety of makes and models of hybrid vehicles.

**ACC President Diana Doyle** said that ACC colleagues and students in the Auto Tech program represented ACC well and impressed Dr. Biden with their knowledge and skills. "We were both proud and excited that she chose to visit ACC," she said.

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## ***U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis Visits Pueblo Community College and Commends Their Use of Job Training Grant***



**PCC President Patty Erjavec (right) presents U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis (left) with a scale model version of a PCC mobile learning lab. D\ ch: Vmi; Ufm: fUbW]"**

A \$1.9 million job training grant awarded to Pueblo Community College in 2008, brought **U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis** to their Pueblo campus on July 8, to see just how the federal dollars were being spent to create jobs.

Specifically, PCC officials showed off the four mobile job-training labs that were purchased and outfitted with the money, as well as the equipment and curriculum that PCC is using to train workers for the Vestas Wind Towers plant south of the city. She also learned about PCC's OSHA safety initiatives and renewable energy programs.

Secretary Solis expressed how impressed she was with the job opportunities that PCC creates, especially because the training the college provides is in the areas where the jobs are going to be in the future – *renewable energy and safety*.

Solis was a California congresswoman before President Barack Obama picked her in 2009 to head the U.S. Labor Department.

Solis was accompanied on the PCC tour by Rep. John Salazar, D-Colo., and Don Mares, executive director of the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment.

The mobile labs essentially are air-conditioned trailers that have been outfitted with training stations. One lab is devoted to welding, one to electrical work and a third to manufacturing equipment. The fourth contains lathes and other machine equipment.

**John Vukich**, dean of PCC's Business and Industry Workforce Training, told Solis how PCC students and faculty built the customized work stations themselves, rather than pay significantly higher prices to an outside vendor.

"We were able to get better labs built by doing the work ourselves," Vukich said. Solis praised PCC with using the federal grant effectively.

"I love the idea of these mobile units being able to go to a job site," Solis told PCC officials and employees. She also credited Salazar for assisting PCC in obtaining the federal award.

"It takes work to make sure federal grants are getting to the right places and you are putting our dollars to work in a comprehensive manner," Solis said.

Solis credited the school for incorporating six hours of safety training in its curriculum. She said national statistics indicate that an average of 14 workers a day are killed in workplace accidents.

"I travel the country and I know there is a demand for people who are properly trained in worker safety," she said.

Solis said the PCC grant was part of more than \$200 million in job training grants awarded by her department.

"And more will be coming," she said.

"The economic impact of these federal investments has been and will be profound," comments **PCC President Patty Erjavec**. "We thank Secretary Solis for recognizing our potent application of these funds toward accessible, safe and timely regional workforce development."

*Most of this report is courtesy of PCC's Gary Franchi, the Pueblo Chieftain and reporter Peter Roper.*

## **Section B – LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

### *Historic Transfer Bill*

### *Unanimously Passed by Legislature & Signed by Governor*

### *Accompanied by Bill Allowing Associate Degree Majors*

Historic legislation benefiting community college students passed the Colorado General Assembly unanimously in the 2010 session and was signed by Governor Ritter on May 5.

"We are thrilled that this critical bill received the overwhelming bipartisan support of the legislature and the Governor," said CCCS President **Dr. Nancy McCallin**. "This legislation will benefit the students in Colorado's community colleges enormously and we thank the sponsors for their work to make it happen."

The bill, House Bill 10-1208, was sponsored by Representatives **Nancy Todd** (D-Aurora) and **Carole Murray** (R-Castle Rock) in the House and Senators **Brandon Shaffer** (D-Longmont)

and **Keith King** (R-Colorado Springs) in the Senate.



**Rep. Nancy Todd**



**Rep. Carole Murray**



**Sen. Brandon Shaffer**



**Sen. Keith King**

The bill creates statewide seamless, common transfer agreements in **14 program areas** by July 1, 2016. The faculty of the two-year and four-year public higher education institutions will work together to identify appropriate program areas. When a student graduates from a two-year community college with an associate's degree in a designated program area, they can apply for admission to a four-year institution, and, if accepted, enter as a junior transferring all the common credits earned at the community college in the program area.

Previously, there were only four transfer agreements that existed between community colleges and four-year institutions that were uniform statewide. HB10-1208 will greatly expand this number as it creates statewide agreements that will each have a set of 60 credits that will transfer because they are common between the community colleges and four-year institutions. HB 10-1208 was accompanied by another bill, Senate Bill 10-88 sponsored by **Sen. Mike Johnston** and **Rep. Tom Massey**, which will allow two-year students for the first time to have areas of concentration indicated on their associate degree transcripts for the 14 transfer programs. This will help these students gain entry level employment in these disciplines while finishing up their baccalaureate education.

"The reason this is such a beneficial piece of legislation is that it provides certainty to our students so they know which courses will or will not transfer to four-year institutions for their programs of study. Previously, a student might take courses that would transfer to one four-year institution, but then need to go to another four-year institution because of a change in their work or family. They spent time and money taking courses at the community college according to transfer requirements of one four-year institution, but another four-year institution may have different requirements," explains Dr. McCallin, "In that situation, the student finds that he has to take a different set of courses, therefore spending additional tuition money and time. The state would also pay additional funds for the student to take more courses. This bill creates a common set of courses that transfer by program for 14 agreed upon programs. All the credits are guaranteed to transfer to any public four-year institution in the state as long as the student is admitted."

The bill's sponsors had similar praise for the bill:

**Senate President Brandon Shaffer (D-Longmont)**

"This is one of the most significant pieces of legislation we will pass this year because higher education should be accessible to every Coloradan who wants it," said President Brandon Shaffer. "This bill will decrease the cost of college and help us stand up for those who believe a four-year degree is out of their reach. By increasing access to higher education in Colorado, we are building a quality work force and providing access to opportunity. I am proud to sponsor this bill which will help citizens get the most out of their post-secondary education."

**Senator Keith King – (R-Colorado Springs)**

"Colorado must find a way to keep college affordable for students. HB 1208 goes a long way to accomplishing that. Students can begin their college experience at the community college, where it costs less, and then finish their bachelor degree in four years because the associate degree is fully transferable."

### **Representative Nancy Todd (D-Aurora)**

"I am so excited that we have opened the door for a fresh start in a small environment with caring professionals so students can then seamlessly move to the next level to reach their dreams."

### **Representative Carole Murray (R-Castle Rock)**

"This bill brings stability and predictability to students and parents who are trying to fund a good education in our great Colorado institutions of higher learning. Their dollars won't be wasted on courses that don't transfer, and all our schools will benefit from a student body more focused on an ultimate date of graduation."

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## **Section C – LEADERSHIP UPDATE**

### *Two Familiar Faces Around CCCS Assume Top Posts at Arapahoe and Pueblo Community Colleges*

#### **Arapahoe Community College**



**Dr. Diana Doyle**

Dr. Diana Doyle who previously was the *Executive Vice President of Learning and Student Affairs* at **Community College of Denver** was appointed president of Arapahoe Community College by CCCS President Dr. Nancy McCallin in March. Doyle was one of three finalists forwarded to McCallin by an independently formed presidential search committee consisting of students, faculty, administrative staff and community members.

"Dr. Doyle is a creative and innovative leader who brings 32 years of higher education experience, elevating the many functional areas for which she has been responsible. She has a proven, student-centered track record that reflects a commitment to creating a supportive climate for faculty and staff, while also creating external partnerships to strengthen the communities she serves," said McCallin. "Dr. Doyle has also served as an Interim President in the past. I know she will be an asset to ACC's faculty and staff as they continue the excellence for which they are known." After an extensive community-based search and interview process was initiated in August, Doyle emerged from a field of more than 50 candidates.

When the announcement was made, Dr. McCallin expressed her appreciation to CCA President Dr. Linda Bowman for serving as ACC's interim president for nine months. "I really appreciate how Linda helped ACC sustain its excellence while serving record numbers of students with ever-stretched resources."

"Arapahoe Community College enjoys a rich tradition as a dynamic and forward-thinking organization that is well-respected within and outside of higher education," remarked Doyle. "I am honored to be invited to build upon ACC's proud past in order to sustain its promising future, while advancing the institution's role as a beacon of opportunity for people from Greenwood Village to Castle Rock and from Centennial to Ken Caryl Ranch."

Prior to leading the academic and student affairs of Community College of Denver, Doyle had a 13-year tenure at Western Nebraska Community College (WNCC) in Scottsbluff, Nebraska (with 11 years as their Vice President of Educational and Student Services). On two separate occasions she was asked to step in and serve as Interim President of WNCC. Before that, she was at the Colorado School of Mines as the Director of Student Development. At Community College of Denver, Doyle led Learning/Instruction, Student Services, Online Learning, Pre-Collegiate Programs, Grants, Business and Industry Training, and the Confucius Institute.

In addition to having responsibility for the largest functional areas of WNCC, she also led that institution's first major gifts campaign, in which over \$5 million was raised. From 2008 to 2009, she served as the nationally-elected president of NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. In March, she was honored nationally as a "Pillar of the Profession" at the annual NASPA conference. This award from the NASPA Foundation recognizes Doyle's many years of accomplishments on behalf of college students and the profession of student affairs.

Doyle received her Ph.D. in Public Administration with a Higher Education emphasis from the University of Colorado Denver in 1994. In 1979, she earned a master's degree in Counseling Education from Illinois State University. She has also completed the Executive Leadership Institute of the League for Innovation in Community Colleges.

### **Pueblo Community College**



**Patty Erjavec**

In late April, Dr. McCallin announced the appointment of Patty Erjavec as the new president of Pueblo Community College (PCC). She did so after meeting with community members and finding that their support of Erjavec as a regional leader was strong. Erjavec assumed the responsibilities on June 1. Prior to this, Cliff Richardson, CCCS vice-president of Administration and Finance, had served as PCC's interim president.

"I am very pleased that Patty accepted the position as president of PCC. I have been honored to work with Patty for the past six years, I have seen first-hand her commitment to community college students, to the mission of community colleges, and to PCC," said Dr. McCallin. "I have always admired her staunch advocacy for policies that create a thriving environment in which students may learn. Additionally, Patty has strong ties in the community, which I believe will allow her to build strong business partnerships that will benefit both our students and economic development within the community."

"As a Pueblo native, I have grown up around PCC. I have seen firsthand the success stories the students have to tell, which are remarkable, and I look forward to supporting the students

as they work toward achieving their goals,” said Erjavec. “I have also seen the contributions the college has made to this and other communities and the communities’ generosity back to the college. It will be a great privilege to continue in the traditions of these important partnerships and grow them in the future for all of the PCC communities of Pueblo, Canon City, Cortez, and Durango.”

Erjavec previously served as the president and CEO of El Pueblo... an Adolescent Treatment Community. Prior to El Pueblo, she was the general manager for PCL Packaging in Pueblo. She is a board member of US Bank, a member of the Pueblo City School Strategic Planning Commission, and Vice-Chair of the Colorado Association of Families and Children’s Agencies. She also served on the State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education from 2001 until 2010 when her term expired earlier this year. She was inducted into the Pueblo Community College Hall of Fame this year.

She received her master’s in non-profit management from Regis University, graduating with honors, and her Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, emphasis in accounting, from University of Southern Colorado (now Colorado State University-Pueblo).

Erjavec is PCC’s first woman president.

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## Section D – Innovations, Honors and Achievements

### Front Range Community College Students Travel to Boat/Plane Accessible-Only Alaskan Town and Study Recovery from Exxon Valdez Oil Spill



Barb Patterson, who teaches Natural and Applied Environmental Sciences at FRCC’s Larimer Campus and Heather Dannahower, who is a faculty member with their high school programs, recently led 14 students on a study travel trip to **Cordova, Alaska** (pictured left), along the rich waters of Prince William Sound.

Over the course of eight days, students studied the ecology of the region including the five Pacific salmon native to this region, the world’s largest population of sea otters, a number of nesting sea birds, and the rich delta of the Copper River, the largest watershed in North America.

In addition, they studied the impact that the Exxon Valdez oil spill had on this region and how this fishing community has fought hard to recover from the disaster.

“This learning experience was one of the most amazing opportunities that I have ever had, and I hope that more students are able to participate in study travel,” remarked Dannahower.

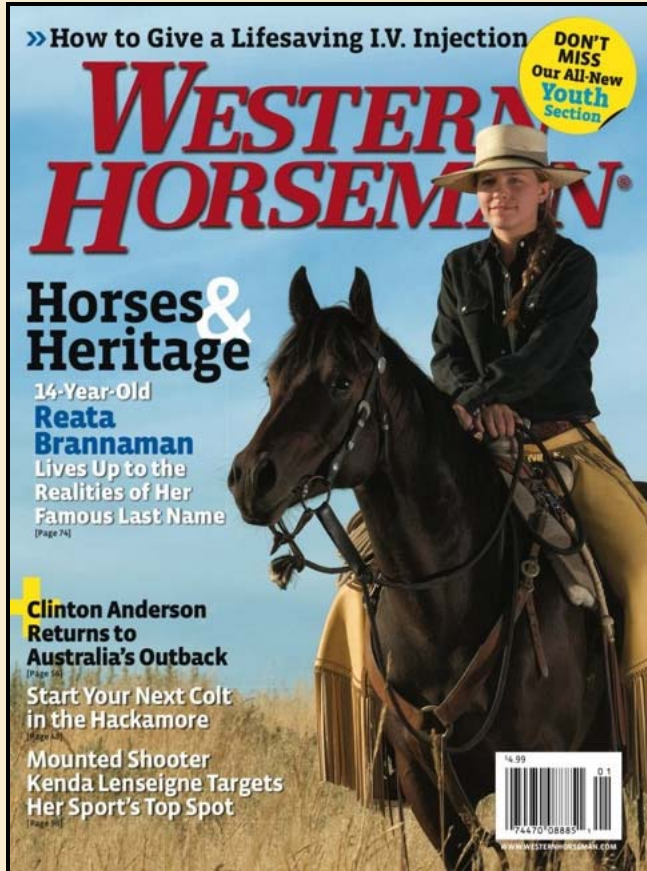
To experience their trip via a video showing the beautiful pictures they took, click on this link: [www.vimeo.com/13367514](http://www.vimeo.com/13367514)

To read Dannahower's fascinating account of this amazing journey, click on this link:  
[www.cccs.edu/communications/cordova.pdf](http://www.cccs.edu/communications/cordova.pdf)

*Connections thanks FRCC's FrontLine for contributing this report.*

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## Lamar Community College's Horse Training and Management Program Profiled in *Western Horseman* Magazine



*Earlier this year, Lamar Community College's Horse Training and Management program was profiled in the Western Horseman magazine article that follows:*

**IT'S LATE NOVEMBER**, two days before the start of Lamar Community College's Thanksgiving break. The 60 students in the Colorado school's equine program file into a state-of-the-art classroom just steps away from a cavernous indoor arena. The jingling of spurs quiets as the students, evenly split between freshmen and sophomores, take their seats for the last official class of the semester. Few students speak, and the room holds an air of anticipation—mild anxiety, even.

The freshmen have spent the previous three months starting colts under saddle; sophomores have worked with more-seasoned horses, prepping them for competition in performance events. Tomorrow, the horses' owners—primarily ranchers and horse breeders from the Rocky Mountain and Plains states—will arrive on campus for an end-of-semester exhibition, in which the students will demonstrate the progress made with the horses in the preceding 90 days.

Given the variables at work, the show, now just hours away, arguably will be one of the most stressful final exams imaginable.

The group settles and the students turn their attention to **J.J. Rydberg**, the equine program's manager, who is seated at the front of the room. Before joining the Lamar faculty, Rydberg spent 15 years as a professional calf roper, and 16 years training Quarter Horses for cutting and calf roping, showing two horses to world championships in the latter event.

Speaking to the students, Rydberg keeps the agenda low-key, offering reminders about tomorrow's schedule and dress code. Reading the mood in the room, he also gives some last-minute reassurance that, after a semester of work, the group is prepared for what's to come.

"You're ready for this," he tells the students. "Just show your horses."

On that note, the students exit the room and make their way to the arena for one last afternoon of riding.

**LOCATED ON COLORADO'S SOUTHEASTERN PLAINS**, Lamar, a remote farming community of 9,000, is painfully short on landmarks. On the north end of town, motorists are greeted by a sizeable feedlot, prompting all but the uninitiated to crank up their car windows before being overwhelmed by what cattlemen refer to as "the smell of money." Then there's the two-story motel where Oprah Winfrey and her entourage reportedly once overnighted while on a cross-country road trip. Word among the locals is that gunfire at a nearby target range prompted the Chicago-based group to make an early departure for the Kansas state line.

Lamar does boast at least one bona fide landmark, though. A massive red barn, the epicenter of the college's equine curriculum, unofficially marks the town's southern edge. Since its start in 1973, the program, nationally known for turning out some of the horse industry's most talented young trainers, has kept this otherwise inconspicuous community prominently etched on the horse-world map.

Offering two majors — equine business management, and horse training and management— Lamar attracts students from across North America. They're drawn by the opportunity to start colts, internships with the country's top trainers and breeders, and the availability of scholarships, partially funded by fees paid by the owners of horses loaned to the school.

A recent \$1.9 million upgrade to facilities and classrooms has added to the college's appeal, giving students more space in which to work and a modern environment for classroom instruction in subjects such as equine anatomy, nutrition and reproduction.

Lamar also boasts an impressive record of helping its graduates launch their careers, drawing upon the networks of faculty members Rydberg, Marilyn Camarillo and Jason Kravig — all veteran horse trainers — and Colorado rancher Brad Malone. According to Rydberg, every Lamar graduate who's wanted a job in the horse industry has landed one, regardless of economic conditions.

Most valuable to students, though is the work ethic the program fosters. As vital as classroom education is in preparing young horseman for career in the contemporary equine industry, it's still that work ethic that separates gifted horsemen from the rest of the crowd. At Lamar, success or failure reflects not only on the student, but also on the school, and, of course, factors heavily into a young horse's future. Learning the importance of showing up at the barn on time — every day, in all weather—and putting in the hours and sweat each horse requires is the most indispensable lesson each student takes from his or her experience at Lamar.

On show days, that work ethic begins to offer real payback, as steps skipped or rushed over the preceding weeks can come back to haunt a rider.

**NOVEMBER'S SHOW DAY** begins early at Lamar's outdoor roping pen. Every header-heeler

permutation among the sophomore ropers makes a run, then onlookers, students and horses reconvene in the indoor arena. There, sophomores demonstrate their horses' skills in cutting, reining and barrel racing, - and each freshman takes a tum in the arena, completing a complex reining pattern.

Horseback work ends midday, and trios comprising a student, a horse and the horse's owner begin to form along the arena rail. For most students, Lamar has provided their first experiences training horses for "the public." As riders interact with owners, answering question about their horses' emerging strengths and weaknesses , that aforementioned work ethic again comes into play. Having spent hours in the saddle, getting to know theses horses better than any previous handler might've, the students have gained a familiarity that allows them to offer specific details on the horses' progression under saddle and informed opinions on what the owners' next steps should be.

If a student has taken any shortcuts in the past several weeks, it can mean an awkward conversation.

The event concluded, owners load their horses into trailers for their trips home, and students attend to last-minute details — packing and stall cleaning--before starting their holiday break. The previous day's anxiety forgotten, it's a time for reflection on the semester that's ended and the semester that's to come. The new year will mean a fresh group of horses and unfamiliar challenges.

As the Lamar campus empties, the only thing its equine-program students know for sure is that meeting those challenges will mean embracing the work they require. *Story by A.J. Mangum/courtesy of Western Horseman magazine.*

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## NJC Faculty Recognition Program Honors Faculty Most Admired by Students in Three Divisions



Celeste Delgado-Pelton



Kevin Stump



Ben Cooley

The winners of the 28th annual **Joel E. Mack Award** at Northeastern Junior College were recently recognized at NJC's Jackson and Edwards Arena on campus. Selected as recipients of this prestigious award were faculty members **Celeste Delgado-Pelton, Kevin Stump** and **Ben Cooley**.

The Joel E. Mack Award is considered NJC's most prestigious teaching award and is presented each year to one or more outstanding faculty members *chosen by the students* from each of the college's academic divisions.

The award honors the memory of Joel Evan Mack, an extremely gung-ho NJC student who in 1982 was murdered while trying to be a good Samaritan to some motorists on I-76. Because Mack had often spoke highly of his instructors at NJC, his family began this annual award to recognize these outstanding teachers on campus.

NJC's Associated Student Government continues to sponsor the award each year. Because the recipients are selected through a student voting process, faculty members consider it a huge honor to be selected.

Winning the award this year from the *liberal arts* department is **Celeste Delgado-Pelton**. Delgado is head of the college's music program. She coordinates all of the vocal and instrumental instruction on campus, doing much of it herself as well as teaching other liberal arts-based classes such as music appreciation. She is also coordinator for the **NJC Honors Program**. Delgado-Pelton has made huge strides in growing the music program and has, in the last few years, been able to recruit enough students to the program to begin several specialized student singing groups that give several great performances per year.

She has been a huge supporter of the Creative Inferno, a club that caters to those students involved in the performing and visual arts. Among her support of this "CI" activity this past year was the start-up of evening student performances in downtown Sterling in a loft located above KC's Music, a main street business owned by her parents. This back alley location has provided a wonderful venue for the students to entertain the public in the kind of setting often found in large cities.

The second recipient of the Joel E. Mack award is **Kevin Stump** from the **math and science** department. His sharp wit and ability to connect with students at all levels makes him a favorite when it comes to teaching and advising. Stump is a big supporter of the Math, Science and Outdoor Club and for the Future Teachers Club where it has become tradition each year for him to make liquid nitrogen ice cream at one of their meetings.

He is always willing to help students with math and science homework and can almost always be found in the math work room in Phillips Whyman Hall when he's not in a classroom. Stump has a way of making learning fun and interesting. Students are quick to give examples of his teaching tactics and admit that they will never forget moments in his classroom. He brings both practical and entertaining tools to the learning environment to get his message across, including dropping a ten pound bowling ball on the floor at 8 o'clock in morning, claiming to "test" to see if everyone in the room is awake.

He commuted to and from Loveland every day to teach for several years before he and his wife have since made their home in the New Raymer area. Still, driving 40 miles to work every day, students often say they don't dare miss his class because he's made it a point to go this distance to bring them something new to learn.

The third recipient of this year's award is **Ben Cooley** from the **agriculture department**, winning for the first time since he began teaching at NJC in 2007. Cooley teaches animal science classes and life lessons on a regular basis; he spends a vast majority of his time outside of class coaching the livestock judging team, which competes in contests all over the nation throughout the school year. If he's not in class, it's a fair bet he is on the road to or from a judging contest.

In addition to wearing the most talked about ties on campus, Cooley, a former lobbyist with a keen sense of humor, always finds some way to spice up class and make the material interesting. He works very hard to assure students succeed in not only his classes but others

as well.

He was named the faculty's "Rising Star" on campus last year, an award given to teachers who have been on campus for five years or less and show potential to be exceptional educators.

He also received a special teaching award from the agriculture department this year when he was named a recipient of a North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture (NACTA) award. NACTA recognizes those individuals whose efforts represent the very best in agricultural higher education and encourages these colleagues to share with others their methods of achieving excellence.

These three honored teachers are but a sampling of the excellence NJC has to offer students.

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## Otero Junior College Launches First JUCO Soccer Program in Colorado



**Kaveh Akbari, right, a midfielder, from Glenview, Ill. has recently signed with the OJC Rattlers. Akbari, a club team player, has played against some of the best youth competition in the U.S. over the past few years.**

Otero Junior College has become the first junior college in the state of Colorado to offer a men's varsity soccer program. As a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association's (NJCAA) Region IX, south sub-region, Otero Junior College will compete for a Region IX championship against teams from Wyoming and Nebraska.

Over the course of the year, the inaugural team for the Otero Junior College soccer program has taken shape. **Head Coach Evan Prybutok** has signed a full roster, with over half of his players from Colorado high schools.

"The interest in playing competitive soccer at the junior college level has been overwhelming," said Prybutok. "Since we announced the development of the program earlier this year, I have been recruiting heavily in Colorado and New Mexico. Almost on a daily basis

players and their families are visiting campus and requesting information about the program. This has been an exciting process to be a part of and I'm looking forward to August when these great players come to campus for their first practice."

A few of the players that Prybutok has signed over the past few weeks include **Kaveh Akbari**, a midfielder, from Glenview, Ill.; **Matthaus Hawkins**, a midfielder from El Dorado High School in Albuquerque, N.M; **Charles Howard**, a defender from Upper Darby, Pa.; **Emmanuel Kollie**, a forward from Philadelphia, Pa.; and **Noe Rios**, a defender from Mountain Range High School in Thornton.

"Each of these players brings a special talent and unique experiences to the team," said Prybutok. We have players who are All-State selections, players of the year, state champions, and have toured with national club teams. We've built it...and they came...now my job is to take this incredibly talented group of young men and build a team for the Otero Rattlers," said Prybutok.

Kaveh Akbari, a midfielder, from Glenview, Ill. is a three- year Academy player with the Chicago Magic and FC Milwaukee who has played against some of the best youth competition in the U.S. over the past few years. "He's a quick, technical player who is dangerous in the attack," said Prybutok.

Matthaus Hawkins, from Albuquerque, is a midfielder that Coach Prybutok says has a tremendous amount of technical ability and plays with a lot of flair. "Matthaus is great on the ball in one-on-one situations and will definitely be an exciting player to watch," said Prybutok.

Hawkins led his team to the state championship game in New Mexico and was selected to the All-district and All-state teams.

Charles Howard, from Upper Darby, Pa. is a four-year varsity starter and team captain. During his high school career, he has been an All-league, All-region, All-state, and Regional All-American player. In 2009 he was selected as the Central League Player of the Year. He is currently a member of the #3 ranked and national semi-finalist Lower Merion Velez club team.

Emmanuel Kollie, a forward from Philadelphia, Pa. and Charles Howard are teammates on the nationally-ranked Merion Velez club team. Kollie was a member of the 2009 3A state championship team and was selected to the All-league and All-state teams in Pennsylvania.

Noe Rios, a defender from Thornton, Colo., was named one of the top-ten midfielders in the Front Range league. Rios was an All-conference selection and received honorable mention All-state recognition.

The Otero Rattlers will play 17 games during their inaugural season, including eight regional conference games, with a regional tournament set for October 22-23 in Scottsbluff, Neb.

All home games will be played at the new sports complex at La Junta High School. The sports complex, which is within walking distance of the college, includes a synthetic football and soccer field, all-weather track and 2,400-seat stadium. The college and East Otero School District have entered into a use agreement allowing the college's soccer program to use the new complex for home games.

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## PPCC Passes Accreditation Site Review with “Flying Colors”



Pikes Peak Community College met or exceeded rigorous expectations in the six categories reviewed during a “Multi-Location Visit” by the institution’s regional accreditation agency, the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA).

The site reviewer, who visited PPCC’s Centennial, Downtown, Falcon, Fort Carson, and Rampart Range locations, looked at the college’s instructional oversight, including: consistency of curricular expectation and policies; timely availability of courses needed for program and graduation requirements; faculty qualifications; performance of instructional duties; availability of faculty to students; and, attention to student concerns.

She also reviewed academic and student services such as: tutoring, advising, libraries, and computer labs; assessment of student learning; student services; the actual facilities, including accessibility; and finally, the quality and availability of both marketing and recruiting information to the public.

According to PPPC President, **Dr. Tony Kinkel**, all categories “passed with flying colors.” He adds, “We are very pleased with the findings by NCA. PPCC as an institution works very hard to provide the highest quality education possible despite the budget constraints we have faced in recent years.” Kinkel’s vision for the College includes weaving together all the areas of PPCC in a way that serves students best, something noted in the HLC’s report.

In her final report, the reviewer says, “Rarely have I had the pleasure of visiting an institution in which people were so evidently interested in helping each other, respecting one another, and expressing appreciation for what someone else is doing.”

PPCC received its 10-year accreditation from the NCA in 2003, and this is a follow-up visit to review progress and changes since that time. The next full review for accreditation will be in the 2013-14 academic year. NCA is one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States.

Accreditation is a voluntary, independent review of a college to insure uniform and sound quality. An accredited college like Pikes Peak has been evaluated and determined to meet standards of quality determined by the accrediting organization. It is necessary for the acceptance and transfer of college credit, and for eligibility for state and federal financial aid funding.

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## Section E – PARTNERSHIPS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

### ***2010 – An Accomplishment-filled Space Research Odyssey for Community College of Aurora Science Students/Faculty***



**CCA student Puja Kapoor was selected for a coveted internship with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif.**

Already recognized for biology and biotech programs that prepare students to pursue rewarding careers or advanced degrees, the overall science program at the Community College of Aurora is on an upward trajectory . . .

In the past year, science students at CCA have enjoyed the following space-science related successes:

**CCA was selected in 2009 as an affiliate institution of the Colorado Space Grant Consortium, which is funded by NASA.** The Space Grant Consortium gives students skills and knowledge to allow them to become part of the aerospace and space science workforce. The Consortium is a statewide organization involving 13 colleges, universities and institutions around Colorado. As a result of involvement in the Consortium, **two teams of CCA sciences students immediately became immersed in a semester-long project that saw results in January.**

Two CCA student teams designed and built scientific payloads for a **Jan. 16 launch on a high-altitude balloon.** The balloon traveled some 33 miles south, then east, from its launch site in Deer Trail, Colo., and reached an approximate altitude of 77,847'—literally, to the edge of space—before bursting northwest of Limon. FAA clearance was obtained in advance of the launch. **The data from the flights were analyzed and presented by the students to scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory** in Pasadena, Calif. CCA Team A launched a bacteria strain to determine its reaction under extreme climate conditions. Team B's project carried a substance similar to what is found on the surface of Mars, along with an onboard Geiger counter to measure how well the contents were shielded against high-altitude radiation.

As a follow-up to the launch, CCA student team member **Shellene Wright** was invited by Colorado Space Grant Consortium Director Chris Koehler to attend a **national space grant meeting in Washington, D.C.,** in March.

On April 17, the CCA **BalloonSat biology team** presented a follow-up paper "The Effects of Near Space Conditions on the Genome E. coli" at the **Colorado Undergraduate Space Research Symposium** in Boulder, ultimately **earning the grand prize** and beating out teams from CU Boulder, the Colorado School of Mines, and other four-year institutions. **CCA was the only community college invited to present a paper.**

And the successes continued to mount. BalloonSat team member **Puja Kapoor was selected as a National Community College Aerospace Scholar** and **participated in a three-day workshop with NASA engineers at the Johnson Space Center in Houston** May 20-22.

Kapoor was chosen as **one of only 60** community and junior college students from across the nation to be part of this program. While there, Kapoor interacted with students from across the nation as they learned more about careers in science and engineering. While at Johnson, students formed teams and established fictional companies interested in Mars exploration. Each company was responsible for developing a prototype rover, designing a line drawing of the rover, and forming the company infrastructure including budget, communications, and presentations.

Additionally, Kapoor secured a coveted internship with NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., and has been spending the summer of 2010 working with a team of research engineers. She learned about the internship opening while visiting JPL with other CCA students earlier this year. The group had traveled there to report on the results of the semester-long BalloonSat science project, made possible by the NASA-funded Colorado Space Grant Consortium.

Further, former BalloonSat team member **Shellene Wright** has been invited to participate in the prestigious HASP, or **High Altitude Student Platform**, annual launch from Fort Sumner, New Mexico. According to the HASP web site, hosted by the Space Grant Consortium at the Louisiana State University, the High Altitude Student Platform is designed to carry up to twelve student payloads to an altitude of about 36 kilometers with flight durations of 15 to 20 hours using a small volume, zero pressure balloon. It is anticipated that the payloads carried by HASP will be designed and built by students and will be used to flight-test compact satellites or prototypes and to fly other small experiments. For comparison, the CCA teams' balloon launched on Jan. 16 expanded to the approximate size of a small house before bursting; experts say the HASP balloon can expand to the **size of the Pepsi Center** before bursting and beginning its descent.

Finally, former CCA BalloonSat team member and CCA student **Steven Colussi** earned a summer internship at Lockheed Martin.

**CCCS Connections** congratulates CCA's Science Department on these prestigious accomplishments and honors.

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# Denver's RTD Turns to Community College of Denver to Help it Undertake Massive Endeavor to Construct 23 mile Light Rail Line to DIA

*Project Needs 3,000 Workers to Help it Meet 2016 Completion Date*



In June, RTD spokesperson **Daria Serna** announced that the regional transit agency will be working with the **Community College of Denver** to identify and filter workers into the 3,000 person workforce it will need to build a new commuter rail line to Denver International Airport.

The airport line, dubbed the "Eagle P3 Project," which was approved by voters when they passed the FasTracks ballot initiative in 2004, will span 23 miles from DIA to Denver's Union Station and take six years to complete.

The project will employ a variety of workers at different skill levels. Positions for skilled individuals will range from steel workers to surveyors.

"This is just an opportunity to focus on those young people, those people that have been laid off that maybe want to change their career," RTD spokeswoman Daria Serna told Denver KUSA-TV's 9News.

In June, RTD selected **Denver Transit Partners** to help construct the Eagle P3 project. RTD expects to have the line completed by early 2016.

RTD is looking for people that have experience in skilled trades but they also want people that might not necessarily be trained or employed currently. RTD plans call for retaining the Eagle P3 project workers once the massive endeavor is finished. RTD began working in the community to identify potential workers in July.

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## TSJC Partners with Brownells to Launch an Advanced Third-Year Gunsmithing Curriculum

*Program to Operate Retail Repair Entity*

*Known as the Brownells Trinidad American Firearms Technology Institute*



**Brownells, lead by President Pete Brownell, above, contributed \$250,000 to launch the new partnership.**

This past spring semester Trinidad State Junior College partnered with Brownells, the world's largest supplier of firearm accessories, gun parts and gunsmithing tools, to launch an advanced (third-year) gunsmithing program at the their Trinidad campus. Prior to the launch, TSJC widely distributed a news release in which President **Felix Lopez** and Brownells' President **Pete Brownell** touted the innovative partnership.

TSJC's well respected two-year gunsmithing program was established in 1947, and is believed to be the first of its kind ever offered by a college in the United States. Back then, it immediately attracted capacity enrollment, dominated by veterans of World War II. Throughout the ensuing 63 years, TSJC has built a world-wide reputation for the excellence of this program. Companies involved in the firearms industry have supported the program with many generous donations and have been quick to hire TSJC's accomplished gunsmithing graduates.

"When our new Brownells Trinidad American Firearms Technology Institute opened this past semester, once again," explained Lopez, "Trinidad State took the lead in developing a program to meet the needs of industry."

"The goal of the third-year gunsmithing program is to prepare its graduates to be ready for employment directly out of school," said Lopez. "The world of work requires students to be more prepared than ever before. In a global marketplace it is our moral imperative to prepare our students for the workplace."

"This third-year program is allowing our students to gain entrepreneurial skills that will make them not just successful gunsmiths, but savvy business leaders," said Dr. Sandy Veltri, TSJC's Vice President of Student/Academic Affairs.

The partnership and relationship between TSJC and Brownells has developed and grown in recent years. In 2007 Brownells was named to the Trinidad State Junior College 'Captains of Industry' hall of fame after donating a CNC milling machine along with computer workstations

and software to the college. In 2008 Brownells made a donation of \$40,000 which was used to purchase two new Bridgeport-type milling machines and a variety of other needed tools for the gunsmithing program.

Development of the third-year program began with conversations between the college and representatives from Brownells about the need in the industry for gunsmithing graduates who are not only accomplished gunsmiths, but who also understand the firearms business, including:

- retail sales,
- inventory control,
- counter sales,
- customer service, and,
- dealing with vendors and management.

Brownells President, Pete Brownell, shared his vision for this program to reflect real world employment in a working gun shop environment.

With the needs of the industry in mind, the Trinidad State Junior College Gunsmithing Department Advisory Committee began work on developing a third-year gunsmithing curriculum and resolving challenges to bring this program to fruition such as student employees, retail sales on campus, a location for the program, and start-up funding.

Brownells provided funding in the amount of \$250,000 for facilities remodeling plus needed inventory and equipment for the new retail-repair facility that will be named the 'Brownells Trinidad American Firearms Technology Institute.' Other firearms industry partners excited by this program include Sharp Industries who provided two Sharp milling machines for the price of one.

The first class of third-year students is experiencing the hard work and challenges of starting up a small business under the guidance of TSJC gunsmithing instructor Speedy Gonzales.

Gonzales is a consummate gunsmith, inventor, and a member of the Benchrest Hall of Fame, who spent 30-plus years building guns for a living before he closed his shop near Fort Worth, Texas three years ago, moving his family to Trinidad, and bringing his high-energy level of perfection and enthusiasm to TSJC to "pass on his knowledge of gunsmithing to the next generation of gunsmiths."

"This program has involved opening and operating a real life gun shop with third-year students who are providing top quality gun repair, parts, and services for gun owners and collectors and hunting and shooting sports enthusiasts. We are offering retail, repair, blueing, re-loading, and we even plan to do some light manufacturing," said Gonzales.

The shop maintains regular hours to serve local customers, including shooters from the nearby NRA Whittington Center in Raton, New Mexico. "We are also marketing and providing our services to customers who need quality gunsmithing services anywhere," said Gonzales.

Students are learning through hands-on practical experience in the new retail/repair shop, as well as in classes provided by Gonzales and other college gunsmithing and business instructors.

Additional 'Gunsmithing Business Practices' and 'Gunsmithing Shop Management' modules are being taught year-round by experts directly involved in the industry. Gunsmiths already

employed and even gun shop owners and managers may choose to attend certain modules of particular interest.

In addition to its original two-year Gunsmithing Program and the upcoming addition of the third-year program, TSJC also conducts a Summer NRA Gunsmithing Program that offers short-term summer courses designed for anyone interested in learning gunsmithing and the art forms that have been associated with gunsmithing as a hobby or a vocation.

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## Section F – Technology News

### *Refunds Becoming More Convenient for Students and Cashier Staff*



In mid-June Arapahoe, Red Rocks and Morgan Community Colleges began piloting a new direct-deposit refund service that all students across the system will enjoy this Fall semester.

Previously, when students were owed a refund, the Accounting office and cashiers had to wait for the funds to clear COFRS at the State level and then they would separate the printed checks, stuff them in envelopes and pay postage to mail those checks not picked up by the student from the cashier office. The student, if he or she even had a bank account, would then have to make a trip to the bank to deposit the check.

Now, students will enjoy a much more secure and convenient process thanks to a new partnership between CCCS and Higher One, a national financial services company.

With the Higher One electronic refunding system, students will now have the option of having their refunds direct-deposited into an existing checking account, or placed in a no-fee checking account that will be tied to a debit Mastercard that all students enrolled in the Fall semester will receive. It will be the student's choice on whether to activate the debit card and when they do, they automatically activate the free checking account that will receive any credit balances they have with the college.

As a greater convenience, Higher One ATM machines will be appearing at campuses to provide students a free way of quickly turning their refund into cash. Now when a student's refund is released, they can instantaneously receive an e-mail or text notifying them that they have received money.

Reasons students get refunds are more common than one might think. Often when various forms of financial aid get applied, a student will be owed a refund. Sometimes there is a delay

in the College Opportunity Fund being applied. Refunds also occur when classes are cancelled or a student needs to drop a class.

To assist in the transition, faculty and staff should remind students to visit their Banner accounts to confirm or update their mailing addresses (to ensure they receive their Higher One debit card). They should also advise students to watch for the mailing from Higher One which will come in a green envelope. Finally, faculty/staff should encourage students to log on to the CCCS Refund Card Web site to designate a checking account for refunds. This should be done as soon as the debit card mailing from Higher One is received. The address to the site is [www.cccsrefundcard.com](http://www.cccsrefundcard.com).

The partnership with Higher One came about after an extensive bid-selection process that occurred in late Summer 2009. Higher One emerged as the company best capable of meeting the needs of the 13 CCCS colleges. As part of the bid, Higher One is also providing online payment, e-commerce and cashiering services to CCCS.

*CCCS Connections thanks Arapahoe Community College Director of Student Financial Services **Dorothy Shallcross**, CCCS Associate Vice President of Business and Information Technology **Pat Fay** and FRCC's **FrontLine** for contributing to this report.*

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## Section G – Grants and Gifts News from Around the System

### Dahms-Talton Foundation Helps Establish Endowment for MCC Jazz Ensemble



The MCC Foundation goal of creating an endowment to sustain the MCC Jazz Ensemble moved closer to reality with a \$24,000 gift from the Dahms-Talton Foundation, their third for this particular project.

The very determined expression on the Morgan Community College roadrunner pictured above represents the determination of the MCC Foundation in their fund raising efforts. This expression turns to smiles when donors step forth and it did so recently. The MCC Foundation goal of creating an endowment to sustain the MCC Jazz Ensemble moved closer to reality with a \$24,000 gift from the Dahms-Talton Foundation, their third for this particular cultural initiative.

The **MCC Jazz Ensemble** was established to perpetuate the music of Glenn Miller in his boyhood home of Ft. Morgan and to initiate a music program at MCC. The performing group made its debut one year ago at a free concert and recording session that set the bar high for quality and professional musicianship. The Ensemble, now under the direction of **Ron Pflug**, is comprised of local instrumentalists and complemented with borrowed musicians from the University of Northern Colorado, all of whom are enrolled as MCC students.

The Dahms-Talton Foundation views the MCC Jazz Ensemble as a lead program of excellence for the region that not only reflects positively on MCC but also as a very powerful tool for lifestyle enhancement for Morgan County and beyond.

Alan and Polli Dahms are committed to causes that improve the quality of life in Morgan County. Through their private foundation, they have generously supported local educational, cultural and healthcare projects. Since 2007, the Dahms-Talton Foundation has donated over \$1.5 million to Morgan County organizations including MCC, Colorado Plains Medical Center, Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center, East Morgan County Hospital, and the Humane Society.

Dr. Kerry Hart, MCC President, said of the Dahms-Talton Foundation gift, "Their generosity has given life to a program that is vital to both the well-being of Morgan Community College and also the well-being of our community." He continued to say, "As MCC embraces the beginning of a new phase in its evolution during this pivotal 40th anniversary year, the Dahms-Talton Foundation has emerged as a major pillar of support in launching MCC to greater and unimaginable heights."

The MCC Jazz Ensemble entertained enthusiastic audiences in December and May this past year as well as performing at the MCC Foundation Gala in February. The group was also the featured dance band at Ft. Morgan's annual summertime Glenn Miller Festival.

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## CNCC Breaks Ground on New Craig Campus



**Above is a simulated scene of what activity outside the new CNCC Craig Campus Academic building will look like.**

In early May, Colorado Northwestern Community College held a ceremony to break ground on their new Craig Campus. Officials present included **Carlos Cabrera**, Adolfsen & Peterson Construction board member; State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education Board Member **Tamra Ward** and Chair **Bernadette Marquez**; CCCS President **Dr. Nancy McCallin**; CCCS Vice President of Administration and Finance **Cliff Richardson**; CNCC president **John Boyd**; Craig Mayor **Don Jones**; Moffat County commissioner **Audrey Danner**; and CNCC vice president of administration **Gene Bilodeau**.

In March, CNCC entered into a contract with Adolfsen and Peterson to serve as general contractor for the construction of the facilities in Craig.

The site will be located next to the newly constructed Memorial Hospital of Craig. The new location is a short distance from the current campus. The construction of the new academic and career technical buildings will take about 17 months.

The 14,000 square foot **Career Technical Building**, designed to allow students to develop practical skills, will house the Power Plant Technology, Cosmetology, Massage Therapy, and Industrial Electrician programs. Additionally, the Mine Safety Training program and specialized mine training for local and regional mines will be located in this facility.

The 70,000 square foot **Academic Building** will be home to all of the Craig Campus general academic programs including nursing. This building will have several large and medium classrooms, science laboratories, a library, an adult learning assistance center and a student lounge area.

Also during this same construction period, Chevron Energy Solutions will install the first phase of a geo exchange system which will be used to heat and cool the new campus. In addition to the academic and career technical buildings, the campus will also open for occupancy its first residence hall. This facility will provide housing for 32 students. Each unit will have two double rooms, and living room/study area, a bathroom, laundry room and a complete kitchen.

Colorado Northwestern is excited about this expansion and looks forward to providing a modern facility for their students to pursue their educational goals.

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*This is issue #602 of CCCS Connections.*

<http://www.connectionsnewsletter.net>

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*This newsletter is distributed to  
the employees and friends of the  
Colorado Community College System.*

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