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*The purpose of the CCCS Foundation is to support the mission of the Colorado Community College System by creating strategic partnerships, developing resources and advocating for the value of a community college education.*

COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
SYSTEM FOUNDATION

*presents*

2009

PHI THETA KAPPA

ALL-COLORADO ACADEMIC TEAM

*Recognition Ceremony  
and  
Honorary Luncheon*



THE BROWN PALACE

*Ballroom B*

MARCH 11, 2009

The 2009 Phi Theta Kappa All-Colorado Academic  
Team Recognition Ceremony and Honorary Luncheon  
presented by the **COLORADO COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE SYSTEM FOUNDATION** and:

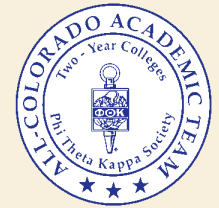
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*Welcome,* INTRODUCTION &  
GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

DR. NANCY J. MCCALLIN  
President, Colorado Community College System

*Keynote Address*



THE HONORABLE WELLINGTON E. WEBB  
Former Mayor, City of Denver, 1991-2003

*Induction* OF THE ALL-COLORADO  
ACADEMIC TEAM MEMBERS

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## 2009 PHI THETA KAPPA

## ALL-COLORADO ACADEMIC TEAM



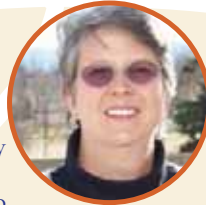
### ARAPAHOE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### GLYNNIS COX

In her third year studying English at ACC, Student Library Assistant Glynnis Cox hopes to become an English professor and earn her doctorate. She came to ACC because her brother attended ACC and recommended good instructors. ACC's Great Books program has challenged her and helped to make her education seem real. As part of the application for the All-USA Academic Team, she wrote an essay about the Great Books Program. "I'm proud to be representing Arapahoe Community College, because I've had such a wonderful experience here." Glynnis said. "There are some incredible faculty members and classes here."

#### ROXANNE ELSNER

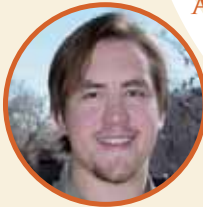
As ACC's PTK President, Roxanne hopes to leave a legacy through her work with the organization, including developing a foundation to enhance the year-to-year continuity of the program. After a 27-year career in finance and banking, Roxanne's function as manager in operations was eliminated, so she decided to change directions. At ACC, Roxanne is pursuing an AA degree with an education emphasis that has her on the path of becoming an elementary teacher. She decided on ACC because of cost, location and small class size. Roxanne loves the passion ACC's faculty have for what they teach.



### COLORADO NORTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### ARON SMALEC

As a "visual-spatial" learner in a world designed for people who learn via linguistic linear-sequential curriculum, Aron has learned to adapt his cognitive differences to become a scholarship-winning student who was accepted into CU's Honors College. He did not like it there. He transferred to CNCC. With the small/friendly classrooms, he has thrived. Growing up in chronic pain with congenital heart defects and scoliosis, Aron now hopes to be an inspiration to others. After earning his Associate's degree with a computer programming emphasis he aims to pursue a Bachelor's in Computer Science with a focus on Geographic Information Systems Programming.



#### TANARA HOOPER

Tanara is a Dental Hygiene student who moved from Texas to Rangely one and a half years ago and loves it there. Tanara is very involved at CNCC. She is Secretary of CNCC-Rangely's Student Senate and President of PTK.



### COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA

#### GWENDOLYN ALONZO

After graduating high school in 1992, Gwendolyn earned a Bachelor's in Health Information Management and went to work as a manager of a hospital Health Information Management department. In 2007, she decided she wanted to become a pharmacist and enrolled at CCA. At CCA she has been on the National Dean's List. Last year she helped start a science club. Upon forming, the club organized a community-wide Earth Day celebration. She has taken leadership positions in the Student Government Association and PTK. She currently is a Biology tutor. Upon transferring, she ultimately aims to earn her Doctorate of Pharmacy.

#### SHANNON ELAINE CANTU

Upon graduating from CCA, ShannonElaine will transfer to CU-Denver with the ultimate goal of obtaining a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology. As a cancer survivor and recently engaged mother of one, she has worked diligently to pay her way through college. She is President of the Psychology Club, Vice-President of the Student Government Association and a PTK VP. At age 12, she taught herself Spanish. Recently she took the CLEP (College Level Examination Program) test in Spanish, which earned her 16 college credits! Further, she has maintained a 3.5 GPA while taking 17 credits per semester and holding down a job.



### COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER

#### TATYANA LIAKHOVA

Tatyana Liakhova moved to Decatur, Illinois from Moscow when she was just 15. She was placed in middle school while she learned English. She finished high school, graduating with honors and fluency in English. She earned one semester in Anthropology at the local community college. Tatyana, 20, then moved to Colorado where she attends the Community College of Denver. With a GPA of 4.0, Tatyana's goal is to earn a science degree and attend the University of Colorado School of Medicine. Because of her love of community, she would like to give back to Moscow some day.

## 2009 PHI THETA KAPPA

### FRONT RANGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - BOULDER CAMPUS

#### ERIC ERICKSON

As a young man, Eric took a CPR class and really enjoyed it. Thus began a lifelong interest in health care that will culminate with Eric becoming a nurse. A grandfather and former Marine, he worked for 28 years in construction and then plastics when jobs dried up so he enrolled at FRCC to return to his lifelong interest. He plans to transfer to earn a baccalaureate in Nursing. At FRCC, Eric was elected PTK President and has been heavily involved in Student Life activities, including the coordination of a successful New Student Orientation.



### FRONT RANGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - LARIMER CAMPUS

#### CHRISTIAN BUCK

Christian is training to become an event planner. Currently, she plans events every month as PTK's VP for fellowship. Recent events have included member induction, a Halloween carnival, and a PTK promotion to encourage students to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Now, she is planning a fellowship event for a regional PTK conference. As a volunteer for Fort Collins' NewWestFest she has provided hospitality services for the performers and emcees. Additionally, she has served as an Election Day poll worker supervisor. As one who is paying her own way through college, she currently works as a marketing intern for Chipper's Lanes.



#### BONNIE LINDSAY

Bonnie, an accomplished Canadian singer, headed for New York after high school where she earned a record deal. The recording industry asked her to reach an unhealthy weight so she needed a Plan B. In New York she made her 400-square-foot apartment the nicest, most efficient around. This expanded her interest in interior design and she enrolled at FRCC. She is PTK president and Interior Design Club VP. She volunteers to protect trees and is planning a service project in Ghana. With a 4.0 GPA she plans to earn a bachelor's degree and work in commercial interior design.



### FRONT RANGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - WESTMINSTER CAMPUS

#### NIKKI DOUROUS

As PTK President, Nikki has overseen a food drive for 100 families and a Halloween carnival for 400 children. During Denver's Democratic National Convention, Nikki volunteered



## ALL-COLORADO ACADEMIC TEAM

for a security detail and got to hear President Obama. She has been secretary for a smoking cessation group and worked with the Gay-Straight Alliance. Nikki came to FRCC after working as a Seattle Starbucks manager where she trained Austrians how to set up stores back home. Upon graduation she will transfer to CU-Boulder to study broadcast production. She is getting firsthand experience in this already as the producer of a Student Life podcast.

### LAMAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### KEIRSTEN HUNT

Keirsten was born and raised in San Diego. When she was 14 she moved to Lamar where she graduated high school in 2007. At 17 she started attending Lamar Community College. She became a PTK member in Spring 2008 and is now their Secretary. Upon graduating, she will transfer to CU-Colorado Springs to study Biology. After that she plans to move on to the CU-Denver School of Dental Medicine to become a dentist. When she is not studying, she spends her time working at Pizza Hut, playing video games or reading.



### MORGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### KAYLA BROWN

Limon High School senior Kayla Brown dreams of medical school and joining the Doctors beyond Borders medical team in Latin America. She has already completed her Associate of General Studies and by the time she graduates LHS will also have an A.A. and an A.S.! She plans to transfer to Baylor to study Medical Humanities/Spanish. At LHS, Kayla is involved in SADD, Knowledge Bowl and theater while earning outstanding grades. She volunteers at a nursing home and a clinic while working fifteen hours a week. Kayla says that despite a rocky start to high school, MCC turned her life around.



### MORGAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### KELSEY DUTTON

With aspirations to become a physical therapist and being one who loves a challenge, Kelsey is getting a jump start on her college education. She is a Limon High School student who is taking MCC classes. She is a member of the National Honor Society, speech team, dance team and the MCC-Limon Advisory Board. Kelsey is also a student athlete in track and softball. Her achievements were recognized by the Denver Post who named her Student Athlete of the Week, and by IBM who designated her Hero of the Week. Also, McPherson College honored her as a Presidential Scholar.



## 2009 PHI THETA KAPPA

### NORTHEASTERN JUNIOR COLLEGE

#### HANNAH MILLS



Hannah, 19, is an agriculture major from Castle Rock. She has a 4.0 GPA. She is a member of the college's rodeo team and has served as a leader for this group serving as the Campus Activities Board representative. She is involved in the Cowboy Up ministry program and competes in goat tying and barrel racing where she is a top competitor. Upon graduation, Mills is leaning toward transferring to New Mexico State University. A student of very strong faith, she wants to finish a bachelor's degree and will decide at that time if she will continue to graduate school.

### OTERO JUNIOR COLLEGE

#### AIGUL KUBATBEKOVA

Aigul, 19, from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, came to OJC with a scholarship through the Soros Foundation. She is pursuing an Associate's degree at OJC with an emphasis in business. She ultimately aims to earn a master's degree in business management. She plans to return to Kyrgyzstan to work in the business community. While a student at OJC, Kubatbekova has been a member of PTK, International Relations Organization, Astronomy Club, Alpine Club, and secretary for the Math Club. She has assisted with the International Talent Show and International Foods Night. She has been named to OJC's Vice President and President's Honor Lists.



#### KITTRICK DAVIDSON

Kittrick Davidson, 20, from La Junta, is pursuing an Associate's degree and upon graduating this spring, Davidson plans to transfer to CU-Boulder to study architectural engineering with an electrical emphasis. Davidson's interest in this field has been influenced by working in his family's business, La Junta's Royse Electric, where he has assisted his dad since he was 14. He chose OJC so he could continue to work there. In addition to PTK, Kittrick has been a member of OJC's Green Team, a student organization that organizes recycling efforts. He has been named to the Vice President's and President's Honor Lists.

## ALL-COLORADO ACADEMIC TEAM

### PIKES PEAK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### ADAM HOOPER

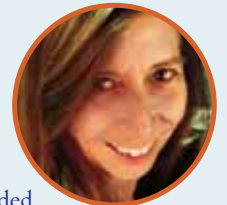


Adam, 28, is earning a degree emphasizing Multimedia Graphic Design while raising a 10 year-old son. His journey began while testing a website environment for his employer Current USA where he learned that graphic designers determined the site layout. Wanting to know these skills, he enrolled at PPCC. Since joining he has been elected chapter webmaster and president. He enjoys working with the Student Government, the Culinary Arts Club, Black Student Union; etc. Upon graduating, he will shift his focus to a bachelor's in Music to honor his parents. He aspires to conduct an orchestra and compose cinematic musical scores.

### PIKES PEAK COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### DEBORAH McDONALD

Deborah explains, "Back in the paleozoic-era when I was in high school, my family didn't have the means to send me to college. It became one of those goals I would fulfill 'someday.'" Her life became filled with work, marriage and home. At mid-life she decided to shift from her first love, art, to her second passion, the environment. In 2007, She enrolled in PPCC's Adventure Guide Certification and their Natural Resource Management degree programs. Since then has discovered a love of teaching and has "climbed mountains metaphorically and literally." She is now set on earning a master's degree.



### PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### GARRISON ORTIZ



Although Garrison is currently a senior at Dolores Huerta Preparatory High (DHPH), he has already accumulated 61 credits at PCC through their dual-enrollment program. He will be the program's first student to earn a degree with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Wrestling for DHPH he has placed as one of the best in the state. Garrison is also Vice President of PCC's PTK where he oversees many of their community activities. After graduating from DHPH and PCC, Garrison wants to further his education at DU and ultimately move on to medical school with an eye on becoming an anesthesiologist.

## 2009 PHI THETA KAPPA

### PUEBLO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### DENA RODRIGUEZ

As a mother of two and an active full-time student, Dena, 27, is very busy but has managed to maintain a 4.0 GPA. After graduating from PCC, she will transfer to CSU-Pueblo and ultimately aims to earn a Ph. D. in psychology. Dena would like to practice clinical psychology with children or teach college psychology. Currently, Dena is the PCC PTK Secretary. Dena has been very instrumental in induction ceremonies, has spearheaded several fundraising events and chaired two committees. Another hat Dena wears is that of a tutor for both the TRiO student support program and for PCC's Learning Center.



### RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### CHASE TOWNSLEY

Chase ultimately plans to earn a master's degree so he may teach college English courses. Chase is president of the Gay/Straight Alliance and was instrumental in delivering campus Safe Zone training. Chase is an editor/contributor for Obscura, RRCC's literary magazine. Last year he helped write a grant to fund the magazine and elevate its quality. Chase was chosen as one of 10 students to represent RRCC in a roundtable discussion with Governor Ritter; volunteers by reading to children in RRCC's daycare center; and, is currently developing a graphic novel and book of mysterious short stories.



#### TIM VICKERY

Tim has overcome adversity to become successful. In 2005, recently released from prison, Tim entered RRCC's Construction Technology program. He simultaneously started as a general contractor carpenter. Working full-time, Tim was promoted while he maintained a 4.0 GPA. Combining his carpentry skills with construction technology and business curriculum, Tim recently became a partner with a general contractor. Tim volunteers his time to mentor at-risk youth and transition paroled felons to help them develop work skills. As a general contractor, Tim gives former felons job opportunities that they might not otherwise have. Tim says he has gained self-confidence from RRCC.



## ALL-COLORADO ACADEMIC TEAM

### TRINIDAD STATE JUNIOR COLLEGE

#### MONICA HANLEY

As PTK President, Monica Hanley will graduate TSJC with an Associate of Science-Pre-Physical Therapy Emphasis. She plans to transfer to Northern Arizona University where she ultimately plans to pursue graduate courses in Physical Therapy. "Helping others," is an important way of life for Monica. Three times she has donated 10-inch lengths of hair to be used in making wigs for adults and children who are suffering from hair loss due to medical conditions. For the past six years, she has helped organize, wrap, and deliver the donated toys for the Trinidad Fire Department Toy Drive.



### LOCAL DISTRICT COMMUNITY COLLEGES

### AIMS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

#### JENNIFER POWELL

In 2006, after volunteering with the Restorative Justice Program in Fort Collins, Jennifer decided to pursue a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Her short term goal is to work as a restorative justice facilitator, though inspired by many professors at Aims Community College (where she maintains a 4.0), she someday hopes to obtain her master's degree and teach Criminal Justice on a college level. At Aims, Jennifer is PTK's Vice President of Service and Parliamentarian of the Aims History Association. Outside of school, she stays busy volunteering throughout the community and thoroughly enjoys working for the Weld County fair.



### COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

#### SHERA TAPP

Based in Glenwood Springs, Shera Tapp is president of the Phi Theta Kappa chapter at Colorado Mountain College, a position she's held since 2006. She also served as CMC's PTK treasurer in 2006-07. In addition to taking courses at CMC, since 2005, Shera has worked approximately 25 hours a week as a tutor, teacher's assistant and administrative assistant at the college. She was promoted to her present position of Academic Assistant Coordinator in 2008, coordinating tutoring labs and academic workshops.



## NEW CENTURY SCHOLAR

### BRIAN ENGLAND

#### LAMAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Lamar Community College sophomore Brian England was born and raised in Lamar, Colorado. England is LCC's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter president, a leader of the college's Fellowship of Christian Students and an active member of LCC's Ag Club.



He was homeschooled through most of elementary and all of high school. Homeschooling allowed his family to have a more flexible schedule and Brian was able to operate a sixty head cow-calf operation during high school.

He is active in his church, where he plays drums and helps with youth activities. Additionally, he has worked as a scout for an area agronomist for the past five years and has taken over operations for the family farm.

He will graduate in May with an Associate of General Studies/Ag-Business Transfer degree. He plans to transfer to a university to obtain a dual degree in Ag Business and Plant and Soil Science.

#### ARAPAHOE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Dr. John Boyd, President

#### COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA

Dr. Linda S. Bowman, President

#### COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF DENVER

Dr. Karén Clos Bleeker, President

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#### AIMS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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#### COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE

Dr. Stan Jensen, President

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## PHI THETA KAPPA

- Phi Theta Kappa is the largest honor society in American higher education.
- It recognizes the academic achievement of two-year college students.
- To be eligible, students must complete a minimum of twelve hours of associate degree course work and earn a grade point average of 3.5 or higher.
- Phi Theta Kappa provides opportunities for individual growth and development through honors, leadership, and service programming.
- Colorado's first chapter was chartered in 1932 and since then, Phi Theta Kappa has grown to 22 active chapters.
- Over the 75-year history of PTK, nearly 50,000 Colorado community college students have been inducted.

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