Transform the student experience.

Workforce Initiative Now to Award Scholarships to Military Veterans
The Community College of Denver and the Regional Transportation District’s Workforce Initiative Now, or WIN program, will award $20,000 in scholarships to military veterans who want to attend college. Last fall, WIN held a Stars and Strikes bowling tournament to raise scholarship funds for veterans, and the money is now available to active military members and honorably discharged veterans enrolled in the WIN program and attending or wish to attend CCD. Created by WIN partners in conjunction with the CCD Foundation, the new scholarship program aims to expand WIN’s veteran support services, and move men and women who have served our nation toward sustainable educational and career pathways.

Redesign of Advisor Model Begins Implementation
After months of planning and consideration, the new advising model is beginning to take shape. The new model – 1 Advisor: 1 Student – was developed after doing multiple focus groups and surveys amongst students, faculty and staff to gain a better understanding of what CCD students need to be successful. Advisors will now be dedicated to a cluster pathway / meta major model in which a student may have a general idea of what (s)he wants to do, but may not be set on an exact major. The advisors will ensure the student is taking courses that are relevant to their interest area, but the student has flexibility to change their major as they get deeper into the subject matter while avoiding taking multiple unneeded courses. All advisors will report to one director and as many as possible will also be housed in one area, Confluence, closer to our one stop shop for students.

Faculty Member and Students do Field Research
Faculty member, Fleur Ferro, and two CCD students, Marianne Blackburn and Moana Sato, have been doing field research at CU Boulder this summer with the Research Experience for Community College Students in Critical Zone Science (RECCS) program. This summer activity ties in with the research initiatives the Center for Math and Science has undertaken and is a good demonstration of the results our students achieve based on their CCD foundation.

Marianne Blackburn, who has been doing research on fire fuels resulting from pine beetle kills, has been working side by side with Professor Ferro all summer. Professor Ferro has been helping Blackburn with project management, field data collection, and now data analysis and writing.
Transform our own workforce experience.

CCD Welcomed Vice President Joe Biden to New Advanced Manufacturing Center
The Vice President toured the new building with CCD Manufacturing Director Tony Rubino and spoke one-on-one with CCD welding student Wilma Harp and machining student Luke Irick. The round-table discussion, moderated by John Altland, focused on the importance of building a Colorado workforce with the right skills for jobs that pay well and provide a solid path to the middle class for Colorado residents.

Panelists included Governor John Hickenlooper and Mayor Michael Hancock along with Mike McCue, CEO of Accu-Precision and Laurie Lee Johnson, Deputy Plant Manager, of the Denver Mint, both of whom have hired CCD students to work in their manufacturing centers.

Funded through the U.S. Department of Labor, the CHAMP Grant (Colorado Helps Advanced Manufacturing Program) provided the resources to renovate and upgrade CCD’s new manufacturing center. It also allowed for the purchase of cutting edge advanced manufacturing equipment, including Computer Numeric Controlled (CNC) machines to provide high level skills training to incumbent workers, enabling increases in pay for the workers and more efficient manufacturing processes for employers. With these funds, CCD aims to increase our students’ abilities, recruit future students who are unemployed or underemployed to the welding, machine technologies, engineering graphics and mechanical design programs. From veterans to women to high school graduates, the new facility will allow CCD to increase instructional capacity in our programs three times over the next few years. In addition, CCD is partnering with local manufacturing businesses to connect our students with internships, which often lead to full-time positions upon graduation.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

CCD Students Attend the Denver Post’s Journalism Youth Day
CCD’s Journalism Department participated in the Denver Post’s (DP) Journalism Youth Day. Each year, DP invites local 8 to 14-year-old students to spend a day learning about what it takes to be a journalist. This year there were 75 local students from a variety of schools involved in the day. This was CCD's fifth year attending and our students acted as team leaders. The day was packed with real-life interviewing around town. First, the students met with professional writers, photographers, and editors to learn about jobs, duties, and deadlines. Later, students split into small groups with assigned team leaders and each team was assigned a story. Within their groups, the students took three hours to conduct interviews and take photographs in various areas around Denver, including the state capitol building and Denver Public Library. Groups met with such local celebrities as children's author Jeffery Bennett, professional photojournalist Brent Lewis, sports columnists Woody Paige and Les Shapiro, and DPTV broadcaster, Molly Hughes. After the interviews were complete, the students raced back to the DP to write a story. All of the stories and photographs were published at the end of the day in DP’s Colorado Kids issue.
Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.

CCD Foundation Approved for Enterprise Zone Charitable Status
The Community College of Denver Foundation announced that the Colorado Office of Economic Development approved its application for Enterprise Zone Charitable status for donations to CCD’s new Advanced Manufacturing Center’s (AMC) Capital Campaign. This means that individuals and companies located in Colorado that donate to the AMC will receive a 25% tax credit for cash donations and 12.5% credit for in-kind donations. There is a $750,000 tax credit limit per project year. The CCD Foundation is seeking $200,000 in funding for classrooms and associated furniture and equipment at the Advanced Manufacturing Center.

CCD’s AMC is a state-of-the-art 33,280-square-foot facility located about four miles from the main Auraria campus. The location supports a dramatic increase in CCD’s manufacturing programs and adds state-of-the-art equipment to enhance the range of machining training programs. The center will train new machinists and welders, as well as provide training for incumbent workers who need to upgrade their skill set.

Other News

Dr. Rhonda Epper Named Interim Provost
On July 15th, Dr. Rhonda Epper joined CCD as Interim Provost. Dr. Epper began her community college career with CCD in 2002 as director of academic and online initiatives, where she provided staff support to the Vice President of Learning on the Academic Standards Committee, the AQIP accreditation process, and the creation of new online programs. Rhonda also served at the CCCS system office as co-executive director of CCCOnline and as assistant provost, where she led many innovative initiatives and represented CCCS in the development of statewide transfer and articulation agreements. Rhonda brings extensive national and state level policy experience as well as familiarity with the fundamental challenges and opportunities facing our college in the areas of instructional excellence, academic support and advising.

In her current role at the Colorado Department of Higher Education, Dr. Epper manages policy development and implementation on behalf of the state in areas such as transfer/articulation, new program approval, remedial education, concurrent enrollment, supplemental academic instruction, admissions, extended studies, educator preparation, and prior learning assessment. She also manages several large federal and state programs including Colorado GEAR UP, the Colorado Challenge, and the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative.