Transform the student experience.

- The student-created documentary “Women Warriors: A Vision of Valor” won a Heartland Chapter Emmy® in the Student Achievement category for Long Form Non-Fiction. Brandon Berman, digital media faculty at Westminster, managed the project, which involved more than 20 students who participated in everything from interviews, graphics, animation, editing and final production. The film also benefited from scripting and narration by Dr. Cecilia Gowdy-Wygant and Tony Heideman, both history faculty at Westminster. The documentary traces the evolving role of U.S. women in war and follows the stories of 10 women veterans. The women served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq, and Afghanistan.

- A research project being conducted by the Aspen Institute’s College Excellence Program, the Community College Research Center at Columbia University’s Teachers College, and the National Student Clearinghouse wants to find out about FRCC’s “exceptional transfer outcomes and effective transfer partnerships.” A research team interviewed President Dorsey. The project aims to encourage and enable colleges and universities to replicate effective, scaled transfer practices that substantially increase associate and bachelor’s degree completion across fields, but with a special focus on STEM.

- Boulder County Campus Advising is using a President’s Innovation grant (funding from CCCS) to contact students who made good academic progress and then fell away from further enrollment. The intent is to determine whether returning to FRCC is a possibility and, if it is, provide advising to create an educational plan. Advisors will connect students with retention specialists to discuss time management, scholarships and financial aid, and stress management through the campus partnership with Mental Health Partners.

- An interactive geology display at the Larimer Campus is ready for unveiling at the start of the fall semester. The display was created from scratch by Scott Newkirk, chemistry
laboratory coordinator, over three years with multi-disciplinary help (no ready-made materials were used). This assistance came from Facilities, the physics prefix, Welding Technology, numerous work-study student hours, dean and chair support, and support from Scott’s supervisor, Susan Brown.

• Shana Salaff, art instructor at Larimer, received two grants for the 2014-2015 year. She researched assessment techniques for the visual arts through a Student Learning Assessment grant. With Bill Tankovich, instructional designer, she created a strategy for assessment that brought students into an active role in the process. Through a Teaching with Technology grant, she created visual handouts for ceramics students and also created demonstration videos for students. The instructional aids will be available for ceramics students college-wide in the fall 2015 semester.

• The Center for Adult Learning GED® Graduation celebrated students who passed the new and more rigorous GED® Exam. State Sen. John Kefalas gave the keynote speech.

• Pharmacy Technology at Westminster successfully completed its six-year site survey by the American Society of Health System Pharmacists, the accrediting body. No areas of non-compliance were found. The spring cohort of students who sat for the Pharmacy Technician Certification Board national certification exam attained a 100-percent pass rate with performance in every knowledge domain exceeding the national average.

• Ten students attempting National Institute for Metalworking Skills certification at the Advanced Technology Center this summer have earned 21 certificates.

Transform our own workforce experience.

• Dr. Catlyn Keenan, philosophy and women’s studies faculty at Boulder County, was a part of a 15-person team and month-long trip around Morocco. The trip, ”Traditions and Transitions in the Formation of Modern Morocco,” was made possible by a Fulbright-Hayes GPA (group projects abroad) grant which helps professors and students travel and collaborate to gather information for their own research and teachings. Catlyn met scholars, journalists, and museum curators and traveled to Casablanca, Chaouen, and Tangier. Catlyn will incorporate a piece of curriculum or a module in her classes. She also will present some of her findings in several forums during the fall semester.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

• A partnership that FRCC has with a neighboring school district has earned some ink in The Washington Post. The blog from a Post staffer reported on four “schools that work,” including the Mapleton School District’s Early College High School partnership with FRCC.
• FRCC was the host for “A Conversation about Student Mobility, Career Pathways and Sector Partnerships” sponsored by the Colorado Workforce Council. The discussion included student mobility, career pathways and sector partnerships. College and workforce leadership heard from national subject matter expert Dr. Gretchen Schmidt from Jobs for the Future about how best to help students move through education and work experiences into high demand careers. Discussion included information about how colleges have partnered with regional economic developers, workforce developers, and industry partners.

• Outreach at the Larimer Campus escorted 15 students from the I Have a Dream Foundation through presentations and hands-on activities with Psychology, HVAC, Nurse Aide, Holistic Health, and Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resources.

• More than 140 National Kitchen and Bath Association design professionals saw and judged the work of Larimer Campus Interior Design at the first Student Design Competition, which took place in Denver. Nowell Vincent, Interior Design faculty, organized the gala as a benefit for a new Interior Design Materials Library. More than $1,750 was raised for student scholarships, and job placement opportunities seemed endless for the student winners.

• Three EMT instructors from Larimer taught the emergency/first aid/CPR section for a Red Cross Babysitting 101 classes at Harmony Library, the joint-use library on campus with the Poudre River Public Library District.

• The first semester of the Pre-College Community Studio with the Loveland Museum and Artworks Loveland was completed with plans to continue again for the fall semester. Workshops target high school students who are considering careers in the arts. Studio time and visits with practicing artists are part of this program that also encourages students to consider FRCC as an option for their arts education upon graduation from high school.

• A non-profit organization called the Visionary Center for Sustainable Communities (VCSC) brought a mobile classroom to the Larimer Campus. The classroom included 3D scanning and 3D printing and information about the education and career pathways leading to manufacturing careers. Manufacturers and potential employees – including veterans returning to civilian life – as well as educators and students interested in manufacturing careers saw a classroom that provides access to tools and systems to understand different aspects of manufacturing.

• Two administrators from Tallahassee Community College toured the Advanced Technology Center at Boulder County. They were impressed with the size and breadth of equipment students have available for training. Employer partners from Mountainside Medical Systems and St. Vrain Manufacturing also attended the tour, which was focused on how FRCC has developed strong partnerships with local employers. Mountainside Medical was recently awarded a Department of Labor certified machinist apprenticeship; FRCC will be the education partner for its apprenticeship training.
• About 40 career/technical educators from around the state toured and took part in hands-on activities at two campuses. The educators experienced Precision Machining at the Boulder County Campus and Nursing, Welding Technology, Manufacturing and Energy Technology, and Forestry, Wildlife and Natural Resources at the Larimer Campus.

Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.

• Two new grants will add luster to our value proposition:
  o A Bridges to Baccalaureate grant, in collaboration with Colorado State University, to promote biology and psychology students at the Larimer Campus transferring to and ultimately graduating from CSU.
  o A TRIO Student Support Services grant to serve first-generation and low-income students at the Westminster Campus.

• For years, FRCC has had a college-wide Registrar’s Office and campus Admissions and Records offices. With the implementation of Banner Recruiter and the commitment toward student success, FRCC has reorganized these offices into one department. We made this shift with three principles in mind: to continue to provide excellent service to students, faculty, and staff; to streamline decision-making and improve processes; and to pay attention to budgetary matters in light of declining enrollments. After months of review, FRCC now has a college-wide registrar and four associate registrar positions. The four associate registrar positions have been filled from existing positions. The registrar position will be filled through an open, external search by spring 2016. Each campus has an associate registrar to oversee that campus as well as a college-wide process and a fourth associate registrar is primarily responsible for Veteran Services, Registration, and Records. In addition, the admissions process for FRCC has moved to Outreach and Enrollment to better connect with prospective students. Overall, we believe this is a move to support students in their higher education journey while attending FRCC.

• Recent donations to the FRCC Foundation include $15,000 from Xcel Energy and $20,000 from the Gene Haas Foundation, both for scholarship support of Precision Machining students. The foundation expects to award scholarships to about 120 more students this academic year, bringing the total to about 340 students assisted.

Other news
• Gustavo Melara, Spanish faculty at Boulder County, has written a book of his poetry and writings titled, “En sus pupilas una luna a punto de madurar.” The collection of poems is anchored in the long lyrical tradition of the Spanish language. Gustavo says he tried to use specific poetic voice with different meters. The book demonstrates his knowledge of the Salvadorian tradition.

• Sarah Elizabeth Schantz, creative writing and English instructor at Boulder County, is a best-selling author with her first novel, “Fig,” published in April. In June, this fictional story was listed in the summer reading guide for World Literature Today, and is No. 9 on the Denver best seller’s list.