Transform the student experience

Key Activities – CCCS received over 366 student requests for participation in the Degree Within Reach outreach program. This is the second iteration of the project which enables students who have left the community college without graduating to have credits earned at the four-year institution transferred back to the community college to determine if an associate degree can be awarded.

Staff worked with the Foundation to develop consistent reporting mechanisms to provide donors with follow-up statistics on scholarship recipients. Staff are also participating on the Foundation’s Strategic Initiatives Committee.

In conjunction with Academic Affairs, staff are developing a consistent DegreeWorks (the degree audit program within Banner) scribing functionality to ensure students are receiving the same course evaluation and progression across CCCS institutions for common degrees and certificates.

Collaborating with Academic Affairs on the ACE Alternative Credit project to review current ACE credit awards, update awards in compliance with the ACE project, and developing reporting mechanisms to readily identify students receiving Prior Learning Assessment credit through ACE.

Transform our own workforce experience

Key Activities – CCCS held a student services conference at Regis University for over 300 college staff to share best practices and to discuss ways to help students be more successful in their educational journey. Karla Nash, Director of Financial Aid and Jenyl Johnson, Director of Enrollment Services led a session on how admissions staff and financial aid staff can work together to increase student enrollment. Other activities included:

- Karla Nash, Jenyl Johnson, and Keith Howard attended the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE), summer Student Services conference with colleagues from both two and four-year colleges.
- Return of Title IV Funds training was held on July 9th to assist new employees from various campuses (PCC, ACC, FRCC, and CCA) to receive training in order to process financial aid return calculations in compliance with federal regulations by using Banner.
- A presentation on Gainful Employment reporting, the life cycle of new and updated educational programs, and the requirement of all Title IV schools to review and update the programs on their Title IV Program Participation Agreement, along with an update regarding HB 15-1275 which will provide state financial aid funding for students in programs ineligible for federal financial aid, was given at the June Vice President’s Council meeting held at Front Range Community College.
- Deb Godshall, Office of Institutional Research, attended the annual conference of the Association for Institutional Research in Denver. The annual meeting provides educational resources, networking opportunities, and new ideas for changing or improving the use of data related specifically to higher education. It was an excellent venue to learn about best practices from others in the same field.
• Keith Howard participated in the CCCS-sponsored leadership development program hosted by the Center for Creative Leadership.

The CCCS Financial Aid Processing Center has been working to prepare for the installation of the Ellucian/Banner upgrade 8.23. The update contains the new re-design loan module with new user functionality to manage direct loan processing effectively and efficiently. As a result of the upgrade, users will be able to certify loans for the Fall term.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships
Key Activities – CCCS Student Services and CCCS IT staff participated with Ellucian, the providers of the Banner student information software, as part of their development team for the new federal Gainful Employment reporting requirements that are due July 31, 2015. This reporting requirement is part of federal guidelines to ensure students are receiving adequate information in regards to program choices, completion and employment opportunities. At the conclusion of the development process, a joint work session between CCCS College Registrars and Financial Aid Directors was held to review the reporting data. It is anticipated that as a result of this effort, additional continuous improvements processes will be implemented to streamline procedures. One result of the development is the need to create a “Student Intent” Banner functionality to at least annually verify our student’s program of study.

Jenyl Johnson is serving as a member of the Ellucian Customer Advisory Board to further foster partnership relationships between CCCS and Ellucian.

Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence
Key Activities – Staff have been with the CCCS IT and campus staff on the improvement and development of the Ellucian Recruiter module for it’s go-live implementation in September 2014.

Deb Godshall, Office of Institutional Research, is working on the 2013-14 financial aid report. The report has been reworked from prior years to include more information on the amount and types of financial aid disbursed to CCCS students, the differences in financial aid by income, and student debt upon graduation by credential level. The office also completed an end-of-term report for Spring 2015, which can be accessed at https://www.cccs.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/End-of-Term-Report-Spring-2015.pdf, and is currently in the process of preparing an end-of-year report.