Welcome Fest helps CCA build sense of community
The Office of Student Life hosted its third annual Welcome Fest event Aug. 26 on the Lowry campus West Quad. The event was an opportunity to welcome back students, faculty and staff and celebrate the new school year. Families also were invited to help CCA build a sense of community.

Welcome Days one-stop shop for new students adjusting to campus life
Welcome Centers at CentreTech and Lowry campuses sponsored “Welcome Days” on Aug. 24-25, the first two days of the fall semester. Welcome Centers were stocked with information sheets, maps, schedules and more to ensure that students’ first few days back at school were stress-free. The centers also offered tours and assistance with finding classes.

New hire will focus on building cultural bridges in Aurora
The School of Liberal Arts hired a new music director, Michael Pickering, who is charged with developing new community partnerships and partnerships with high schools to recruit students interested in the arts and build new cultural bridges with the Aurora community.

Honors Project gives motivated students chance to push boundaries
CCA is introducing an Honors Project Program, allowing those students choosing to participate to earn Honors credit and differentiate themselves in areas of interest. Work will be conducted outside of class and afford students more individual time with faculty. Faculty was urged to discuss the fledgling project with entire classes and individuals, and submit proposals. Instructors will be given a $50 stipend for each project (up to three) that he or she designs and completes with a student.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships
Event for Buckley reinforces close geographical tie
Buckley Air Force Base is located just across Buckley Road only a few blocks from CCA’s CentreTech campus. In an effort to create a pipeline between the two campuses, and alert military families to the availability of a sound education just minutes from base, the college’s Outreach and Recruitment and Communications departments partnered on a Welcome BBQ for
Buckley residents and families. Food, college information and fun activities for children were available at the July 31 event. Staff answered questions and provided tours of CentreTech campus, while military families learned what it’s like to get a first-class education minus a commute.

**College support for Global Fest includes sponsorship, booth**
CCA served as a sponsor of the City of Aurora’s Global Fest on August 22 and staffed a booth with college information. Global Fest celebrated the cultural diversity of Aurora with food, music, dance and activities representing Aurora’s many immigrant communities and their cultural traditions.

*Redefine Our Value Proposition Through Accessibility, Affordability, Quality, Accountability, Resource Development, and Operational Excellence*

**New graduate report findings reflect well on CCA experience**
Institutional Research released the 2015 CCA Graduate Report highlighting data for fiscal year 2014 graduates. CCA’s graduates are a diverse group: 53% are first generation students, and 44% are students of color. Students were happy with their education at CCA, as 96% indicated their CCA program met their educational goals well or very well. The report highlighted outcomes both for Career/Technical (CTE) and Transfer graduates. Over 67% of students graduating with a transfer degree were continuing their education in Fall 2014, and 99% of transfer graduates said CCA prepared them well or very well for continuing their education. Over 86% of CTE graduates reported that they were employed, and 93% are employed or continuing their education. The report also highlights the work of the CCA Career Paths Center, which works with all graduates on next steps in their careers, whether that is employment or continuing education. The full report is available [here](#).