President's Report: Dr. Michele Haney | August 2015

Transform the student experience.

- Kelly Worden, biology faculty, recommended her student Kevin Thirouin for a National Science Foundation research experience for community college students. Kevin was selected as one of 10 Colorado community college students and participated in this program, conducting research with the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research at CU Boulder.

- 9News did a story last month on Jennifer Knight, an EMT student at RRCC. Knight was heading home from class when she witnessed a tragic roll-over wreck. Knight was the first on the scene and rescued a young boy who was trapped upside down in a SUV by cutting his seat belt. The aspiring paramedic stayed with the boy until first responders arrived and later visited him in the hospital.

- Student Outreach processed 68 information requests, and conducted individual tours for 95, 11 tours for staff/counselors, and seven school tours for a total of 227 prospective students considering RRCC.

- RRCC Foundation selected scholarship recipients for the 2015-2016 academic year. They awarded 218 scholarships totaling $357,000. Included in these awards is the new Harvey Scholars Program at RRCC. These awardees are full-time students committed to completing their engineering degree at Colorado School of Mines.

- RRCC hosted their New Student Welcome Night on August 18, providing information and entertainment for approximately 800 new students/families.

Transform our own workforce experience.

- Student Outreach participated in the Wheat Ridge Carnation Festival on August 15 with an entry in their parade. Fire Science drove a new fire truck in the parade while staff walked along side, passing out promotional items.

- The RRCC Foundation elected their new Board of Directors: Denise Waddell, President; Tom Menk, Vice-President; Dr. John Trefny, Treasurer; and Dr. Michele Haney, Secretary. Denise Waddell is a former bank president, human resource director, and current community leader with executive positions on the boards of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Denver, the Hispanic Chamber Education Foundation and Red Rocks Community College Foundation.

Create education without barriers through transformational partnerships.

- RRCC’s student ambassadors participated in a service project for The Action Center, Jeffco's largest food bank and shelter, collecting school supplies for needy families.
Redefine our value proposition through accessibility, affordability, quality, accountability, resource development, and operational excellence.

- RRCC is one step closer to becoming the first community college in the system to offer a bachelor’s degree in applied science. The Colorado Commission on Higher Education approved the measure, which is now with the Higher Learning Commission. RRCC staff Chelsea Campbell, Colleen Jorgensen, Rick Reeves, Pamela Packer, Linda Comeaux, Peggy Morgan, Lisa Fowler, Tim Griffin, Linda Crook and lead efforts on this initiative.

- RRCC Foundation recently received the following grants:
  - TRIO Student Support Services - $1,099,645
    The program goal is to increase retention and completion through a targeted intervention that includes both academic and student support. TRIO SSS at Red Rocks will support students who are low-income, as well as first-generation students and students with disabilities demonstrating academic need. Participants will receive individualized services designed to help students stay in school and graduate, such as tutoring, personal counseling, mentoring, and financial guidance.

  - SAMHSA Suicide Prevention Project - $274,405
    The three-year grant will support Red Rocks in expanding its behavioral health services to include suicide prevention and awareness. Suicide Prevention Project goals include establishing a coordinated and knowledgeable suicide prevention networking infrastructure that connects the campus to the community. The project will also develop a network of students, faculty, and staff identified as gatekeepers who can respond effectively to students with mental and substance use disorders.

  - HRSA Physician’s Assistant Program PCMH Integration - $972,892
    A five year grant from the Health Resources and Service Administration, this project will enhance the RRCC Physician Assistant Program to train providers to use Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) principles. PCMH has become a widely proposed model to strengthen primary care while reducing overall health care costs. Central to this transformational model is team-based care, often anchored by the physician – physician assistant team. Thanks to the grant, 160 physician assistants will learn to apply PCMH in their practice during the five-year period. Training with them will be 54 primary care providers who work in rural and/or medically underserved communities. 12 senior primary care medical residents will be trained to supervise physician assistants in a PCMH practice so that the project can continue to improve Colorado health care providers.

Other:

- A former RRCC student and his blues band recently performed on the “Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon.” The band, “Nathaniel Rateliff and the Night Sweats,” just released their first album. They received a standing ovation from the television audience.