COMMITMENT to EXCELLENCE AWARDS

CCCS

COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
Recognition Celebration of Colorado Community College Professionals

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
GOVERNOR’S RESIDENCE AT THE BOETTCHER MANSION

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Doors open at 12:45 p.m.

Reception
1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Opening Remarks
1:35 p.m. by Dr. Byron McClenney, SBCCOE Chair

Presentation of Awards
1:40 p.m. to 2:45 p.m. by Chancellor Joe Garcia &
Dr. Landon Pirius, CCCS Vice Chancellor
“The commitment of these individuals to our community college system is unwavering and impressive. Without dedication of this magnitude, our collective pledge to provide high quality education for all Coloradans would be an unmeetable challenge. We are grateful for their dedication and honor them for their Commitment to Excellence as community college professionals.”

- Joe Garcia,
Chancellor, Colorado Community College System

Thanks to our Event Sponsor:
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

VICTORIA BOBO
Associate Dean for Instructional Operations
Victoria has demonstrated advocacy and leadership throughout her career as part of several committees. She is passionate about working with others to achieve shared goals and to understand and support the diverse groups that ACC serves.

MEREDITH TOFIELD
Administrative Assistant III in the Center for Professional Enrichment and Institutional Effectiveness
Meredith has served ACC for 13 years and has demonstrated commitment to lifelong learning in the Colorado community. She is passionate about helping students succeed in their education in an affordable and inclusive environment.

TRACY LAWRENCE
Mathematics Faculty
Tracy is being recognized for her continuous desire to help others be the best version of themselves. She helps students accomplish things they once never thought to be possible. She has also served on many committees, including ACC Pathways and the Advising Capacity Taskforce.

HARRY PURCELL
Business/Accounting Instructor
Dr. Purcell uses his passion and enthusiasm for delivering positive, enjoyable learning experiences that help students achieve their goals. He has been a part of the ACC family for six years as a Business and Accounting Instructor and contributes knowledge from decades of experience as a professor and administrator.
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

VICTORIA CROWNover
Perkins Plan Manager

Victoria serves CCCS with style and an innovative spirit while maintaining the utmost professionalism and adherence to our values. She took the initiative to plan a CTE Visioning and Strategic Planning process for the state, which will ultimately impact students in secondary and post-secondary programs to give them access to high quality career preparation and pathways.

TRICIA WILSON
Administrative Assistant III, Facilities

Tricia has excellent customer service skills, gets along with everyone she meets and is extremely dependable and good at her job. She interacts with nearly every department within the System Office, as well as every other organization that calls Lowry Campus home with a smile on her face and constant willingness to go above and beyond.

DONNA WICKHAM
Music Instructor

Donna demonstrates uncommon integrity and reliability, serving systematically and creatively to create high-quality courses that deliver content in a manner consistent with the performing arts discipline. She makes herself personally available to her students to ensure that they receive the help they need to succeed and works closely with other instructors to provide leadership.
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

FRED BYERS
Director of Information Technology
Fred has served CNCC since the age of 8, gathering rocks for the school’s walls during construction. He returned 38 years later and continues to be a leader for students while helping the senior community with computer issues and security.

CAROL SHARP
Administrative Assistant II
Carol is the face of CNCC at the Craig campus and has been the person everyone relies on since day one. She is a dedicated wife and mother who’s passionate about helping students achieve their academic goals.

DANA ARMSTRONG
Massage Therapy Instructor
Dana enjoys making an impact on people’s lives and supporting healers to help the rest of the world. She demonstrates dedication, energy and a student centered attitude in and out of the classroom.

KAREN STILLION
Cosmetology Instructor
Karen has been a part of the CNCC family since becoming its first Cosmetology graduate in 2002. She began working with us in 2003 and has continued to be a vital part of building the program while being an advocate for children and volunteering with various organizations.
RAY KEITH
Director of Instructional Intervention and Support
Every action Ray takes is in support of student success and the principles of inclusive excellence. He consistently prioritizes educational impact, demonstrating relationship development and involvement.

THOMAS MORRISSEY
Electrical Trades II
Tom brings passion, dedication and integrity to his job. He works behind the scenes to ensure that CCA’s facilities are in great working order, allowing others to be successful in serving students.

KATHERINE O’DONNELL
Art Faculty
Katherine fosters an inclusive and creative pedagogy, collaborating with others within the college and community to further enhance the student learning experience. She is always finding ways for students to share their work with the world.

SHIRLEY R. SMITH
Early Childhood Education Instructor
Shirley works hard to create an inclusive dialogue between students to help them learn from one another. She is committed to helping other instructors with training on compassion and sensitivity for students of all backgrounds.
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

JOSE PUERTA
Computer Support Technician II

Jose has served CCD for 18 years and interacts with staff and students in a very pleasant and professional manner. In 2001, he survived a brain aneurysm and returned to continue his work as an exemplary addition to our team. He initiated a certificate program that assisted ESL students in computer and technology knowledge, and also served as an advocate for student success in the roles of lab supervisor, tutor and teacher assistant.

DESHA BANKS
Accounting Technician III

Desha is truly a strong asset to the department and feels it is a blessing to be able to help wherever she can. She takes pride in being a part of the CCD family and is a wonderful addition to our administrative office, using her extensive experience to improve our programs.

CHRISTOPHER HOLCOM
Associate History Professor

Chris is incredibly supportive of all students and passionate about cultivating diversity on CCD’s campus to promote positive and informed discussions. He has expanded his pedagogy, leadership and assessment skills to empower his students and colleagues to succeed.

LINDA GRANT
Adjunct Spanish Instructor

Linda is passionate about providing a collaborative learning model where students embrace responsibility for their learning while developing a heart to foster enthusiasm. She has always advocated for education in many forms, including setting up supplemental classes for home schoolers and biking many miles to tutor students.
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

FRONT RANGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

MARK HARBEN
Director of Pathways Advising, Career Center and Testing Center

Mark is committed to the community and FRCC’s students, always finding creative solutions to help students define academic goals and find pathways to success. He embraces collaboration and believes in working jointly to do better together.

ANGELA RAVECZKY
Administrative Assistant III (Allied Health)

Angie continually goes above and beyond to provide help and information for students, approaching each situation with a can-do attitude. Her vision extends throughout her department’s many programs, as she has created databases to make information accessible for everyone.

JANE BEARD
Nursing Faculty

Jane prioritizes her students and their responsibility to patients, constantly learning and keeping up with new research and protocols for hospitals. Her students appreciate her investment in their success, along with her compassion, intelligence, humor and gentle nature.

SHANNON LANCE
Psychology Instructor

Shannon learns along with her students, using technology to create an interactive class based on their interests and unique perspectives. She truly encourages fresh ideas and new angles that every student brings through her door.

ERIC SALAHUB
Philosophy Faculty

Eric is being recognized for using educational technologies meaningfully to improve teaching and learning. Since 1999, he has served FRCC by teaching philosophy through face-to-face, online and hybrid instruction for optimal student success. In 2016, Eric co-developed the Active Learning Institute to help teachers engage students in meaningful learning by integrating English and Ethics.
KRISTIN LUBBERS
Director of Marketing

Kristin has been hard at work for four years, hustling as a one-person department to handle everything from design and web maintenance to sports information and serving as LCC’s Public Information Officer. She is always working to improve, and enjoys collaborating with faculty, staff, and students to support the success of LCC.

TEERRY COMER
Campus Safety Officer

Terry has worked to ensure the safety of everyone on campus and believes that building relationships is vital to his work. He enjoys interacting with students and finding teachable moments while maintaining safety in the residence hall and improving emergency response plans.

KENDRA KING
Cosmetology Department Head

Kendra is passionate about her work and the beauty industry’s power to make people feel good about themselves. In addition to teaching her students correct techniques, rules and regulations, she helps them to understand the impact they can have on the lives of their clients and the value of building trust.

DANIEL WESTFIELD
Art Instructor

Daniel is passionate about teaching and encouraging students to see the world in new ways. In his second year, Daniel is helping grow and promote the Art department through launching a new Art Club and partnering with LCC’s Innovate & Make Space.
George O’Clair
Coordinator of Cargill/MCC Workplace Education Program

George is passionate about helping students learn the skills necessary to improve their futures and always willing to take on extra duties to benefit them. He has a gift of bridging diverse groups of people together and relating to others positively.

Dwight Schreiner
Structural Trades II

Dwight demonstrates his commitment to the college by performing quality work, emphasizing safe practices and creating a friendly environment wherever he goes. He is an example of how to lead through service to others, always jumping in when someone needs assistance with a smile and cheerful attitude.

Jennifer Thistle
Faculty-Nursing

Jennifer works diligently to foster student success and further the progression of the nursing department as a respected mentor and innovator. She exhibits a respectful and positive attitude while setting high standards to guide and empower students in meeting their goals.

Steven Musser
Part-time Instructor

Steven teaches with passion, empathy and sincerity by taking time to learn about his students to help them achieve their dreams. He brings real-world experience to his instruction, giving credibility to his teaching and acting as a strong advocate for all students.
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

JOSEPH CAMPO
IT Specialist
Joe is one of NJC's most genuine employees and has served the school in many different positions, including Assistant Resident Hall Director and baseball team volunteer. In his current role, he comes to the IT rescue for students, faculty and staff, even if it means literally running across campus to assist with high school concurrent enrollment courses.

KELLY KUNTZ
Administrative Assistant II
Kelly is a bright light not only for NJC students but for her coworkers, demonstrating tremendous patience and approaching each situation with a smile. She takes time to get to know each student and their family in order to meet their needs with professionalism and kindness.

JULIE RHINE
Cosmetology Program Coordinator
Julie is very active in NJC's cosmetology program and in her community, organizing student learning opportunities at local hospitals and nursing homes, as well as the out-of-state international hair show. She exemplifies the enthusiasm and dedication to students that NJC looks for in their faculty.

BEN MURRAY
Fire Science Program Coordinator
Ben is passionate about educating future firefighters and is well respected by his students and peers. With his engaging teaching style and knowledge of the field, he has helped grow and expand the fire science program for successful student completion and workplace placement.
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

CHRISTOPHER SMITH

Head Men’s Soccer Coach

Chris is an exceptional employee and honest man who puts the best interest of OJC first. He serves 35-45 players each year with genuine optimism and care for their success, creating positive relationships and tenacity while keeping them motivated. In 2018, his team placed in the top 10 for the NJCAA Academic Team of the Year Award with a collective 3.2 GPA.

JOE TALMICH

Custodian I

Joe has been a part of the OJC family for 23 years and demonstrates tremendous dedication, always willing to help students and staff. Many students and athletes are familiar with him because of his positive attitude and love for our community.

ANGELA TARRANT

Medical Laboratory Technician Program Director

Angela cares about students and uses her 25 years of lab experience to challenge them to be their best. Her greatest joy is watching students “get it” and apply concepts for success after graduation.

JAMES LIND

Adjunct Instructor - Music

James tirelessly helps OJC develop a top-notch music program while teaching classes in music theory, ear training, music history and music appreciation. He works to curate a creative and encouraging environment for students while preparing them to face the challenges of tomorrow’s world.
ALBERTO TEIXEIRA
Assistant to the Dean of Business, Public Service and Social Sciences

Alberto served in the U.S. army for five and a half years and has been a part of the PPCC team since 2014. He always takes time out of his busy schedule to help students and the community, offering resume writing clinics for scholarship applicants, helping to organize the Mobile Food Market and volunteering time to advocate for veterans.

CYNTHIA THEARD
Student Services Specialist II, Financial Aid

Cynthia worked her way up from work study student to supervisor during her 28 years of service. She contributes to student success by taking the time to meet with and explain the loan process in detail with them, constantly improving the process to make it easier for students to navigate and understand.

ANN-MARIE MANNING
Faculty, Social Work and Women’s Studies

Ann-Marie is an enthusiastic and devoted instructor who guides students with compassion while fostering diversity-based learning and creating experiential opportunities. She serves PPCC and the community by working as Chair of the Diversity in Hiring Committee, and a leader and collaborator in the PPCC Food and Housing Security Task Force, Community Table and United Way 2-1-1.

KEITH WILLIAMS
Adjunct Instructor, Fire Science Technology

Keith has built numerous skill-building props that are used in the classroom and on the drill ground, directly impacting the practical knowledge and success of his students. He serves his community and PPCC with dedication and professionalism as a full-time firefighter with CSFD, part of the Heavy Rescue program and the FEMA Colorado Task Force 1 Team.
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

REBECCA WASIL
Disability Resources Advisor

Rebecca uses her personal experience to connect with students and enlighten colleagues about how to best serve students with cognitive disorders. She serves PCC with a legendary can-do attitude and strength, returning to us after suffering a stroke in 2017 by working 12-hour days to recover and return to work.

SHIRLEY CAREY
Assistant to the Chief Student Services Officer

Shirley is a PCC Shining Star, serving as a dedicated volunteer in committees for curriculum, health and wellness, behavioral intervention, compliance, graduation, Corporate Cup, alumni association and Clery Act reports. She is passionate about exercise and serving her community.

SHAWNA TRACY
Department Chair, Respiratory Therapy

Shawna is a passionate instructor who is dedicated to her students and their success. Following childhood heart surgery, she was inspired to help others by becoming a health care professional and worked for 15 years as a registered respiratory therapist after graduating from PCC in 1996. She now serves as a Department Chair, and is part of the faculty salary and load committee.

BENJAMIN KWITEK
Part-time Instructor, Business Management & Marketing

Benjamin first taught business at PCC’s Fremont Campus in 1997-98 and returned in 2014 to become a student favorite for his passion and expertise. He is a businessman and inventor, with six US patents and a love for helping students bring their business ideas to life.
Mike Coste
Dean

Mike has been an educator since 1988 and became a part of the CCCS family as an instructor at Front Range Community College. He has been a Dean of Instruction at Red Rocks Community College since 2013 and enjoys working with the faculty and learning more about their jobs.

Greg Berry
LTC Operations I

Greg is a Colorado native and has worked in facilities at Red Rocks Community College since 1999. He became an LTC Operations I supervisor in 2004 and enjoys many parts of his job, including working with contractors, his team and his colleagues.

Janet Tarase
Accounting Lead Faculty

Janet found passion in teaching after becoming a single parent and continues to be inspired by her students and colleagues. She is a full-time accounting faculty member, the Accounting Program Lead and the current Business Department Chair at Red Rocks Community College.

Walt Schreibman
Principal Instructor of Behavioral Medicine

Walt makes an excellent addition to the Red Rocks team with over 30 years of experience in behavioral and family medicine. He conducts classes and consults with residents on issues related to the psychological aspects of patient care while participating in the Family Practice Residency Program at St. Joseph hospital in Denver.
COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

ASHLIE COGBURN
Assistant Director of Student Life and Engagement

Ashlie is loved by students and coworkers alike for her constant positivity and loves to help students find their voice to create positive change. She has worked in admissions, advising, orientation, event programming, drug and alcohol abuse prevention and student leadership, and has been a Title IX investigator.

DAN JOLLY
Maintenance Technician

Dan has worked in maintenance at Trinidad State for 14 years and serves with exceptional mechanical skills on campus while overseeing maintenance of the college’s transportation vehicles. He sees every day as a new adventure and enjoys working with the students, faculty and staff.

SARAH SLOANE
Criminal Justice Instructor

Sarah has been a faculty member at Trinidad State ever since 2012, teaching both Physical Education and Criminal Justice classes. She’s a licensed helicopter pilot and has a storied past, with experience as a player on a semi-professional women’s football team, and professional experience in software, insurance and fraud investigation fields.

WAYNE MONK
Adjunct Instructor

Wayne has been an adjunct instructor at Trinidad State for two and a half years, teaching psychology and sociology with wide and varied experiences. He served as a radio operator in the Navy and as a probation officer. He is now a carpenter, flight instructor, sailor, dog trainer, horse trainer and licensed mental health counselor.