

COLORADO NORTHWESTERN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

President's Report
Ron Granger, President
February 2021

Transform the Student Experience

Our students have returned to campus. We are holding our classes in several different delivery modes. These modes include being face-to-face for those students who want to be in the classroom, blended for those students who want to be remote but at the same time attend class at the time it is scheduled, and online for those who want to be remote. Even though we are down a little for the spring, offering these different modes has been successful for the college and our students.

We postpone our athletic competitions until February 1 so that we could protect our students and our communities. However, our plan is to continue with these competitions throughout the spring semester. All of the fall sports have been moved to spring so all of our teams will be competing over the next four months.

Because of restrictions, we have not been able to have the student activities we normally have had. Our faculty and staff, however, have been working diligently to help our students get engaged in the college and classroom through activities in the classrooms.

Many of our faculty and staff have made calls to students who did not reenroll this year to see what CNCC can do to help them get back in school. Many reasons were given on why they did not return but almost all are because of the negative effects of COVID 19. Since last summer we have made several thousand telephone calls and did see some positive results, especially in the fall.

Transform Our Own Workforce Experience

We are continuing with our seminar on "Lets Talk About It: Unconscious Bias". This seminar has been offered to all faculty and staff and has been well attended. The purpose is to shed light on the bias we may have without knowing it. It has been well received and has been enlightening to everyone.

Create Education without Barriers through Transformational Partnerships

We have been working closely with our county public health to test many of our students for COVID 19. As of the end of January we have given close to 500 test which include our residence hall students, nursing students, dental hygiene students, and athletes. For any positive cases we have been able to isolate those students. For

those who had a possible exposure we have been able to quarantine those students. Most of the positive cases have been with students who contracted COVID 19 outside of the college.

As mentioned in earlier reports, we are working on a new Cyber Security program with our partnership with the Attorney General's office. We have submitted our program to the Higher Learning Commission, and if all goes as planned, we will be starting the program in fall 2021.

Through our partnership with Colorado Mountain College, we resubmitted our grant proposal to the state for the RISE grant. We just received word that the grant has been approved. For CNCC this will be approximately \$750,000. Our plan for this grant will be to build a science mobile lab that can be used at our high schools so our concurrent students will have the use of the same lab equipment we have on our campus. We will also be using some of the grant to update the equipment at some of the high schools so they can take classes directly from our faculty through remote learning.

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

Our OER program has been successful for the fall and is continuing that way this spring. The data below shows some of the statistics we have been able to gather concerning OER.

Savings to Students

Fall 2020: \$37,150.05

Spring 2021: \$28,700.30

AY 2020-202: \$65,850.35

Fall 2020 Survey Results

53% of students said it has made a positive difference

73% of students complete more of the reading because it is OER

73% of students said OER was same or better than non-OER

56% of students said OER helped with their disability; 19% preferred not to say

50% of students purchased the non-OER version (according to faculty)

Other information

6/11 faculty said students were equally prepared as non-OER

7/11 faculty said students used OER as much as non-OER courses

6/11 faculty said they were very successful in adopting OER

8/11 faculty said they were very likely to adopt OER in the future

Our Foundation has received a \$10,000 grant to help students in need. This money will be used for those students who are struggling financially.

We are starting our budget process for the 2021/2022 budget year. Right now we feel very positive about 2020/2021 budget and are on track to exceed our budget numbers without using any reserves. This has been accomplished because everyone is being frugal with their budgets, our enrollment is down less than what we budgeted for this past year, and the help of the stimulus money received.

We are finalizing our plans to get money to our students because of the new stimulus funds received this spring. Most of our students will receive some money but our priority is for those in the most need.

Finally, CNCC has a little bragging room. Newsweek published an article on the 50 best community colleges when it comes to earnings after graduation for their students. The data they used came from Stacker, an analysis group, that compared the earnings of community college graduates midway through their careers. CNCC not only was in the top 50 but, with midcareer earnings for our graduates of \$78,100, was named the fifth best community college in the nation in this category. The four colleges above us are nursing schools or concentrate on the health care fields. We are very proud of this and will keep working to move up this list.