ACC Mission Statement

To provide an accessible, responsive learning environment that facilitates the achievement of educational, professional and personal goals by our students and other members of our communities in an atmosphere that embraces academic excellence, diversity and innovation.

• It’s the best time of the year!! Matt Jamison informs me that 1107 students have graduated or will graduate with associate’s degrees and certificates this year. Contrast that with 870 students last year and you can see how, even in these times of dwindling resources, Arapahoe Community College faculty and staff are absolutely committed to educating students and how we continue to excel in those efforts. I can’t wait to join you on May 14 in celebrating 1107 reasons why we keep doing what we do best!

• Just in from Dr. McCallin:

Good News!!!! SB 132 passed today and is on its way to the Governor. We got everything we wanted in the bill:

  • Basic skills, PSEO, and Fast Tracks are all stipend eligible in FY 06-07. They will be fee for service next year. They are also all exempt from the 145 credit hour limit. This puts these programs on a more stable funding source.
  • For cash flow purposes, we can get an interest free loan during the summer transition to stipend funding. All interest free loan requests must be approved by the system office.
  • In the event that money runs out for the stipend, the reductions will be pro-rated across higher education, instead of on a last-in, first-out basis. The concern before this law passed was that we have continuous enrollment and would potentially need to cap enrollment and/or absorb unfunded enrollment.
  • The 35% reduction at the system was lowered to 20% and was isolated to state funds only.
  • The capital construction approval process now will have higher dollar thresholds.

• NCA: Thanks to all who participated in responding to the questions distributed by the NCA Steering Committee. Please know that your work is essential to the college’s self-study process.

• Did you know that?

  **Colorado’s 13 community colleges educate over 117,000 students throughout Colorado and comprise the largest higher education system in our state.**

• COF: With the new summer semester students coming in, please remember that it is critical that we remind both new and continuing students of the importance of signing up for the College Opportunity Fund. They can simply click on the COF icon on ACC’s home page. This is how we will be funded after July 1, so it is impossible to overemphasize the importance of getting the word out to 100% of our students. Matt Jamison reports that 53% of ACC students are registered in the COF system as opposed to 43% for the System overall. Thank you for your continued diligence!
The State Board for Community Colleges and Occupational Education (SBCCOE) has approved increasing resident tuition by 8.9% to $152.75 per credit hour. For students who are eligible for and have signed up for COF, the resident student share of tuition will be $72.75 per credit hour. The tuition increase will begin July 1, although we will not receive the $80 per credit COF stipend until the fall semester. Consequently, we will only charge resident tuition ($72.75) for the summer semester.

Last year, we engaged John Nicoletti, an expert on violence in the workplace, to give us direction to ensure that ACC’s response to violence and threats of violence are swift, fair, consistent and within legal parameters as we revised our procedures.

Subsequently, Campus Police and the Office of Student Affairs have been working on developing a flow chart to pinpoint potential gaps in ACC’s coordinated response to students engaging in criminal activity or violating the Student Code of Conduct. Oftentimes the appropriate response follows a parallel response track with criminal proceedings preceding ACC disciplinary proceedings. Of course, violence on campus may not involve students, and in those cases, the parallel police response may be in concert with Human Resources disciplinary procedures.

Regis University is hosting a very inexpensive 3-day conference at the end of May and ACC will be sending two police officers, Kim Ostrowski and Heather Lawler to attend. “Violence Goes to College Conference 2005: Prevention, Interruption and Critical Incident Management” training will assist us in fine-tuning our response to workplace violence issues.

Bottom line: Any time you suspect criminal activity at ACC, contact Campus Police immediately.

Kim Ostrowski is seeking nominations for Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary/Treasurer of Administrative Assembly. Please send names to her by Wednesday, May 11.

I want to thank Anne Allen for agreeing to serve as interim Financial Aid Director.

Your efforts at recycling paper are making a difference. Tri R Systems informs us that every month we are saving 13.6 trees and 5600 gallons of water. We need to work hard at this over the summer so that we can maintain our levels of recycling with fewer folks on campus.

It is impossible to properly thank and acknowledge our new retirees for the thousands of lives they’ve touched and changed for the better during their tenure at ACC. We wish Thom Sorensen, Kea Kercheval, Tami Ficca, Gary Troutman and Joni Bayern the very best as they continue on their life journeys. Their caring and nurturing of students will undoubtedly come back to them in wonderful ways!

Terry Harrison will be representing ACC at the Colorado Emerging Technology Education Conference at the Community College of Aurora on May 17 and 18. He will present on community colleges and nanotechnology.

Dr. Chung Leung Wong, principal of a middle school in China, will be visiting ACC’s campus on May 10. Dr. Wong is visiting the U.S. to study our educational system at all levels. Please make him feel welcome.

Community members have very generously donated $7955 to help replace the boiler/heater for the pool and for associated repairs. Replacement equipment has been ordered by physical plant staff.
A Memorandum of Understanding stating that ACC will not be spending any further college funds on operational or repair costs for the pool has been signed by key members of the community pool committee. The pool committee is working with ACC staff to develop an operational budget with a positive cash flow for after the reopening. Many, many thanks to Linda Comeaux, Perry Cunningham, Vicki Edmundson, David Castro, Dave O’Neil and Scott Finger for the extra hours they have contributed to bring win/win closure to the pool issue.

- With Cheryl Traff’s departure on May 11, I will be the only person on campus with authority to sign contracts for ACC. Please forward all contracts to my office with any explanations I might need as backup.

Learning Connection (aka Scott’s Spot)

- Kim Mohr and I have joined the president in representing ACC on the Colorado Center for Information Technology (CCIT) Board of Directors.

- ACC will be piloting a new cash initiative, called ACCESS (Arapahoe Community College Enrolls Secondary Students), with the Douglas County School District this summer. ACC will be offering ENG 121, HIS 101 and SOC 101 at ThunderRidge, Chaparral and Douglas County high schools. Special thanks go out to Kim Ostrowski, Howard Fukaye and Ted Snow for planning and implementing this program that will provide high school students dual credit for college-level courses taught in their high schools.

- ACC’s Curriculum Committee is committed to preparing students to live in a global community/culture. Specifically, this committee reviews and approves courses that are designed for a diverse population, and ensures that they are acceptable/accessible to that population. The Committee approves the course competencies, but not the delivery mode, allowing for the diverse access to courses through the variety of delivery formats. Also, the Committee ensures that the disability statement is on all ACC syllabi that are submitted. ACC by its very nature has a diverse population as a whole and offers many services and courses that acknowledge the diversity of our student population. Entities such as the Diversity Council and Spring International Language Center, along with courses and other activities offered at ACC, guarantee our students have exposure to and development of sensitivity to other cultures.

- Group kudos to the library staff for a very successful used book sale that raised $2273.30. See attached photo of a group Money Matters award thanking them for donating half of the proceeds to Community Ed for GED scholarships. What a team!

ACC’s values: Honesty, Integrity and Collegiality

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“Only the educated are free.”
- Epictetus (55 AD – 135 AD)