



The Colorado Council Times

Colorado Council on High School/College Relations (CCHS/CR) - Premier Issue - Spring 2006

Two-Day Annual Conference a Big Hit!

The new two-day annual conference is more popular than ever with most attendees. The conference, held last December at the Denver Tech Center Marriott, broke with tradition and not only met at a new location but also extended the format to a two-day conference.

The changes were well received and many attendees commented that changing to a two-day format also afforded a more relaxing pace to move from one event to the next while having ample time to network with colleagues.

"We have too much to do and not enough time to do it," commented current Colorado Council President, Bill Sommers. "We thought attendees would appreciate a wider variety of breakouts in a longer format than 45 minutes. We also wanted to have time to honor our award winners and retirees at a separate function set aside for that purpose. The evening entertainment was also extremely popular with those who were able to stay. The Nacho Men Band has already been requested for next year. We'll see if we can swing it financially."

Although most of the comments were positive, the two-day format created a few obstacles. Cost presents a dilemma for the Council's Annual Conference Committee. The conference increased from one major meal function to three. As many know who have planned hotel conferences, food is the majority of the cost. Additionally, some of the school districts commented that only half of their staff could attend on Thursday and the other half on Friday as district policy only allows half the counseling staff to be absent on any given day. That begs the question: Isn't missing one day of the conference better than having half your staff miss the entire conference in a one-day format? (*continued on page 2...*)



Denver Mayor Hickenlooper and new Colorado Council President Bill Sommers at the 2005 Annual Conference.

Photo by Bill Hathaway-Clark, Regis University

What's in this issue:

- Two-Day Annual Conference a Big Hit
- Wise Counsel on the Council
- Committee Updates
- Helpful Links

Announcements:

Mark your calendars for the next **Colorado Council Annual Conference - December 7-8, 2006!**

The CCHS/CR:

The Colorado Council on High School/College Relations (CCHS/CR) is a volunteer member organization comprised of colleges and high schools in Colorado that work together to coordinate college counseling activities. Learn more about us! Visit our Web site at: www.coloradocouncil.org

This newsletter was published in May 2006 by the Colorado Council Public Relations Committee: Terry Ruch, Northeastern Junior College; Bill Sommers, Colorado Mountain College; Sandy Swaim, Colorado State University; Mark Thompson, Pagosa Springs High School; and designed by Heather Butler, Technical Journalism Major, Colorado State University.



Two-day Conference (continued)...

The Annual Conference Committee already has been meeting to plan next year's conference. If you would like to become involved in the annual conference planning committee, contact Susan Hunt at Lakewood High School (shunt@jeffco.k12.co.us). She is president-elect of the Colorado Council and chair of the Annual Conference Committee.

For 2006, the Colorado Council will have their big event on the first Thursday and Friday of December. Mark your calendars for December 7 and 8 and watch for more information.



Photo by Bill Hathaway-Clark, Regis University

Darcy Peterson and Kelly Durham, counselors at Grandview High School and members of the Annual Conference, smile for the camera at the 2005 Conference luncheon.

Wise Counsel on the Council!

By Mark Thompson, Counselor at Pagosa Springs High School

There is nothing so rousing and invigorating as a nice self-congratulatory pat on one's own back. It stretches the arm muscles, loosens the blood vessels, and makes us feel generally good about ourselves. With that in mind, this first article in the Colorado Council newsletter to high school counselors is extolling the virtues of the Colorado Council.

As I reflect on the series of "firsts" I have gained from the Council and the Council's workshops and conferences, it is a pretty impressive list. This is the first place I learned of the CCHE index, the first place I learned of the Boettcher Foundation scholarship, as well as the Daniel's Fund scholarship. It was at the counselor updates I first learned of the varied and unique programs Colorado institutions offer, from hot-rod building and air-frame maintenance, to marine biology 1,500 miles from the closest ocean. Through the Council, I have developed a professional support community I can call on when I have legal or ethical questions, when our kids transfer to other schools within Colorado, or when I need an electronic shoulder to cry on (modern science is miraculous).

Bottom line: join the Council, get involved in the Council, and attend the meetings. You will not regret it.

Committee Updates

Public Relations Committee: Find out about the first ever Colorado Council E-Newsletter...Where? Right here - you're reading it. Want to get involved? Send us ideas, articles, and photos for the latest news and happenings in the Colorado Council membership to Terry Ruch, PR Committee, at Terry.Ruch@njc.edu

College Day/Night Program: This committee is responsible for organizing and managing day/night programs that involve presentations at over 70 high school and community colleges throughout the state, providing students and their parents the opportunity to meet with college representatives. The committee has been working "day and night" to plan the fall 2006 schedule for the Day/Night Programs. Visit the Colorado Council website in mid-June for the final schedule.

Government Relations Committee: If you're interested in reading about the latest Colorado legislation affecting education, visit www.cu.edu/govt_relations/state/he_leg.html.

Collegiate Handbook Committee: The Colorado Council on High School/College Relations annually publishes a comprehensive college handbook that serves as a resource for counselors, teachers and administrators; but especially for students and their parents. The *Colorado Collegiate Handbook* tells you about colleges and universities in Colorado. It also tells you about admissions, financial aid, scholarships and how to be prepared for college education after high school. Watch for the latest edition of the *Colorado Collegiate Handbook* in the fall.

Volunteer Opportunities: Be a "participating member" of the Council - Get involved, make friends and connections, have some fun! Visit the Council's website at www.coloradocouncil.org.

Helpful Links:

College Opportunity Fund (COF):
www.collegeincolorado.org

Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHHE):
www.state.co.us/cche

CCHE Classification of Students for Tuition Purposes:
www.state.co.us/cche/students/residency.html

The Independent Western Press (Colorado Higher Education News):
www.independentwesternpress.com

ACT: www.act.org

College Board (SAT): www.collegeboard.com

Colorado Council's website:

www.coloradocouncil.org