



# THE COUNCIL TIMES

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Colorado Council on High School/College Relations VOLUME 2 ISSUE 1

## Message from the President

CCHS/CR President Susan Hunt  
Counselor, Lakewood High School

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Now in my fourth month as President of Colorado Council, I am beginning to realize all that there is to do versus the time to do it. I guess that is true with most everything associated with our lives as I observe my colleagues scrambling for minutes in a day to deal with student issues, students scrambling to balance their academics and their extracurricular activities and parents scrambling to manage their work and family commitments. This all contributes to a sense of urgency in everything we do and we forget to “stop and smell the roses” and appreciate what has been accomplished.

And, so much has been accomplished. High schools are in the middle of the last six weeks of classes, AP exams, honors and awards programs, etc. Seniors are preparing to graduate after four years of hard work and so much growth on their part both personally and academically. Many of them have exciting plans for their future whether it entails college/university, technical schools, the military or the world of work. As high school counselors, we should be proud

of the role we played in helping them get to this point and we should focus on the success stories out there – and there are many. Just as with parenthood, our true thanks will probably not emerge for several more years.

Our college colleagues are in the midst of April student visitation programs, answering last minute questions, processing financial aid awards, and the daily counting of tuition deposits. You too should be fulfilled by the student lives touched this year and the dreams that have come true because of your care and concern. Whether it was directing them to a better place or assisting them with their actual applications for admissions and/or scholarships, you took the time to treat them as worthwhile individuals and helped them reach their goals. You will have the joy and reward of seeing them arrive on campus this fall so excited about their new lives and leave after four years even closer to their future aspirations.

As an organization, it is the goal of Colorado Council to

assist you with the challenges and demands of your daily jobs. Whether through some of our Committees’ outreach efforts such as Professional Development, College Day/Night Fairs, Technology, and Government Relations or our publications including the Handbook and Uniform Application or our networking opportunities such as the Annual Conference and Counselor Workshops, we want to try and make your lives easier. Please let us know how we might better do that so that the next eight months of my tenure as President can be as productive and directed as possible. I can be reached by e-mail at [shunt@jeffco.k12.co.us](mailto:shunt@jeffco.k12.co.us) and would welcome your comments and/or suggestions. Other officer and committee chair contact information is available on our website at

[coloradocouncil.org](http://coloradocouncil.org).



### Announcements

- Mark your calendars for the next Colorado Council Annual Conference December 6 & 7 at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs

### The CCHS/CR

- The Colorado Council on High School 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 at [coloradocouncil.org](http://coloradocouncil.org)

This newsletter was published in April 2007 by the Colorado Council Public Relations Committee: Sandy Swaim, Colorado State University; Mark Thompson, Pagosa Springs High School; David Dollins, Colorado State University, and designed by Megan Trusty, Technical Journalism major, Colorado State University.

## Thornton High School's Joe Burns wins Counselor of the Year

One group of professionals that has a tremendous impact on encouraging young people to pursue higher education is high school counselors.

In an attempt to bring this group the recognition that their hard work deserves, CollegeInvest, in partnership with the Colorado Council on High School/College Relations and Denver's Channel 7, has developed the *Counselor of the Month* program to acknowledge a counselor's important role. From the monthly winners, one counselor is chosen to be the *Counselor of the Year* by a committee from the Colorado Council on High School/College Relations.

The committee, consisting of fellow counselors, teachers and education professionals, based their decision on nominations from students and colleagues of each counselor. CollegeInvest is proud to honor Joe Burns of Thornton High School as the 2006 *Counselor of the Year* award recipient.

At the 2006 Conference on December 7, Burns, who had no preconceived notion that he was this year's winner, received a plaque recognizing his efforts and a \$1,000 Professional Development

Award from CollegeInvest.

Burns shines bright even among the stellar group of 2006 *Counselor of the Month* recipients. Burns, who received the *Counselor of the Month Award* in April, goes above and beyond his role as Thornton High's counselor. Burns also serves as a mentor, friend and a shoulder to lean on for his students.



From left to right: Mike Nelson, KMGH News; Joe Burns; Bill Sommers, past Council president; and Judy Ransom, CollegeInvest

Roger Dowd, a colleague says Burns' "office is nearly always inundated with students who either want to talk or just hang out in a comfortable environment. He has a great way of putting them at ease and he inspires our students through having overcome his own obstacles in life." Students have decorated Burns' office to show their appreciation

of his open arms and guidance, including a wall covered in special paper so students can write him notes.

Burns can often be seen walking the halls to personally congratulate students who have earned A's; he urges them to continue to work hard and to reach even higher in their future. He is always available to his students as he gives them his home number and encourages them to call at any time if they

need guidance, not only with academic issues but life issues as well.

Burns' positive outlook is contagious at Thornton High; his students admire that he has fun and can find the positives in any situation, yet he knows when he needs to sit down to talk about serious issues with his students. "Joe is a rock on the counseling department at our school," says colleague Meredith Adler. "He deserves recognition for all that he does for THS."

*"He inspires our students through having overcome his own obstacles in life." - Roger Dowd, colleague*



## 2006 Conference at a Glance...



*Steve Morgan, Humorist and Motivational Speaker, presents the keynote speech about understanding and dealing with change.*



*A council member enjoys Steve Morgan's speech.*



*Dr. Blane Harding, Director of Advising, Recruitment and Relations for the College of Liberal Arts at Colorado State University-Fort Collins, presents information on increasing awareness of the needs of diverse students.*



*Retirees meet and many indicate they want to stay active in the council.*



*Olympic Bronze Medalist Toby Dawson, closes the conference with a motivating keynote address.*

**Don't forget to mark your calendars for this year's conference on December 6 & 7 at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs!**

