



Colorado Council

on High School & College Relations

Quarterly Newsletter
Spring 2009

Vaughn Toland: A Letter From the President

With the weather getting warmer outside, my thoughts turn to making plans for a tropical destination vacation and taking long hikes in the resplendent mountains of Colorado. In the midst of all of these springtime musings, I also realize there are many things I want to accomplish in the remaining months of my presidency. Despite the turbulent economic times facing our nation and state, I am pleased to report that due to the fiscal discipline of our Treasurer, Bill Hathaway-Clark, Colorado Council is in relatively good financial shape and poised to accomplish many of its goals for the remainder of the year.

In addition, spring is an opportune time for many of the Colorado Council committees to begin planning and organizing events for the fall semester, which will be here before we know it. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of the committee volunteers for the dedication and hard work put forth toward making all of our activities, events, and publications tremendously successful!

Throughout the past several years, the Council has also accomplished a great deal. First and foremost, we have made considerable strides in bringing the organization into the 21st century, which is evident by the recent redesign of our website, regularly utilizing the e-list to provide updates and education-related discussions between our members around the state, and online registration accessibility for several Council events. It would be remiss of me not to recognize Susan Hunt and Shanna Hamblin, past-presidents of CCHS/CR, for bringing these projects to fruition. In addition, our 3rd annual Day at the Capitol, a collaborative effort between Colorado School Counselor's Association (CSCA) and Rocky Mountain Association of College Admissions Counselors (RMACAC), was a huge success, as it helped to familiarize and educate many of us with the legislative process.

We also have some ambitious goals for the coming year, which include further enhancements to our website as well as incorporating fairs for transfer students into the Day/Night schedule in the fall. Considering nearly 50% of students transfer at least once during their postsecondary career, it is crucial for the Council to enhance its services for this population.

2009 marks the first year that Colorado Council has contracted with a lobbyist, Pat Steadman, to represent our interests at the legislature. Influencing and shaping education-related bills and policies at the state level is our intended hope as we work with Pat. Weekly legislative updates are currently being posted on our website in addition to our e-list. Lastly, we are pleased to announce that in December the Annual Conference will return to Denver.

I welcome your comments and suggestions with regard to further enhancements of the services and events Colorado Council provides to its members. I look forward to working with all of you. Best wishes for a successful and productive year!



Presidential Bio

For the past eleven years, I have worked in the Office of Admissions at Metropolitan State College of Denver. For several years, I worked as an Admissions Counselor, eventually earning a promotion to Assistant Director. In 2006, I was elevated to my current position as Associate Director of Admissions/Transfer Services. I oversee the recruitment of transfer students to the College as well as supervise four professional staff and several work-study students. One of the most rewarding aspects of my job has been making a personal connection with students, assisting them in making a smooth transition to our College, and ultimately, helping them achieve their educational goals.

I returned to school in 2003 for the graduate program at the University of Colorado at Denver. In 2006, I completed my thesis titled, "The Integration of Community College Transfer Students at a Four-Year College," and earned a Master's of Arts degree in Sociology.

Additionally, I have been actively involved in Colorado Council for the past 6 years. I began in 2003, serving as chair of the membership committee and have also served as chair of the technology committee (2005-2007). I was awarded the Distinguished Service Award in 2006 for my contributions to the Council. Last year, I was elected President-Elect and was responsible for organizing the Annual Conference in December of 2008, attended by 450 high school and college admissions counselors from around the state.

In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my wife Melissa. We enjoy hiking, working out, catching plays at the Denver Center for the Performing Arts, and taking vacations to tropical destinations. We also enjoy taking spirited drives on mountain roads in the summer. In addition, I am a certified scuba diver and an avid reader of classic literature. Some of my favorite books include: Catch 22; Crime and Punishment; 1984; The Three Musketeers; and Great Expectations.

In This Issue:

| | |
|--|---|
| Legislative Updates | 2 |
| Fall Counselor Workshops | 2 |
| Keeping the Options Open (KOO) Workshop | 2 |
| Counselor of the Month | 3 |
| 2009 Annual Conference Overview | 3 |
| Volunteerism and Community Service Scholarship | 4 |
| Student Scholarship Profiles | 4 |

Legislative Updates

The 2009 session of the Colorado General Assembly, which adjourned on May 6, saw several proposed bills that have a potential to impact higher education and high schools in Colorado. CCHS/CR has recently begun working with a lobbyist, Pat Steadman, to advocate for higher education and high schools and to help keep us informed. Legislative updates are posted weekly at: <http://www.coloradocouncil.org/resources/legislative.php>.

HB 1057

Parental Involvement in Higher Education

Allows employees of employers of 50 or more employees in Colorado to take unpaid leave from work to attend parent-teacher conferences or other academic activities relating to the educational advancement of their child.

Status: Conference Committee Report Adopted by Senate

HB 1063

In-State Tuition When Parents Move for a Job

Grants in-state tuition status to student that moved to Colorado during their senior year of high school because their parents moved here for a job. Requires such students to be legal residents of the United States and to have graduated from a Colorado public high school.

Status: Enacted

HB 1243

Dropout Prevention/Increase Graduation Rates

Creates the Office of Dropout Prevent and Student Re-engagement in CDE. Directs the office to collaborate with local education providers to reduce dropout rates and increase graduation and completion rates.

Status: Passed Senate as amended

HB 1319

Accelerating Students through Concurrent ENrollment (ASCENT)

Repeals existing concurrent enrollment programs and replaces them with a consolidated program that allows school districts to partner with institutions of higher education to offer college courses to qualified high school students.

Status: 2nd reading in Senate

SB 045

Higher Education Guaranteed Credit Transfer

Requires CCHE to establish articulation agreements for at least five baccalaureate degree programs by July 1, 2011. Defines "articulation agreements" as a formalized plan for a student to complete a 60-credit curriculum that, if completed, shall require the student to take no more than 60 additional credits at any Colorado public institution of higher education to complete the requirements for a particular 120-hour baccalaureate degree.

Keeping the Options Open (KOO) Workshop Ready to Roll

Amy Belstra, KOO Coordinator

This year, the "Keeping the Options Open" workshop—affectionately called KOO—is taking to the road. On June 15 – 18, forty high school counselors from Colorado and Arizona will be participating in our first-ever combined workshop and bus tour! Over the course of four days, we will be visiting Western State College, Adams State College, Fort Lewis College, and Mesa State College. Along the way, participants will be learning more about the college counseling process, as we cover topics like Barriers to College, Pre-College Advising, Comprehensive Guidance and College, Admissions, Financial Aid and much more.

Assuming the beautiful Colorado scenery is not too distracting, we expect everyone to learn more about the great educational options we have in Colorado, as well as share ideas about how to better help our students as they approach the college selection process. KOO is now in its 22nd year, and many counselors in the Rocky Mountain region are alumni of the program. As one of our past participants shared with us, "This information is vital. Who knows how many kids could have been helped in the three years I've been trying to learn this on my own! This conference has given me a great deal of confidence and shown me I was not dumb, just under-informed."

Fall Counselor Workshops

Each Fall, CCHS/CR hosts workshops for high school counselors to learn more about college in Colorado. Workshops include presentations by admissions representatives about college/university academics, admissions, and financial aid, and other changes. The workshops also feature sessions on current topics for counselors and college admission officers. The Workshops also provide an excellent opportunity to visit various colleges around the state.

For questions about the workshops, please contact Dana Trujillo at dana.trujillo@colostate-pueblo.edu.

Fall Counselor Workshop Schedule

Thursday, Sept 17 • University of Colorado • Colorado Springs

Friday, Sept 18 • Auraria Campus • Denver

Monday, Sept 21 • Colorado State University • Fort Collins

Friday, Sept 25 • Johnson & Wales University • Denver

Friday, October 2 • Fort Lewis College • Durango

Friday, October 9 • Colorado Mountain College – Spring Valley Campus • Glenwood Springs

Counselor of the Month

Counselors work hard and encourage students to dream and accomplish their goals. CollegeInvest, in partnership with the Colorado Council on High School and College Relations (CCHSCR) designed the Counselor of the Month Program to give high school counselors the recognition they deserve. Students, parents and school employees have the opportunity to honor high school counselors who have made a difference in their lives or the lives of others by nominating them for the Counselor of the Month award.

Recipients of Counselor of the Month receive a plaque and school recognition and are eligible for Counselor of the Year. The Counselor of the Year is announced at the CCHSCR Annual Conference and the recipient receives a \$1,000 cash award for professional development.

The program continues to be strong month after month with an average of six nominations per month. To date, for the 2008-2009 school year, we have had 47 nominations. The Counselor of the Month Program covers all areas of Colorado with recipients from Pueblo to Steamboat Springs. To nominate a counselor, visit <http://www.collegeinvest.org/mycounselor/>.

2009

April: Laura DeMoulin - John F. Kennedy High School
March: Mollie Benton - Moffat High School
February: Gayle Dudley - Steamboat Springs High School
January: Michael Sardinia - Silver Creek High School

2008

December: Stacey Neumann - Northglenn High School
November: Michael Stelling - Northglenn High School
October: Brian Powers - Littleton High School
September: Tana Knopf - Denver School of the Arts
May: Mary Hamilton - Standley Lake HS
April: James Durgin - South HS
March: Pat Ludwig - Denver School of Science and Technology
February: Waneta Elliott - Greeley West HS
January: Renea Stringer - Greeley West HS



Mollie Benton
Moffat High School
March 2009 Counselor of the Month

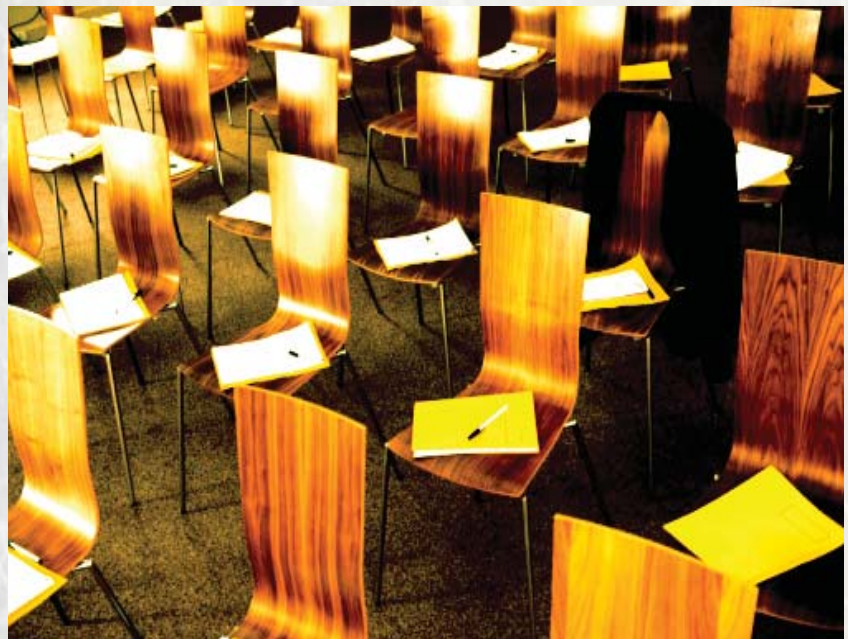


2009 Annual Conference Update

Winning Through Education

The Annual Conference returns to Denver this year on December 3rd and 4th. The Annual Conference is a two-day professional development event that provides a forum for the annual business meeting, a stimulating and diverse interest session relevant to our profession, and recognizes the contributions of individual members at a special luncheon. The event also includes pre-conference sessions for new attendees, keynote speakers, vendor displays, and entertainment on Thursday evening. Graduate credit can be earned for Conference attendance, and all CCHS/CR members are invited to submit proposals to lead a Breakout Session. Details of the event, including keynote speakers and location, are still being finalized.

Check <http://www.coloradocouncil.org/events/conference.php> for updates, and a recap of the very successful 2008 Conference.



Volunteerism and Community Service Scholarship

Each year, the Colorado Council recognizes 16 Colorado students for their commitment to volunteerism and community service.

The scholarship is a \$1,500 one-time award for high school seniors to assist with the cost of tuition at one of the CCHS/CR member institutions. The students that receive this award demonstrate a strong dedication to service and volunteerism. For more information about the qualifications and application process, visit <http://www.coloradocouncil.org/resources/scholarship.php>.

This award is for graduating seniors, but it's never too early for students to start building a strong scholarship profile. Here are some of things you can do to help prepare your underclassmen to be competitive applicants for this and other scholarships:

- Encourage students to get involved in community service and extracurricular activities as freshman.
- Quality counts just as much as quantity. Dedication to one or two programs is often more impressive than sporadic involvement in several.
- Advise students to get involved in programs that have opportunities for leadership development.
- Help students find opportunities that will allow them to demonstrate initiative, creativity, and a passion for community service and volunteerism.
- Work with students to develop effective time management skills. Academics should be their first priority.

Meet two of the 2008 Scholarship winners!

DONNIELLE HURLEY

DOHERTY HIGH SCHOOL • UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Donnielle's dedication to community service began when she was in middle school, where she served as a volunteer at the Colorado Springs Care & Share Food Bank and was honored with the Colorado Youth Citizenship Award. In high school, Donnielle continued this tradition of service, volunteering over 200 hours of her time to Penrose Community Hospital's Radiology Department, an experience that has inspired her to pursue a career in medicine. She is also a member of Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), a peer tutoring program that prepares students for college. Donnielle is also a member of National Honor Society, Student Council, and the Yearbook Committee.



RUSLAN GARREY

LOVELAND HIGH SCHOOL • UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

English is Ruslan's second language, and he has turned his experience as a successful ESL learner into an opportunity to help others. In addition to tutoring his fellow students, he volunteers for the Salvation Army, Polaris Siberian Husky Rescue, and Amnesty International. Ruslan has also organized a Sculpture in the Park art show, raised funds for his school's marching band, and organized school swim meets as captain of the swim team. He is a National Merit Scholar and an Outstanding Students of the USA award winner.



Council Officers

President

Vaughn Toland
Metropolitan State College of Denver
tolandva@mscd.edu

Past President

Shanna Hamblin
University of Denver
shamblin@du.edu

Treasurer

Bill Hathaway-Clark
Regis University
whathawa@regis.edu

Secretary

Mindy Marshall
Colorado State University
mindy.marshall@colostate.edu

President Elect

Ari Rosner-Salazar
Community College of Denver
ari.rosner@ccd.edu

Public Relations Committee

Chair

Emily Forbes
University of Denver
emily.forbes@du.edu

Newsletter Editor

Taylor Boulware
Colorado State University
taylor.boulware@colostate.edu

Newsletter Design & Layout

Lea Hanson
Colorado State University
lea.hanson@colostate.edu

