



RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION 2021-2022

ANNUAL REPORT

For the fiscal year ending June 2022


RED ROCKS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
FOUNDATION



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Welcome our New Board of Directors



Alicia Disantis

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, Alicia moved to Denver during the great recession in search of better opportunities. Here she founded her studio and began to work with credit unions, which led to her passion for helping companies who are making a difference. A firm believer in the power of education, Alicia understands first-hand the hardships students face and how community colleges can provide them with a lifetime of benefits.

Alicia is the Founder of 38th & Kip, a branding and design studio based in Denver, and Brand Manager of Aux, an organization who helps financial institutions stay strong. She is passionate about all things branding, like storytelling, values, and visuals. She specializes in helping purpose-driven organizations, the “people doing good,” understand their importance and reach their audience.

“I am honored to serve on the Board of Directors for RRCC Foundation because of their tenacity and passion for helping students succeed against all odds,” says Alicia. “I’ve never experienced a college so committed to their students’ needs as Red Rocks. And as a former community college attendee, it feels natural to pay it forward and help students in the way my community college helped me.”



Michael Kosakowski

Michael Kosakowski is an Executive Vice President at FirstBank with extensive experience in management and business development. His career with FirstBank expands over 16 years all of which serving in leadership positions. Over the years, Michael has held numerous board positions with local non-profit organizations including Junior Achievement, Caring Connection, the West Colfax Community Association, Table Mountain Animal Center Foundation, House of Refuge, and The Action Center. He was drawn to joining the RRCC Foundation board through the organization’s tremendous impact on students and the community through education.

FOUNDATION OFFICERS

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President, Red Rocks Community College

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Chief Human Resources Officer, Denver Health

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John Trefny

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Kim Carver
Angela King Ex-Officio

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A Letter From The Presidents

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

Community colleges are leading the charge to provide industry responsive, quality, life-changing education. Red Rocks Community College is known regionally for its exceptional student experiences and high-quality outcomes. Despite shifts in higher education in the past few years, we stand ready to continue that legacy well into the future.

The Colorado Community College System recently reported that the system's graduation rates rose from 15% to 31%. Associate and baccalaureate degrees earned at Red Rocks Community College give students the necessary skills to compete in the modern workplace or to find success in four-year colleges to continue their education.

The state reformed remedial education programs so students could do college-level coursework without paying extra for classes that don't get them credit toward graduation. Red Rocks has focused on ensuring students' basic needs are met so they can focus on their studies. Scholarships, an on-campus food pantry, mental health services, tutoring services and specialty program create a community that surrounds the student with holistic support.

We recognize that higher education is an investment for both our students and the greater community. We know that it continues to reap positive benefits on both an individual and collective level.

In this report, we share with you a snapshot of the previous year and the amazing work that has occurred here at Red Rocks Community College. The Foundation saw a record setting year of support with over \$2.1 million invested for students in scholarships and programmatic support. We hope that reading these stories will remind you of the importance of higher education in everyone's lives.

We thank each of you that chose to make an investment that ensures the continued success of our efforts to provide a high-quality educational experience for all those that seek it out. Your support has allowed us to accomplish amazing this year.

Thank you.



*Doris Stipech, Board President
Red Rocks Community College
Foundation*



*C. Michele Haney, PhD, President
Red Rocks Community College*

Student Spotlight

Our students are the focus of everything we do here at Red Rocks Community College. We know that we must focus on supporting the whole student to ensure success. Our Foundation, alongside of College faculty, staff, and administrators works hard to provide resources to support students in both accessing and completing their educational goals. Scholarships remain the core of our work. And, with your help, we have gone beyond scholarships to provide subsidized on-site child care, resource centers, an on-campus food pantry and so much more. Your gifts have made all of that possible.

We met Aubrey this past spring at our Donor Luncheon. In the weeks before speaking at our luncheon, someone stole her car. She spent the final weeks of the semester coordinating rides to campus and her full-time job on public trains, with classmates and others. In the hour before speaking, she sat in the hallway completing coursework. And immediately after, she headed to her full-time job as a hair stylist.

Quite simply, Aubrey is driven. She has a vision for her future and is not afraid of putting in the work to make it happen. Aubrey works full-time to make ends meet but was unable to afford a college degree on her own. Scholarships made a college education possible for her. Nearly half of the 9,000 students that walk our hallways face significant financial hardships while trying to attend college.

We are proud to share with you that Aubrey began her first year at Metro State University this past August with plans on to complete her program in Environmental Engineering. We are simply positive that she will be a resource and gift to our communities. She is a powerful example of how your gift's impact goes well beyond the individual student.

You are helping put qualified individuals back in our hospitals, electricians back in our construction sites, and cybersecurity specialists back on the watch to protect our systems.

You are changing the world, one student at a time. Thank you.



MINES ACADEMY LAUNCHES AT RED ROCKS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

New transfer program includes guaranteed admission to any four-year degree program at Colorado School of Mines



Colorado School of Mines and Red Rocks Community College (RRCC) launched an innovative new partnership to support diverse nontraditional and traditional community college students' pursuit of a bachelor's degree at Colorado School of Mines this fall.

Building on 20 years of articulated transfer agreements and shared curriculum development, the Mines Academy at Red Rocks provides qualified RRCC students with guaranteed admission into any four-year degree program at Mines upon completion of the two-year Associate of Engineering Science degree, which

provides an economical path to an engineering or science degree at Mines.

"We are excited about this progression in our longstanding partnership with Mines to meet the ever-growing need for more STEM graduates. Our students can now focus on studying and achieving academic success while at Red Rocks and can rest assured that they have a guaranteed pathway to a bachelor's program at Mines in engineering or science," said Dr. Michele Haney, President of RRCC.

"The new Mines Academy at Red Rocks has been designed to improve the success of students transferring from Red Rocks to Mines. In brief, we want the Mines Academy student to be confident in their academic preparation, to know that their courses will transfer to Mines, and to feel that they are members of the Mines community," said Dr. Paul C. Johnson, president of Colorado School of Mines. "This is truly a novel transfer pathway model that will help to broaden the STEM professional pipeline and continue to grow our longstanding partnership with Red Rocks Community College."

An important feature of the academy is the formation of a community of academic peers who can support each other throughout the program. At Red Rocks, students develop friendships and peer relationships through projects in the IDEA Lab, the campus makerspace, or in clubs such as Womxn in STEM, the ASME Student Chapter or NASA RockSat, and can take these supportive relationships with them to Mines. Academy students will also take a student success course taught by Mines to better introduce them to the campus and culture of Mines.

"Colorado School of Mines has an even stronger partnership with Red Rocks Community College with this new and innovative transfer pathway," said Dr. Richard C. Holz, provost of Colorado School of Mines. "Red Rocks already transfers more students to Mines than any other community college in the state, and through this new academy, that process will be even more integrated, student-centered and equitable. We are excited to enhance the long-standing relationship between our two institutions and hope this becomes the model for 2-year to 4-year pathways moving forward."

CHAMPION OF EDUCATION

Each year, the RRCC Foundation Board of Directors honors outstanding advocates of education in our communities with our Champion of Education award. We have had some amazing recipients in previous years and this year's recipients are no different.

Dr. Agneta Albinsson and Mats Wahlstrom are originally from Sweden and originally came to work in Jefferson County in 1990. They had planned on being here for one year. Thirty years later, they continue to live in Wheat Ridge and love to travel and enjoy the outdoors.

Dr. Albinsson is a researcher through and through. She holds an undergraduate degree in Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biology and Animal Physiology. She also holds a PhD in Animal Physiology and worked on research surrounding schizophrenia related pharmaceuticals.

Mats Wahlstrom has a long career in healthcare including serving as the CEO of Gambro Healthcare and of the CEO of Fresenius Medical Care. Now he, together with his partners, is involved in venture investing in healthcare oriented companies and serves on several public and private company boards.

Agneta came to Red Rocks Community College first – as a student -when she enrolled in a Public Speaking course while working on her dissertation. It wasn't long before she was invited to join the Red Rocks Community College Foundation Board of Directors in 1998. She will celebrate 25 years of service in the upcoming year! She also serves as a Trustee and on the Board of Directors at CU.

In addition to providing her expertise and volunteer service by serving on the Executive Committee of our Board of Directors, Agneta and Mats support learning and teaching excellence via professional development grants on an annual basis.

In 2013, Mats celebrated Agneta's birthday by establishing the Dr. Agneta Albinsson Endowment Fund. The fund specifically focuses on supporting professional



development for full and part time faculty teaching in the STEM and healthcare fields. Since it was established, the fund has supported 39 faculty members with professional development opportunities. Education experiences that they use to enhance the learning experiences in the classrooms here.

For twenty-five years of leadership and support and their broad impact on teaching and learning excellence at Red Rocks Community College, we honor Dr. Agneta Albinsson and Mats Wahlstrom as our 2022 Champions of Education.



Red Rocks Community College Honors

28TH ENDOWED TEACHING CHAIR WINNER

The Red Rocks Community College Foundation Board of Directors was honored to announce the 2022 Mike Leprino Family Foundation Endowed Teaching Chair winner, Toni Nicholas.

Toni joined Red Rocks Community College as an adjunct faculty member in 2009. She is currently Associate Professor in RRCC's History Program. In addition to her strong portfolio submission, the selection committee stated that Toni stimulated conversations and made complex issues approachable to learners. In addition to the classroom, Toni has been active in numerous College initiatives since 2009 including her recent work on the CCCS Teaching Excellence Equity grant and acting as a co-sponsor in welcoming holocaust survivor, Maud Dahme, to campus.

Members of the Foundation BOD, faculty, and staff surprised Toni during her Thursday afternoon class to present her with the coveted ETC chair and formal award.

Our faculty make an incredible impact on the students here at Red Rocks. We could certainly see that in the students' faces when we surprised Toni with the award. As one student said about Toni, "I learned more in your class than I have in my entire life. It was challenging for me (to say the least) and it changed my awareness of life and history..."

I am proud to say I survived your class. I will never forget you." - Sara Mitchell, Women in US History course feedback.

Toni will be awarded \$22,500 over the next three years with salary enhancements and professional development funds.

We would also like to extend our congratulations to our two runner ups: Tracy Gray (Biology) and Valerie Paulson (Physician Assistant). Each runner up will also receive a \$2,500 professional development stipend to continue providing exceptional educational experiences for our students.

The Foundation's Board of Directors is extremely proud of all our faculty members and the teaching excellence demonstrated by all three finalists. Each walked away from the morning of classroom time feeling confident that our RRCC students are receiving a high-level education, due to the passion and commitment of our Faculty.

Thank you to all of our incredible faculty members who have worked with such passion and fervor to support our students this year.



Toni Nicholas, Faculty Member

"History is a living, breathing, and dynamic subject that is alive with puzzles and contradictions; the vivid human story of where we, as a global society, have been and where we are headed. And in a world that is full of strife, it has never been more important to teach history in a way that reflects a diversity of lives and experiences that fully represent ALL voices so learners can understand the roots of the issues that still persist today. I believe that each student brings with them a rich tapestry of life experiences and ideas. My goal is that each student sees themselves in the history we discuss so that the 'story' becomes meaningful to them...Like so many of us, I want my students to know that I believe in them and that I'll have their back when they take risks. And I absolutely love working alongside so many others who have these same desires in their own classrooms. I have the best job in the world—I get to work with students every day. And I wouldn't change a thing."

~ Toni Nicholas

Endowed Teaching Chairs

The RRCC Endowed Teaching Chair Program is the only multi-year faculty award in the Colorado Community College System. It is a meaningful way to recognize and award our outstanding faculty.

Endowed Teaching Chairs Past and Present:

Year	Awardee	Award Donor
2022-2025	Toni Nichols	Leprino Family Foundation
2021-2023	Jenning Prevatte	The Student Voice Endowed
2020-2022	Sally Cirincione	Swede Johnson/Coors
2019-2021	Elyse Marsh	Leprino Family Foundation
2018-2020	Brenda Forland	The Student Voice Endowed
2017-2019	Brandon English	Swede Johnson/Coors
2016-2018	Stina French	Leprino Family Foundation
2015-2017	Merri Mattison	The Student Voice Endowed
2014-2016	Berndt Savig	Swede Johnson/Coors
2013-2015	Wendy Bird	Leprino Family Foundation
2012-2014	Heather Duncan	The Student Voice Endowed
2011-2013	Fawn Oates	Swede Johnson/Coors
2010-2012	Paul Gallagher	Leprino Family Foundation
2009-2011	Sherry Dewald	Foundation Board of Directors
2008-2010	Steve Kaye	Swede Johnson/Coors
	Stephanie Berg-Oram	The Student Voice
2007-2009	Marjorie Berman	The Student Voice
	Amy Braziller	Leprino Family Foundation
2006-2008	Chuck Smith	Friends of Red Rocks
	Liz Kleinfeld	RHCC Foundation
2005-2007	Terry Reeves	Dr. Eric Reno
	Cindy Somers	Swede Johnson/Coors
2004-2006	Kerry Edwards	RRCC Endowed Chair
	Rick Reeves	Student Voice
2003-2005	Pamela Mencher	RRCC Bookstore
	Joey Spillyards	RRCC Foundation
2002-2004	Candace Garrod	Swede Johnson/Coors
	Jack Stanesco	Leprino Family Foundation

Red Rocks Community College Foundation

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

ASSETS

ASSETS	2022	2021
Cash and cash equivalents	\$691,015	\$859,374
Accounts receivable, other	48,159	50,541
Accrued interest receivable	20,106	13,319
Prepaid expenses	1,989	1,987
Investments	7,522,087	7,669,415
Art and donor recognition walls	17,758	17,758
Beneficial interest in charitable remainder unitrusts	115,300	127,525
Beneficial interest in life insurance, cash value	30,069	28,760
Total Assets	\$8,446,483	\$8,768,679

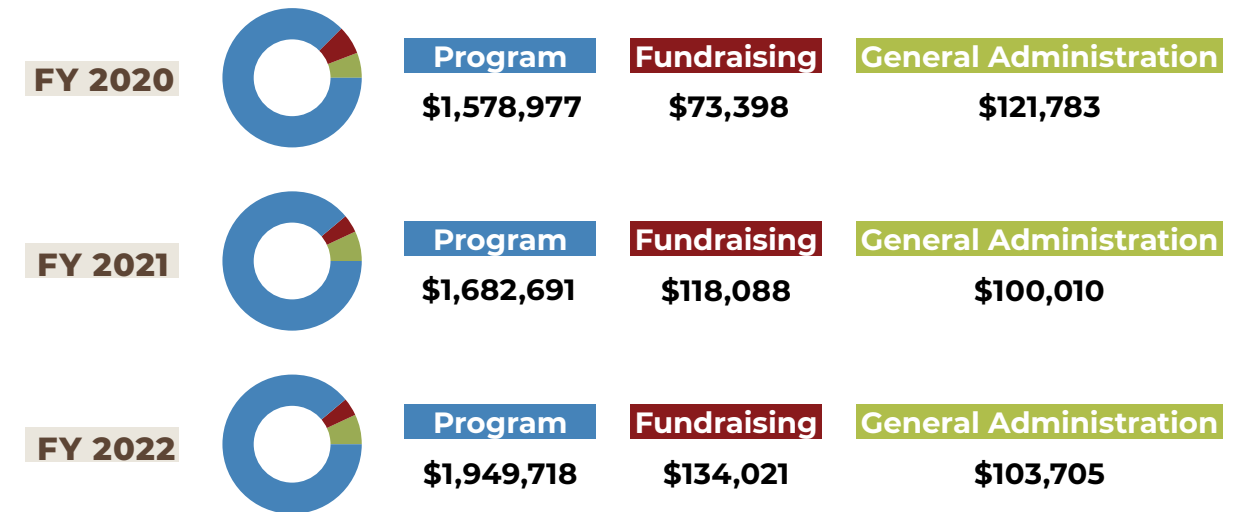
LIABILITIES

Accounts payable, trade	\$875	\$102,081
Accounts payable, related party	107,551	33,718
Total Liabilities	108,426	135,799

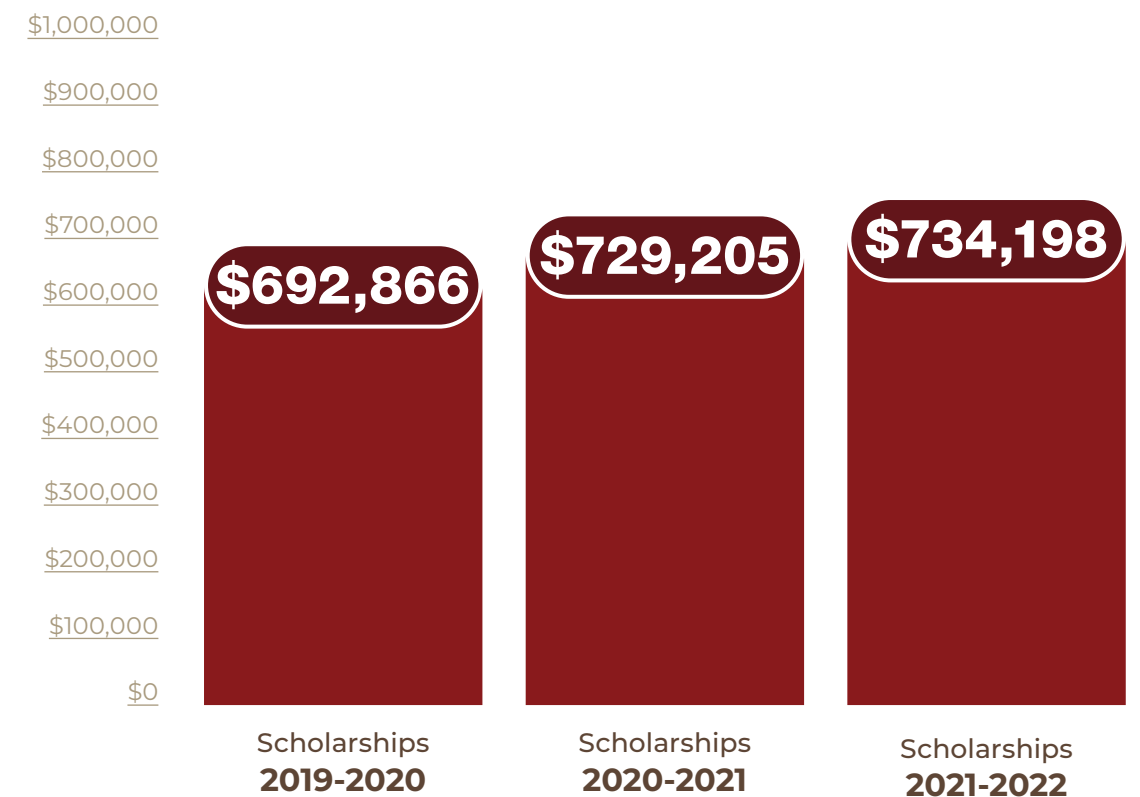
NET ASSETS

Without Donor Restrictions:		
Undesignated	1,993,365	2,107,642
Net investment in capital assets	17,758	17,758
With Donor Restrictions:		
Purpose Restriction	2,140,548	2,084,729
Perpetual in nature	4,186,386	4,422,751
Total net assets	8,338,057	8,632,880
Total liabilities and net assets	\$8,446,483	\$8,768,679

FOUNDATION EXPENSES BY FISCAL YEAR



SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS AWARDED



OUR COMMUNITY OF DONORS

The Red Rocks Community College Foundation is grateful to the many donors and friends who have given their support during the 2020-2021 academic year. It is the policy of the Red Rocks Community College Foundation to promptly acknowledge the receipt of all donations. Every effort has been made to create a comprehensive list of supporters. If your name is missing or incorrect, please contact us at 303-914-6308 so that we may correct the error.

DONORS \$100,000 AND MORE

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DONORS \$25,000-\$99,999

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MORE THAN \$904k

in program support was contributed to RRCC during the year!

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