

February 2016

Our last newsletter hit your mailboxes in September of last year, and a lot has happened since then. First, way to go Broncos! Winning the Super Bowl somehow just made everything better! The parade went right by our office, and the rally was right across the street – it was quite a sight!

Over here at College In Colorado, we continue to navigate our new waters and the sometimes difficult task of ensuring that we are utilizing our resources as efficiently as possible. We thank all of you for your questions, your words of encouragement and your patience.

We have a couple of staff changes – details to come later in the newsletter – and recently both Julia Pirnack, our director of web and curriculum development, and I celebrated our 10th anniversaries with College In Colorado. When I mentioned this at dinner one night, my nine-year-old son Taylor said, “You’ve had College In Colorado longer than you’ve had me.”

It has been an amazing 10 years working with some of the most dedicated, compassionate and intelligent people I’ve ever met, and I look forward to seeing what is to come.

College Goal Sunday

College Goal Sunday on Feb. 21 is a day dedicated to helping students and their families complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA.

College In Colorado staff and Colorado financial aid professionals volunteer their time to assist families with the FAFSA on the spot on college campuses, offering free expert help at no cost. [Find a session in your area.](#)

Completing the FAFSA is the key step to receive aid to continue an education after graduating from high school or obtaining a GED. It is also required for many scholarship applications.

Scholarships

College In Colorado has an amazing scholarship portal! Are you aware that you can browse scholarships by skills and accomplishments, by regional opportunities or get an entire list? Our scholarships database includes more than **20,000** scholarship listings. We help you select all applicable information about yourself that will result in the most number of scholarship opportunities. And, don't forget to contact your counselor or the financial aid office at your college to find out about other scholarship possibilities. [Read more about scholarships.](#)

Save the Date

College Friday is April 29, 2016! College Friday is a day we ask all Coloradans to wear their favorite college gear to support students' path to higher education. It's not too early to begin planning how your school/business/organization will participate. We will share more information and resources soon. If you have ideas or questions, please contact Megan McDermott, director of communications at Megan.McDermott@cic.state.co.us or 303-974-2495.

New Staff join CIC

Two new staff have joined College In Colorado. Megan McDermott is our new director of communications. Previously, she was the assistant director of communications for eight years for the Colorado Department of Education. You can reach her at Megan.McDermott@cic.state.co.us or 303-974-2495. Marilyn Villalobos Rivera is our new outreach and access coordinator. She comes to us from Clayton Partnership School with Mapleton Public Schools, where she was a special education paraprofessional. Marilyn's first day is Thursday, Feb. 25, and starting on that date, she can be reached at Marilyn.VillalobosRivera@cic.state.co.us or 303-974-2491.

Pre-Collegiate Conference and Gully Stanford Legacy Award

College In Colorado will not hold the Colorado Statewide Pre-Collegiate Conference this year. This is due in part to our shift in focus and the need to dedicate our resources wisely, as well as the prevalence of other conferences during this time of year, the majority of which will offer sessions similar to what we have traditionally offered at the Pre-Collegiate Conference. We will, however, still pay homage to the man behind the Pre-Collegiate Conference and so many of College In Colorado's other successes by seeking nominations for the second annual Gully Stanford Legacy Award. The award will be presented to an individual who has been instrumental in assisting Colorado students in their pursuit of postsecondary education, within the K-12 and postsecondary systems, or through education-minded organizations and non-profit organizations. Additional consideration will be given to those who have concurrently pushed for the inclusion of arts education in school curriculum.

Nominations for the 2016 award are due by **Friday, March 18.**

To nominate an individual, please submit a thorough letter of recommendation

that includes answers to the questions below and a current CV or resume of the nominee. Also, please let us know if the nominee is aware of their nomination (this does not have any bearing on the selection).

- In what way does the nominee work with students looking to pursue postsecondary education?
- How long has the nominee been involved in the education community and what are some highlights of his/her accomplishments?
- In what way has the nominee been involved in arts education?
- List some exemplary practices that have resulted in student success.

Please submit the nomination letter and the CV or resume to:

College In Colorado
Attn: Dawn Taylor Owens
1560 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

or

Dawn.TaylorOwens@cic.state.co.us

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