

April 2016

In this issue:

- **College Friday**
- **Enhanced Mass Creation of Student Accounts**
- **Help Parents Prepare for the PSAT 10**
- **Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams Credit and Cut Scores**
- **CIC Staff Updates**
- **Website Spotlight – End of Year Report Reminders**
- **Pre-Collegiate Conference and Gully Stanford Legacy Award**

Introduction by Dawn Taylor Owens, executive director, College In Colorado

I would like to thank the genius who ensured that March Madness and spring break coincide. Especially years like this year, when you are on your second snow day in a row, your two boys are minutes from breaking a bone or a piece of furniture, and your only saving grace is that Sweet Sixteen games start in three hours and only one more day of school before spring break!

“Snow days are a full contact sport,” I said to my husband as he relieved me half way through snow day #2, “you might want to throw them outside for a while.” Such is the life of an educator, right?

As you navigate the post spring break blues and the madness of March that has nothing to do with basketball, we hope you look to College In Colorado for help. With College Friday just around the corner – April 29 – the tools on CollegeInColorado.org can help facilitate conversations with your students about the importance of postsecondary education. For your seniors, it might be a good time to talk about financial literacy and the tools on [Money 101](#). Know that we are here to help in any way we can. Happy spring!

College Friday is April 29

College Friday is a day we ask all Coloradans to wear their favorite college gear to support students' path to higher education. We recently added resources to the website that will help you in your planning. Plus, we have some exciting offerings this year, including free chips and queso at Qdoba, and a free gooey bun at Le Peep, just on College Friday, and only if you wear your college gear. You can also participate in a social media hashtag contest where participants can win \$1,000 gift cards. [Learn more](#) about all the exciting things happening this year. If you have ideas about how to participate or questions, please contact Megan McDermott, director of communications at Megan.McDermott@cic.state.co.us or 303-974-2495.

Enhanced Mass Creation of Student Accounts

The **Create Student Account** section in the **Professional Center** allows schools to mass create CollegeInColorado.org student accounts. While particularly useful for meeting the legislative requirement that all sixth-grade students have a College In Colorado account, this process may be used with any group of students. Creation of multiple accounts is done by making simple modifications to an export from a school's student information system. If this feature is unfamiliar to you, contact your College In Colorado outreach and access coordinator for further information and assistance. [View important changes and updates.](#)

Help Parents Prepare for the PSAT 10

The Colorado Department of Education confirmed a transition plan for sophomores to take the PSAT 10 this April in preparation for Colorado's transition to the SAT in spring 2017. All sophomores in Colorado will take the PSAT 10 in April 2016 and all juniors will take the SAT in spring 2017.

The College Board is inviting parents of current Colorado sophomores to attend a free 30-minute webinar in advance of the PSAT 10 administration this April. The webinar will give parents an overview of the PSAT 10, including its components and benefits, and provide a forum to ask questions about the test. Register for a webinar at the links below:

- [Monday, April 11, 7 p.m.](#)
- [Wednesday, April 13, 7 p.m.](#)
- [Thursday, April 14, 7 p.m.](#)

A recorded version of the webinar and additional information is also available at collegeboard.org/colorado.

Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) Exams Credit and Cut Scores

The Colorado Department of Higher Education recently released [AP](#) and [IB](#) documents that contain the state-approved cut scores and college credit each college and university will award. A couple things to note:

- These are effective for new students starting class on or after July 1, 2016 at any Colorado public college or university.
- Colleges and universities may award retroactive credit at their discretion but are not required to.
- Credit awarded applies to general education/GT Pathways requirements. Colleges and universities may award elective and major credit at their discretion.
- These documents, and future revised versions, are available on the [Colorado Department of Higher Education's website](#).

CIC Staff Updates

We spent the first few months of the year on efforts to help with Lt. Governor Garcia's goal of cutting the attainment gap in half. While the more focused outreach has been beneficial for both the schools/districts with which we work and College In Colorado, we also recognize the need to ensure that we continue to have a statewide presence. Therefore, effective immediately, [Maria Elena Rivera](#) is **CIC's director of partnerships**. This will allow her to engage with CIC's partners, including those in the K-12, postsecondary, community-based, pre-collegiate and state agency arenas. [Freddy Burciaga](#) will continue to be our resident expert on financial aid/literacy, and he will manage the outreach team. His new title is **director of outreach and financial**

education.

Website Spotlight – End of Year Report Reminders

Each month we're highlighting a resource on the College In Colorado website. This month, we're highlighting end of year reports. May is the time to capture the progress that your students have made on CollegeInColorado.org. Because each student's grade level will be updated in the system on July 1, it is important to run end of year reports before that date. Reports are created and run from the [Professional Center Reports tab](#). If you do not have a professional center account, please click on Create a Professional Center Account on the Pro Center home page. To obtain a Professional Account Access Key (PAAK) or Administrator Code, contact Twyla Esquibel at Twyla.Esquibel@cic.state.co.us. [Summary](#) and [step-by-step instructions](#) are available on CollegeInColorado.org.

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 the need to dedicate our resources in a way that helps Lt. Governor Garcia meet his goal of cutting the attainment gap in half, 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.

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
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