

May 2016

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

I don't know about the rest of you but, while I love spring --- the first day I drive all day with my windows down, dinner and wine on our favorite restaurant patio, 1,000 baseball games – it is also such a busy time for me, personally and professionally. Professionally we have non-stop FAFSA and financial aid presentations (with the FAFSA opening date moving to Oct. 1, we don't see much a reprieve in our future!), as well as continuing to work on the College Admissions Tool, our partnership with the Colorado Department of Human Services to better serve homeless and foster youth, and a ton of other things. Personally – in addition to the aforementioned 1,000 baseball games – I am on the planning committee for my older son, Harlan's, fifth-grade continuation. If you could see me right now, you would see the tears, ever-present when I talk about him heading to middle school, not only because the time is going by far too quickly, but also because the teachers he has had at Swigert International School – a proud DPS school – have been beyond amazing.

And I know that Colorado's amazing teachers are not specific to my boys' school – you are throughout the state, doing work that means more to parents than you will ever know. So I would like to thank every friend and relative of mine who is a teacher, and every teacher who made a difference in my life and in my boys'

lives. And today, I want to especially thank Leah Vogt, Courtney Gibbens, Anda Seale, Kyle Kimmel, Caroline Dane and Shelly Dulsky for helping shape Harlan into the young man he is, and preparing him for the wonder that is middle school. You all – and teachers everywhere – have my eternal gratitude and admiration. Happy Teacher Appreciation Week!

College Friday Survey

Thank you for your participation and support of College Friday. We loved getting your photos, seeing your use of #collegefriday, hearing about your events and seeing you in your college gear. In order to continue to make College Friday the best it can be, please take a few minutes to complete a brief College Friday Survey on behalf of your school, business or organization. Complete the [survey](#) and be entered to win Rockies tickets!

Concurrent Enrollment Report

The Colorado Department of Higher Education and Colorado Department of Education will release the Annual Report on Concurrent Enrollment for the 2014-2015 school year on Friday, May 6. [Read the report \(available May 6\).](#)

Important FAFSA Reminders

High school counselors should note that beginning with the 2017-2018 financial aid application cycle, the FAFSA will be available on October 1 of the year prior to the upcoming award year. Thus, 2017-2018 FAFSA filing begins on Oct. 1, 2016. By having the FAFSA available earlier, the financial aid process will generally coincide with the college admissions application and decision cycle, allowing schools and states to provide financial aid information sooner to students and families. [Learn more.](#)

Website Spotlight – Updated Milestone Tracking in the Professional Center

Educators and administrators can now generate more in-depth information on milestone completion with the updated Milestone Report in the Professional Center. The milestone tracking capability and reporting now includes the ability to define a set of milestones at the school level, or by individual milestones, to monitor student work. There are multiple filtering options at both the school and district reporting levels. [Review](#) how you can generate in-depth analyses through the updated milestone features. If you have questions, please contact your outreach coordinator for more information.

Colorado, PSAT 10 and SAT

College Board has a new Colorado-specific website for the PSAT 10 and SAT. Sophomores took the PSAT 10 in April in preparation for Colorado's transition to the SAT in spring 2017. The website has general information about the PSAT 10 and SAT, practice exercises, free workshops, resources and more. Visit www.collegeboard.org/colorado to learn more.

Gully Stanford Legacy Award

We will again 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
Attn: Dawn Taylor Owens
1560 Broadway, Suite 1700
Denver, CO 80202

or

Dawn.TaylorOwens@cic.state.co.us

Pre-Collegiate Conference

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.

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