

# COLORADO COLLEGE

July 17, 2012

Dear Colorado College Community,

In March 2009, the Colorado College Board of Trustees mandated \$8-12 million in budget cuts to mitigate the effects of the downturn in the global economy. One of the decisions was the discontinuation of the varsity football program and its 127 years of tradition at Colorado College. While this was a very difficult decision for the administration, the board approved it because we agreed that it was necessary given the financial austerity required. At the time, it was also announced to football alumni that the decision would be in place for three years before it would be revisited.

At the recent board meeting July 12-14, 2012, trustees reviewed the decision to discontinue the varsity football program. During the board's discussion, significant time was spent considering the impact of reinstating a football program on the following: admissions, financial aid, the college's operating budget, student life, alumni engagement and giving, the overall athletics program, the college's reputation, Title IX compliance, diversity, and other key indicators. The board also considered the opinions of alumni athletes and parents, particularly those affiliated with the Washburn Foundation.

Through this thorough review process, board members concluded that it is clear that the college and its existing athletic programs are thriving. Given these facts, and the financial requirements and other complexities of adding football, we agreed that it is not in the best interest of the college to reinstate the football program. The board unanimously agreed not to reinstate football, water polo or softball (the other two varsity sports eliminated in 2009).

The board considers the matter closed and will focus its efforts on ensuring that the college and existing varsity sports continue to thrive. The board greatly appreciates the time and input of everyone involved, especially the members of the Washburn Foundation.

Sincerely,

The Colorado College Board of Trustees