

- Welcome new students, returning students, new and returning faculty and staff, trustees, and friends to Opening Convocation; the official commencing of our 138th academic year. Since my arrival in July, I have anxiously anticipated this event because, today, we come together to celebrate our college's foundation: strong teaching and learning.
- It was our founders' dream to establish an institution in the Rocky Mountain West that would provide knowledge-seeking individuals a place to be intellectually curious and daring. Today, we remain even more dedicated to those aspirations, as we strive to lead the country in delivering the very best liberal arts education.
- For our new students, you are joining a community that encourages you to think deeply and differently ... to go beyond your initial thoughts and assertions, and blaze a path that questions conventional ideas.
- The distinguished alumni that we recognize today, Kim Simon (Class of 1992), Susan Patrick (also Class of 1992) and Ryan Haygood (Class of 1997) have all used the Colorado College education and journey you now embark on to impact their industries and communities in innovative ways. I hope you will take some time to read more about them and imagine ways you can leverage the skills you will acquire to help not only yourself, but those around you.
- Now, it is my pleasure to introduce a student leader who has already begun to impact those around him with the things he has learned as CC student.
- Benjamin Quam is the student body president of Colorado College. Native son of Minnesota, Ben is a senior and political science major. In high school he was a top 10

national debater and leader of the Central High School Young Democrats, and he has brought those passions to CC with great success.

- During his time at CC, he has led the Young Dems and has coached debate at both Palmer High School in Colorado Springs and at Kent High School in Denver. Ben has been a featured columnist at the *Catalyst* for two years, and recently returned from spending a semester in Chile. After graduation, Ben tells me that he looks forward to working in politics, fast food, or both. Please join me in welcoming Ben Quam.