

**President Manya Whitaker  
Invites Finance & Administration  
Staff to a Skip-Level Meeting**

President Whitaker shared in her Sept. 30, 2025 email to staff that she is committed to facilitating conversations around our strategic vision “to claim our space among the nation’s premier institutions.” She has scheduled two skip-level meetings just for Finance & Administration staff:

Monday, October 20 1:45-2:15 p.m.  
Monday, October 20 2:30-3:00 p.m.

If you are interested in attending a session, [please click here](#), or reach out to [Michelle Beckmann](#), x6693. Another round of skip-level meetings will be held in spring. [Please click here](#) to indicate your interest in a spring semester session. This is a great opportunity for informal conversation with President Whitaker. Sessions are capped at 30 attendees each to keep the time a bit more engaging.

**ANNIVERSARIES**

**MIKE STARR**  
SUPERVISOR FOR SUPPORT SERVICES

**KRIS HIGGINBOTHAM**  
EVENTS COORDINATOR

BOTH CELEBRATE **25** YEARS SERVING  
THE COLLEGE THIS YEAR!

Welcome newcomers to the  
Finance & Administration Division:

**OFC. for CIVIL RIGHTS / TITLE IX**  
and  
**HUMAN RESOURCES!**

**NEW HIRES**

**ANDREW STRAWN**, TRADES ASSISTANT (5/1)

**JENNIFER KENYON**, FACILITIES FINANCE ANALYST (5/24)

**MICHAEL BRUBAKER**, CAMPUS OPERATIONS & PLANT  
MANAGER (6/16)

**MICHELLE BECKMANN**, FIN. & ADMIN. BUSINESS  
MANAGER (6/23)

**ALEX GUIDO**, LEAD CARPENTER (7/2)

**AMY JOHNSON**, EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER (7/14)

**KERRIE LOVINS**, ACCOUNTS PAYABLE &  
PROCUREMENT MANAGER (7/21)

**GRACE STEICHEN**, EARLY CHILDHOOD TEACHER  
(8/4)

**MATT LANCTO**, HVAC MECHANIC (9/29)

**ANTHONY AIRHART**, EXEC. DIR. BUSINESS  
DEVELOPMENT AND REVENUE STRATEGY (10/6)

**KUDOS!!**

“Kudos to **LANE ZAK** (Electrician), always willing to help a coworker and super nice guy.” ~*Alex Chavira*

Kudos to **MIKE STARR, KRIS HIGGINBOTHAM, BRAD FAIRBANKS, RICH BELTON, ISAAC KUBIK, JAIKEB GARCIA** (Facilities) for “Overall awesomeness!” A second kudos to **Event Support**: “I was so impressed by the implementation of the back-up plan for the annual sleep out! Way to turn on a dime and make the event just as fun.”

“Our newest team members, **ALI LAFORCE, KYLE JOHNSON** and **BLAYNE RYLANDER** (Human Resources) are showing a commitment to learning and supporting our employees at CC. The people training them are dedicating significant time and being patient to be able to effectively transfer their knowledge.”

~*Ryan Simmons*



“**FINANCE TEAM**, You are all STARS. With a quarter of our roles currently vacant, everyone has been willing to roll up their sleeves and get stuck in with new tasks and projects. Thank you!” ~*Jen Smithwick*

“Recognizing **APRIL SCRIVEN** and the entire mail room staff for the incredible work they do—especially at the beginning of the school year. The volume of packages that arrives on campus during this time is truly unbelievable, and yet this team handles it all (along with regular mail) with efficiency, professionalism, and a positive attitude. From large shipments to individual student deliveries, they ensure everything is organized and gets to where it needs to go.” ~*Debi O’Connor*

“Forgot to turn in your timecard? No problem. **CHRISTIAN VOLCIC** (Finance) is extremely helpful making sure you still get paid.”

“**RYAN HAMMES** (Finance) is standing up the enterprise risk management operations group. It takes a great deal of his time and effort to do and he is responsible for a lot of the heavy lifting. I appreciate his dedication to this work and the way he makes it so easy to work with him!” ~*Cameron Martin*

“A shout out to **JEN SMITHWICK AND THE FINANCE TEAM** for all your hard work on the audit!” ~*Michelle Beckmann*




**MORE KUDOS on PAGE 2**


# Did you know?

Facilities Services provides a comprehensive list of potential service interruptions- including the date of work, the location of campus that will be affected, and the impact these interruptions may have for the campus community. For the latest updates on current and upcoming service interruptions or outages, please visit [the Facilities home page](#).

For package delivery, address packages to:  
  
YOUR NAME, DEPARTMENT  
Colorado College  
819 N. Tejon St.  
Colorado Springs, CO 80903  
  
And add a note in the delivery instructions to read:  
"Deliver to the College Mail Center during Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m."

# Upcoming Events

- Oct. 9, 2025 3-4:00 p.m.**  
[Work of the College:](#) Mental Health Strategic Plan Games Common Room
- Oct. 17, 2025 8:15-10:00 a.m.**  
Finance & Administration All Staff Mtg  
South Hall Commons (**NOT BEMIS THIS TIME**)
- Oct. 20, 2025 1:45-2:15 p.m. and 2:30-3:00 p.m.**  
Skip Level Meetings with President Manya Whitaker  
Gaylord Hall, Worner Center  
Sign-up with Michelle Beckmann, x6693
- Oct. 21, 2025 3-4:00 p.m.**  
[Work of the College:](#) Institutional Financial Planning  
South Hall Commons
- Oct. 28, 2025 3-4:00 p.m.**  
[Work of the College:](#) All Funds Budgeting Model  
Tutt Library, Timothy Fuller Event Space
- Nov. 6-8, 2025**  
Fall Board of Trustees Meeting  
Colorado Springs
- Nov. 8, 2025 11-12:30 p.m.**  
Dr. Manya Whitaker Inauguration Ceremony  
Cornerstone, Celeste Theatre
- Nov. 13, 2025 8:30-10:00 a.m.**  
In The Loop  
Cornerstone, Celeste Theatre
- Nov. 18, 2025 1-2:00 p.m.**  
[Work of the College:](#) Board of Trustees Town Hall  
Virtual
- 

**Nov. 24-28, 2025**  
FALL BREAK
- Dec. 5-6, 2025**  
CC Arts & Crafts Fair  
Worner
- Dec. 10, 2025 3-4:00 p.m.**  
[Work of the College:](#) Institutional Assessment and College Review  
Gaylor Hall
- Dec. 14, 2025 1-2:00 p.m.**  
Winter Commencement  
Shove Chapel
- 

**Dec. 22, 2025-Jan. 2, 2026**  
WINTER BREAK

# KUDOS!!

“Many thanks to **JEN KEEFER** and **DAVID REDINGER** (Finance) for assisting in the Accounts Payable process while this position is in transition. With their help, guidance, and training, payments have continued without interruption. Their willingness, expertise and patience is greatly appreciated!”

“**CHRISTIAN VOLCIC** and **JEN KEEFER** (Finance), Wow—I can’t express enough how much I appreciate these two incredible individuals. Christian and Jen do so much behind the scenes, and their hard work often goes unseen, which means it doesn’t get thanked nearly enough. But let me be clear: what they do matters, and it makes a huge difference.” ~*Debi O’Connor*

“**CHEYENNE FETSCH** (Human Resources), thank you for helping me with all my set-up idiosyncrasies when I first started in June! I imagined you might have been thinking, ‘Oh no! Not Michelle again!’ But if that’s how you felt you never let it show. <3 I really appreciate you! ~*Michelle Beckmann*

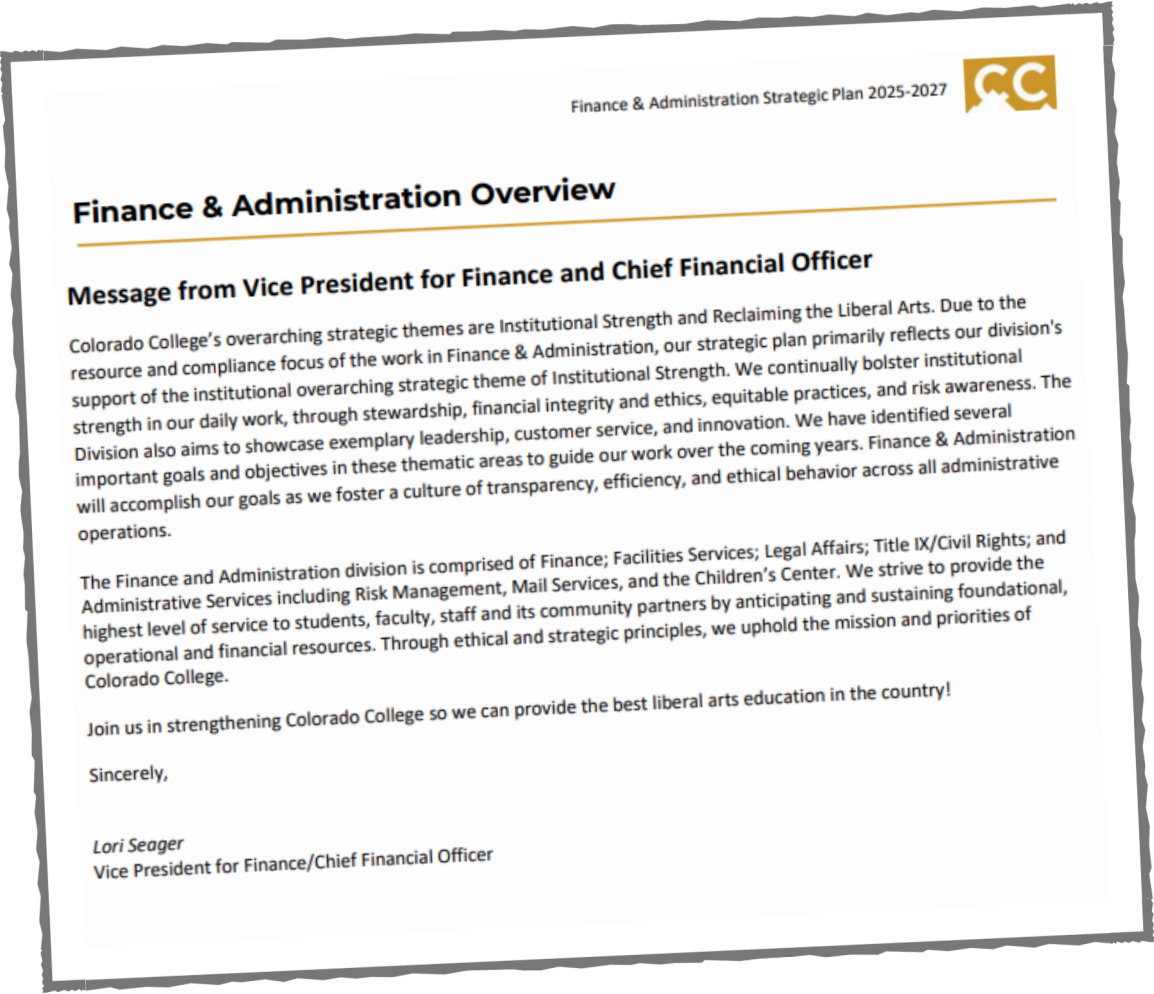
“A heartfelt shoutout to our incredible HR coordinators **CHEYENNE FETCH**, **KENDRA MERCHANT**, **AND MICHELE MITCHELL** for the amazing work they do every day. Since joining CC, this group has formed a truly special bond—it’s inspiring to see how supportive they are of one another and of our greater campus community. Their teamwork, positivity, and dedication have not only strengthened our HR operations but also helped move important processes forward, making things smoother and more efficient for everyone. Thank you all for the energy, care, and effort you bring to your work. You are an essential part of what makes CC a great place to be!” ~*Debi O’Connor*

“A big thank you to **MIKE STARR** (Facilities) for his steady leadership and heartfelt support of his team during a particularly demanding time. His team plays a critical role in supporting the campus, and the volume of work they handle is truly impressive.” ~*Debi O’Connor*

**Keep the recognition coming!**  
[Use this link](#) anytime you’d like to add a KUDOS to the next newsletter, or just send a note to [Kim Foster](#) x6764 or [Michelle Beckmann](#) x6693.

# Divisional Strategic Plan: Finance & Administration

The [Strategic Plan for Colorado College](#) was updated August 2025. Below is the intro letter from Lori Seager for the Finance & Administration Divisional Strategic Plan, as well as the five overarching strategic themes that guide our work. To read more about Divisional strategic plans, click the link above and scroll to the bottom of the page for each division. *Please see the next page for the Human Resources strategic plan highlights.*



## Finance & Administration Strategic Themes

Financial Stewardship and  
Ethical Behavior

Risk Awareness

Equitable Resource Allocation  
and Business Practices

Exemplary Leadership and  
Customer Service

Innovation

*This is the quarterly newsletter of the Finance & Administration Division. This is YOUR newsletter.  
Please send content and suggestions to Kim Foster (x6764) or Michelle Beckmann (x6693).*

# Strategic Plan: Human Resources

The [Strategic Plan for Colorado College](#) was updated August 2025. Below is the intro letter from Ryan Simmons for the Human Resources Strategic Plan, as well as the three overarching strategic themes that guide our work. To read more about divisional strategic plans, click the link above and scroll to the bottom of the page for each division.



## Human Resources Strategic Themes

Thriving Community  
(Culture and Campus Climate)

Invest in our People

Strengthen HR Capacity

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