

# IT STARTS WITH ORIGINALITY

*A Message from the President and  
Chair of the Board of Trustees*

## DEAR FRIENDS,

Homecoming at CC is always a special time and this year that was especially true. During the excitement of dedicating the renovated Charles L. Tutt Library, we also announced *Building on Originality: The Campaign for Colorado College*. We launched this \$435 million fundraising initiative, the largest ever undertaken by the college, because we believe that Colorado College offers an unparalleled liberal arts education, one that is more relevant than ever.

We're calling the campaign *Building on Originality* because we're investing in our People, Place, and Program – all of which are characteristically original. The CC community is strongest when we're all involved. Accomplishing our goals for the college through this campaign will require broad and consistent support from alumni, parents, and friends – a group that we are certain shares our ambitions for Colorado College's future.

### PEOPLE

During this year's Scholarship Luncheon at Homecoming, we heard from **Alana Aamodt '18**. She spoke about how a scholarship opened the college's doors to her and how it opened up myriad opportunities after she enrolled. Alana is majoring in physics and minoring in studio art, leading CC's club for Women in STEM and trips through the Outdoor Recreation Center, and participating in intramural athletics.

Alana has also leveraged additional financial awards to enhance her CC experience. She applied for and received a Ritt Kellogg Expedition Grant that led to a 16-day, 400-mile canoe trip through the Yukon with three other

students. Last year, she was able to explore her innovative idea for toy design through a Keller Family Venture Grant. Alana plans to continue the project by applying for the college's annual Big Idea competition.

"One scholarship tipped the scales, making it feasible for me to come here," she says. "After that, anything seemed possible."

Alana's story parallels the paths of many CC students, who come to Colorado College and challenge themselves to learn more and do more. They are the reason we have established a \$100 million goal to create 180 new scholarships.

We're pleased that alumni like **Will Smith '74** are leading this charge. In 2015, Will initiated the Colorado College Endowed Scholarship 101 Challenge with a \$10 million commitment to establish or enhance 100 scholarship endowments in addition to his own.

You can read more about Will and the scholarship challenge on page 8.

### PLACE

Our recent alliance with the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College is enhancing the learning opportunities created by our unique place in the Rocky Mountain West. The alliance became official in July 2017 and, in 2020, the FAC's assets will transfer to the college as a gift valued at more than \$175 million — which is the second-largest gift received by a liberal arts college.

Our strategic plan for the FAC focuses on excellence, access, and collaboration, and our goal is to realize the potential of a dynamic arts center and an innovative liberal arts college to discover powerful new directions in the arts.

We're already making great progress. Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Artist in Residence Raven Chacon is co-teaching a class on song, poetry, and performance in the Southwest with Colorado College Professor of Music Victoria Levine and Associate Professor of Spanish and Portuguese Carrie Ruiz. This fall, the FAC opened a new classroom gallery in the museum to support hands-on teaching and learning: so far, the UnBlocked gallery has hosted student examinations of the work of Rembrandt, in conjunction with the Everyday Extraordinary show, and an exhibit curated by first-year students taking an Introduction to Art History course.

Additionally, the FAC recently announced reduced admission rates, expanded hours, and increased discounts to provide greater access for the Colorado Springs community. The changes come during a time when access to and funding for the arts nationally are increasingly stressed.

To support the goals set forth in the strategic plan for the FAC, we are seeking additional investment through the campaign to increase the FAC endowment to \$45 million.

## PROGRAM

CC's innovative Block Plan will turn 50 in 2020, and we are continuing to invest in its potential. One significant investment is the completion of the first-ever library explicitly built for the Block Plan. The renovated Charles L. Tutt Library, made possible in part from generous gifts totaling nearly \$20 million, was formally dedicated during Homecoming Weekend and has been receiving rave reviews from students, faculty, staff, and alumni.

This new library supports the rhythm of the Block Plan, accommodating students by providing them with tools, expert instruction, and access to information in a flexible, inviting space. In this hub for academic support

services, students develop their liberal arts skills through collaborative learning and quiet study. Laboratories for geographic information systems (GIS) and data visualization, a dedicated area for technology support, and space for exploring virtual caves make an incredible array of technology and instruction available and accessible to students and faculty.

The renovation also allowed us to create the largest carbon-neutral, net-zero energy academic library in the United States. The National Association of College and University Business Officers recently recognized Tutt Library's renovation with their 2017 innovation award.

Innovation is in our DNA. So, we are planning to build a new facility to better support the changemakers that CC has always attracted. To date, we have received more than \$6 million for this project, which will total \$15 million. Through the campaign, we're raising \$40 million to innovate innovation in higher education and enhance the quality of the Colorado College experience.

## REALIZING OUR GREAT POTENTIAL

Our vision is for Colorado College to lead among the nation's best liberal arts colleges, continuing to draw bold, trailblazing people, with a program and a location unlike any other. Many members of the CC community are helping us realize our potential, and we need you to help spread the word about the campaign and encourage others to get involved.

Thank you for your support, and all you are doing to make originality thrive!

Sincerely,



**JILL TIEFENTHALER**  
President



**SUSAN S. BURGHART '77**  
Chair, Board of Trustees