Dear Friends,

Colorado College has completed another great year. In this report, we are happy to share with you the successes of our fiscal year completed on June 30. Our accomplishments are resulting in a brighter, bolder, even better CC.

The college experienced another record year for applications — 8,064 — resulting in a 17 percent acceptance rate for the class of 2019. CC was ranked first by U.S. News & World Report as the “Most Innovative School” among national liberal arts colleges and cited as the third “Most Entrepreneurial College in America” by Forbes. We hosted our first-ever national Symposium on Field Study July 8–11.

The symposium, which included nearly 60 faculty members from every region of the country, served as a forum for ideas about teaching and learning in the field — practices centrally important to our Block Plan that position CC as a leader in experiential education. This fall, CC joined a group of 80 colleges that comprise the Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success — a new effort focused on changing the way students apply to college.

The college also completed the Walton Family Foundation challenge to raise $20 million in endowed scholarships for high-need and first-generation college students. We finished the challenge ahead of schedule and, thanks to the generosity of many donors, established 56 new endowed scholarships for CC students.

“The Colorado College Plan: Building on the Block” — our strategic plan — drove each of these outcomes. Implementing the plan builds on our strengths, and our growing record of success is leading us to achieve our mission of providing “the finest liberal arts education in the country.”

With our plan as our guide, this year we are focusing on these priorities: scholarships; our library renovation; innovation; and annual giving and philanthropic participation.

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

We are pressing forward with increased emphasis on raising funds for scholarships so Colorado College can admit students based on talent and promise, not ability to pay tuition. At the end of the fiscal year, an anonymous donor committed $10 million through estate plans to establish the Colorado College Endowed Scholarship Challenge 101. Each time a new scholarship endowment is established or an existing endowment is enhanced by $100,000 or more, the donor will commit another $100,000 to CC scholarships. Altogether, we anticipate raising at least $20 million through the challenge.

Securing these endowed funds is part of an overall $80 million fundraising goal that will create 160 new scholarships and move the college one-third of the way closer to becoming a need-blind institution that can compete for the best students from all backgrounds.

**LIBRARY RENOVATION**

More scholarships make CC more accessible, and a reimagined library will enrich students’ experiences once they’re enrolled. The library has not been renovated since its construction in 1962, eight years before the inception of the Block Plan. A library built for the Block Plan means we will provide our students, faculty, and
staff with a space that complements the collaborative learning style, rhythms, and technology needs that distinguish the block. Inside, the building will feature group and private study areas that are accessible 24 hours per day, and technology that supports the needs of our faculty and students as they work on campus, across the globe, and in the field. The new library will be filled with comfortable spaces in a sustainable building with sufficient seating capacity for high-demand times throughout the block. Our plans call for a facility with abundant natural light and windows that provide Colorado views. The new library will include multiple outdoor spaces, a fourth floor deck with views to the west and a terrace adjacent to the library’s new café. Together, these elements make this a library for the Block Plan.

The renovation will be the most ambitious capital project at the college in more than 50 years. To break ground as planned, right after our May 2016 Commencement, we must raise an additional $6 million by the end of the academic year and another $7 million to meet our fundraising goal.

**INNOVATION**

Innovation begins with bringing together curricular and co-curricular programming to enhance the already adventurous character of the Colorado College community. In addition to programming, we will create a new space for inquisitive minds to tinker and create, fail, and try again. In September, the college launched an “Innovator-in-Residence” program. Two well-known innovators — Michael Hannigan ’75, founder and former CEO of the Pikes Peak Community Foundation; and Aaron Kahlow, founder and former CEO of the Online Marketing Institute — are our first resident innovators. Kahlow, who was at the college from Sept. 28 through Oct. 30, partnered with academic departments and the Career Center to teach a multisession digital marketing crash course. Hannigan is with us until Jan. 14, meeting with students on Innovation Thursdays, and in one-on-one and small group sessions. During Half Block, he will co-teach a course on start-ups with Patrick Bultema, executive director of Innovation@CC.

**ANNUAL GIVING AND PHILANTHROPIC PARTICIPATION**

The strategic plan recommendations were developed with broad input from the entire CC community. The college’s ongoing success depends on involvement and philanthropy from all corners — alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends of the college — to achieve the plan’s goals.

Our goals for Colorado College are ambitious. This is our time! It is only with the commitment of our community, and the funding required to bring our goals to life, that the college will achieve its mission. We are grateful for your partnership.

Sincerely,

JILL TIEFENTHALER
President

EBEN S. MOULTON ’68
Chair, Board of Trustees