



March 23, 2018

Summer Strategic Plan Project: Final Recommendations

One of the Colorado College's strategic goals is to, "build a nationally recognized summer program for a new generation of learners," so to support CC's broader mission of providing the finest liberal arts education in the country. In hopes of achieving this goal, the members of the Summer Strategic Plan Project team have looked inward to fine-tune operational efficiencies during the summer months and proposed signature academic supports that will garner attention from external stakeholders.

Ultimately, it is beyond the scope of this report to be inclusive of all considerations related to better institutional utilization of the summer months (notably, the issue of resources – both human and financial – required to engage in these recommendations). However, the intention of the following recommendations is to serve as a foundation for updating the summer program strategic plan that is informed by the academic needs of students, the campus commitment to inclusive excellence, and the responsible stewardship of the institution's facilities over the summer months.

Working in concert, the following recommendations will make Colorado College's unique summer program a model of effective utilization of summer months at a liberal arts institution and will move forward cross-campus goals of ensuring student access, retention, persistence, and thriving.

### *Recommendations*

1. Utilize summer blocks to intentionally address bottleneck courses and provide extended formats allowing for STEM and language course mastery.
  - a. Incentivize departments/programs with high-demand courses to develop intentional course rotations where bottleneck courses are regularly offered in the summer session and/or students are required to attend one summer course as part of their degree progress.
  - b. Institutionalize extended-session sections of courses that benefit from an additional week of class time (e.g. organic chemistry, foreign language)
    - i. Develop extended format course structure that accommodates summer employment, e.g. night classes.
2. Expand Half Block offerings (credit and non-credit) to the summer months.
  - a. Credit
    - i. Create thematic linkages between NSO programming, January Half Block, Summer Half Block to provide more holistic learning and preparation for first year students' transition to sophomore year
    - ii. Offer competency-based adjunct courses or intensive bootcamps to support academic and professional readiness
  - b. Non-Credit



- i. Provide funding to develop high-profile non-credit experiential opportunities
      - ii. Provide sophomore-specific advising and degree check-in
      - iii. Develop sophomore-year skill building program
    - c. Offer staff/faculty scholarship & research retreats
      - i. Combine concepts of academic rejuvenation with cross-campus collaboration, e.g. I<sup>2</sup> Inclusion Institutes
      - ii. Utilize Baca Campus for faculty/staff retreats ranging from mindfulness to manuscript workshops
  3. Arrange cross-departmental committee to coordinate summer programming, avoid redundant efforts, enhance community and civic engagement with Colorado Springs community, and raise institutional priorities that should be addressed in the summer months.
    - a. Proposed cross-departmental committee would operate in a collaborative, not governing, capacity and would include: Summer Session Committee, Director of International Programs, Director of Innovation, Career Center Director, Director of Outdoor Education, Director of The Butler Center, FAC Museum Director, AVP of Facilities Services
      - i. Recommended committee represents units specified in The Colorado College Plan: Building on the Block
  4. Develop a culture of research across disciplines through enhanced Summer Collaborative Research (SCoRe) and external research experiences for undergraduates that are interdisciplinary, accessible, visible, and transparent.
    - a. Develop more robust programming to expand faculty interaction with prospective research students
    - b. Create peer-to-peer networking database to support greater collaboration between students and student-mentors working on research projects

Summer Strategic Plan Project Team:

- Jim Burke  
Director of Summer Session
- Dr. Paul Buckley  
Assistant Vice President / Director of the  
Butler Center
- Inger Bull  
Director of International Programs
- Greg Capell  
Senior Associate Athletics Director
- Lisa Kosiewicz Doran  
International Student Specialist
- Megan Nicklaus  
Career Center Director
- Lisa Schwartz  
Student Collaborative Research Program  
Coordinator
- Gina Spiers  
Assistant Director, Summer Music Festival