

Report to the Community

Aims Community College

2010



Message from the President

In Colorado, education is experiencing major decreases in funding and leaders are working hard to determine how to brace for the inevitable.

This year, the state budget crisis led Aims to reduce our 2010-2011 operating expenses by more than \$2 million through planning, hard choices and sacrifices at every level. Even more alarming is that all indications show it will only get worse in the coming years. Up to this point, the state has been able to make up for most shortfalls in higher education funding by “backfilling” the budget with federal stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). But in 2011, there will be no more ARRA money and state funding will plummet. This situation is compounded by deficits at the local level. Projections anticipate a \$9.6 million decrease in revenues from our local taxing district in the coming year. As we prepare for these reductions, there is a vision that anchors us. It is the goal put forward by our Board of Trustees: “We must develop a budget that reflects the current economic situation and continue to provide our students with an outstanding and affordable education.”

We know that despite the erosion of our various funding sources, students continue to seek out the opportunities that Aims provides. Our enrollment has been increasing steadily over the past several years and, since 2007, our FTE has increased by 21 percent. While increased enrollment equates to an increase in revenue, there is no feasible

way for tuition to cover this tremendous loss of state and local support. Keeping tuition at an affordable rate is the strongest driving force to our overall mission. After all, what good is a community college that no one can afford?

We also know that, despite the overall economic slump, our community members continue to support the college in deeds and dollars. We are thrilled to announce that the Aims Foundation met its capital campaign goal. To us, this speaks a resounding “Yes!” from our community that we are doing what’s right. Foundation funds, complemented by outstanding college fiscal prudence, allow us to keep pace with state-of-the-art facilities along with current student needs and expectations. Aims is proud to boast of community support for the College Promise Scholarship, as well.

What we don’t know is how pending legislation may affect Aims. Political pundits are making their rounds, urging citizens to take notice of several items on the November ballot, specifically Amendments 60 and 61 and Proposition 101. We will watch and analyze these measures carefully and allow for their impact in college planning.

Nonetheless, it is not all doom and gloom. Aims continues to do great things. The following pages highlight our accomplishments this year. As always, we thank you for making our mission achievable through your continued support. We will continue to strive to meet your needs. We remain, as always, your community college.

Marsi Liddell
President

As always, we thank you for making our mission achievable through your continued support.



www.aims.edu ■ 970.330.8008

Aims Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

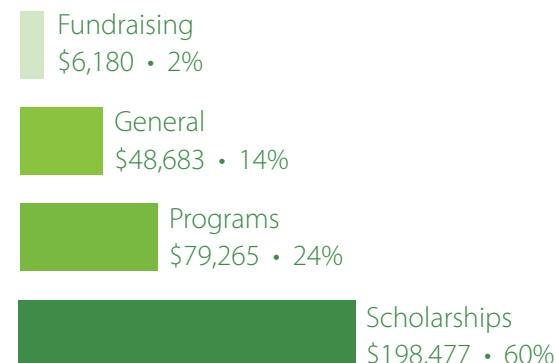
A Message *from the* Foundation

The Aims Foundation is pleased to report that the Building for Tomorrow Today capital campaign has exceeded its five-year \$4-million goal. This is an astounding accomplishment considering the difficult economy. The Foundation also increased scholarship support by almost \$45,000 over last year, while decreasing expenditures. Thank you! Your financial commitment to Aims through the Foundation has made an immediate impact on students and our

workforce. Your endorsement contributes to the bottom line of regional businesses and the well-being of our citizens throughout northern Colorado. It is wonderful to know that now, more than ever, students and our community members recognize the value of Aims Community College.

Julie Buderus
Executive Director
Aims Foundation

Private Gift Distribution



Honoring Valor

As a volunteer firefighter, Captain Shane Stewart was willing to sacrifice everything to help someone in dire need—whether it was a friend, a neighbor or a perfect stranger didn't matter. He was not paid to put his life on the line to help others, but he did whenever he was called.

Our community mourned—as did firefighters across the state and the country—when we lost this brave man who died in the line of duty, leaving behind a wife and two young boys. It's been more than two years, and with love and support from family, community and fellow firefighters, the Stewarts are healing.

Recently, his mother Jeanette Stewart and his widow, Cyndee Stewart, established the Captain Shane Stewart Memorial Scholarship Fund at Aims as a way to remember the fallen firefighter. Jeanette worked at Aims from 1987 to 2007 and Cyndee has been an Aims employee since 2000.

“The scholarship means that someone else can do what Shane loved to do as a firefighter and a first responder,” Jeanette said. “It was one of his passions.”

In the mid-90s Shane took classes at Aims in Automotive Technology. Cyndee remembers he was excited to return to Aims to receive additional training as a volunteer firefighter. “If Shane could have started over with a career, he probably would have gone into fire science. He loved being a volunteer firefighter so much,” she said. “Establishing this scholarship at Aims means a lot to our family. It's really a big circle. Aims provides a valuable education to our volunteer firefighters, who in turn serve the community.”

The scholarship fund is about two-thirds of the way to reaching the \$10,000 needed to establish an endowment. The first recipient was named this year. Kersey resident Kaleb Staley will receive \$500 to help defray the costs of attending the Fire Science program.

The scholarship is available to students pursuing careers in Fire Science and Emergency Medical Services at Aims. Shane served on the Ault-Pierce Fire Protection District, and preference is given to a graduate of Highland High School.

If you are interested in creating an annual or endowed scholarship please contact Julie Buderus at the Aims Foundation by telephone at (970) 339-6583 or by email at julie.buderus@aims.edu. Your contribution can change the lives of our students.

“The scholarship means that someone else can do what Shane loved to do as a firefighter and a first responder.”



The Stewarts, Cyndee, Jeanette, Logan and Blake are proud to offer a scholarship for Fire Science and Emergency Medical Services students at Aims in memory of their husband, son and father, Shane Stewart, who died in the line of duty in February 2008. Stewart was a Captain serving on the Ault-Pierce Fire Protection District.

Saving Initiatives

Faced with these difficult fiscal times, the college has implemented sweeping changes to reduce costs, while still ensuring that Aims continues with its mission to help students meet their goals.

As was widely reported by local media outlets earlier this year, the college announced it would close operations at several leased buildings to save approximately \$800,000 annually. Most of these services will be absorbed in existing college operations or potentially contracted out. Additionally, a 10-percent cut in discretionary operating costs will yield another \$600,000 in savings annually.

While the remaining construction obligations are being completed, the college has otherwise halted any other capital construction projects, including placing a moratorium on plans for the Berthoud campus.

Employee salaries have not increased in two years, and the college has implemented a soft freeze on hiring new positions and non-essential travel. Another source of savings comes from the decision to eliminate paper copies of the Aims schedules and catalogs. Students can now get all of this information online.

On top of all these measures, our fiscal prudence and board foresight has allowed us to secure a rainy day reserve, which will be dedicated to balancing the budget in the lean years predicted.

Green Scene

During the summer months, the college implemented a four 10-hour workweek to facilitate a hard close over the three-day weekend. The hard closes will continue throughout the year on Saturdays and Sundays, yielding a 10-percent savings in annual energy and utility bills.

The college has also received a New Energy Communities Initiative Grant through the Colorado Department of Local Affairs Energy/Mineral Assistance Program to re-commission mechanical and electrical systems in Ed Beaty Hall and the College Center to modify building controls and update to more efficient equipment.

A newly implemented single-stream recycling program will save thousands of dollars annually in addition to reducing the landfill waste stream. A pilot program, led by faculty, saved nearly a ton of material from going in to the landfill by encouraging students and employees to recycle their semester-end paperwork during finals week.

Each of these green initiatives is designed to save money, reduce greenhouse gases and the shrink the college's overall carbon footprint.

**Good for
the ledger,
good for
the Earth.**

ACCOUNT- ABILITY



Student-to-faculty ratio is lower than the national average at 16:1

Retention rates, across the college and in specific programs, are considerably higher than comparable institutions:

Emerging Scholars program:

75% retention rate

Student Support Services (TRIO) program:

75% retention rate

Aims has higher rates for graduation and transfer to a university than comparable institutions

Aims students who transfer to four-year universities earn higher GPAs, on average, than students who start at university

Aims received top reviews in assessment of student learning outcomes from a national accreditation team

Students earn eight times as many certificates at Aims than at comparable institutions

First class of Air Traffic Controller students graduated in May 2010



ACCESS



Enrollment is up 21% from 2007

Student demographics increasingly reflect the community



The College Center remodel is complete, creating a convenient one-stop shop for students

Scholarship applications have increased by 250% over last year

ACCLAIM

92.3% of Aims students would recommend Aims to a friend



The Windsor Automotive and Technology Center opened in January, expanding our base in the community and ensuring students of the most up-to-date equipment for training

New Green/Sustainable Building program launched

80% of Aims students stay in the community after graduation



AFFORDABILITY



Tuition, for residents of our taxing district, is the most affordable in the state



By attending Aims for their first two years of college, students can save enough money to pay for their junior year at a state university

58.3% of Aims students received financial aid in '09-'10, totaling more than \$19 million



2009-2010 GENERAL FUND

REVENUE*

Total Revenue
\$52,964,726

1.1%
Other revenue
\$561,000

4.7%
Fees & other charges
\$2,500,066

Total Revenue:
Anticipated to drop by nearly \$11 million in '10-'11 (approximately a 20% decrease).

Tuition & Fees:
Increased enrollment from '08-'09 to '09-'10 generated an additional \$1.3 million.

15.2%
Tuition
\$8,037,487

17.9%
State appropriation & ARRA
\$9,470,570

61.1%
General property taxes
\$32,395,603

General Property Taxes:
An unexpected increase from oil and gas in '09-'10, but projections show '10-'11 figures will drop by \$9.6 million.

State Appropriations & ARRA: Anticipated to drop by at least \$1.5 million in '10-'11. ARRA funds are gone in '11-'12. Senate Bill 003 requires institutions of higher education to report how each would handle a 50-percent cut in state funding for '11-'12 (\$4.5 million for Aims).

EXPENDITURES*

Total Expenditures
\$52,964,726

34.8%
Salaries, wages & benefits full-time
\$18,440,107

9.1%
Salaries, wages & benefits part-time
\$4,797,958

Operating Costs: '10-'11
Budget includes an 11% reduction from '09-'10.

16.8%
Operating Costs
\$8,899,033

32.9%
Mandatory/Nonmandatory transfers out
\$17,414,904

1.6% Institutional financial aid \$850,000

2.2% Capital outlay \$1,170,000

2.6% Operating reserve \$1,392,724

Salaries, Wages & Benefits: Relatively flat from '08-'09 through '10-'11. College remains on a soft hiring freeze and salary freeze. Employee reductions have resulted from attrition and programmatic changes, yet instructional expenses have increased due to increased enrollment trend.

Institutional Financial Aid: Increased by \$100,000 annually since '08-'09 as part of the college's mission to keep higher education affordable for our students.

