

Aims

Magazine

SPECIAL EDITION

Aims campus

CSU campus, Fort Collins, CO

Report *to the*
Community
2010-2011

Aims
Community College

The right choice at every step



Welcome to this special edition of Aims Magazine, which incorporates our Annual Report to the Community. In these pages you will find stories, facts and figures from this past year that exemplify what we are all about here at Aims and that is: Quality.

Quality programs are reflected in our recent accreditations and re-accreditations, including our recent re-accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission, the initial national accreditation of our Nursing program from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, and the re-accreditation of our Fire Science program.

Quality is also demonstrated by the civic mindfulness of our students and employees, who pioneer ways our community college gives back to those who support us. This is evidenced through our History Club's WWII Veterans Archive and our Accounting department's leading involvement in Tax Help Colorado, which netted nearly \$2 million back into the community.

Our governing board has continued to move Aims into the forefront of innovation as indicated by a Guaranteed Tuition pilot program you can read about on page 10.

In this special edition, we have also integrated the figures from our 2010-2011 Operating Budget, along with financial highlights from the Aims Foundation. These numbers tell the story of Quality as well, showing the extensive effort our employees have put forward to reduce overhead costs and maximize student success. While our funding from the state continues to decrease, our efforts to continuously improve have escalated. Additionally, Quality shines through the financial figures provided by our Foundation, where grassroot support shows that our work is truly appreciated by our community members.

We are always interested in hearing from you, so let us know how we're doing.

Again, I hope you enjoy reading about the Quality programs, services and employees here at Aims. Our success could not be possible without you, the community. Thank you!

Dr. Marilyn Liddell

President
Aims Community College

Aims Community College is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. For more information about Aims' accreditation, go to www.aims.edu and click on "About Aims" and then "Accreditation."

Aims Community College is an Equal Opportunity Institution. The College prohibits discrimination in its practices, programs, and activities on the basis of age, race, color, religion, creed, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, or disability and is committed to maintaining an environment free from sexual or other harassment and retaliation.



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On the cover: Hannah Larson dreams of becoming a veterinarian. She's already taken the first steps toward achieving her goal by coming to Aims first. She graduated with honors from Aims and is ready to start at Colorado State University this fall as a junior. Read her story on pages 8 & 9.

Cover photo of CSU campus provided by Colorado State University and used with written consent from Colorado State University.



The right choice at every step
www.aims.edu
www.facebook.com/aimsfan

Serving Up Quality

Accreditation, graduates show impact of Aims programs



Students come to Aims Community College for many different reasons. It could be the low tuition. It could be the proximity to home. Might just be one of the more than 160 degree and certificate programs.

But when students leave Aims, the memories are often about the excellent experiences they had in the classroom and the quality education they received.

“Keeping tuition affordable and offering many programs to meet the needs of our students will always be a part of who we are,” said Aims Chief Academic Officer Donna Souther. “But our priority is ensuring the quality of our programs, faculty and curriculum so we continue to be—not just the best value in the state—but the best overall.”

Accreditation

While Aims tracks the quality of programs internally, through student satisfaction surveys and reports from local industry regarding the quality of our graduates, outside agencies also have oversight into making sure Aims is doing what it needs to do through accreditation.

Aims’ accrediting body is the North Central Association of the Higher Learning Commission. Earlier this year, Aims received word of its re-accreditation with the HLC through the 2017-18 school year. This continuing process of oversight is called the Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP).

AQIP infuses the principles and benefits of continuous improvement into the culture of colleges and universities. Schools are required to demonstrate that they meet accreditation standards and expectations through sequences of events that align with those ongoing activities that characterize organizations striving to improve their performance.

What all that means is that Aims works constantly to improve the college in a number of different areas, especially in student learning. No resting on laurels at Aims.

On top of the College’s accreditation, many of the programs on campus are additionally overseen to adhere to national and state standards through other accreditations. Those programs include:

Nursing

Nurse Aide

EMS-Paramedic

Surgical Technology

Police (Peace Officer) Academy

Fire Science

Aviation





Data-driven decisions

Aims Community College graduates are the best proof of the quality of Aims programs. It is difficult to go out in the community and not work with someone who came through Aims. Nearly 1,800 degree and certificates were awarded in 2011.

And those graduates go on to great things. For example, 81 percent of Aims students who go on to take the EMT-Basic National Registry test pass it on their first attempt, compared to the national average of 66 percent. An amazing 90 percent of Aims students who take the EMT-Paramedic National Registry test pass on the first try. The national average is 68 percent.

Another great example is our nursing program where every single graduate from the 2010 graduation was able to find a job in the field and employer satisfaction rate with those Aims grads is 100 percent, according to Nina Kirk, who heads up the Aims Nursing Program. This exceptional quality was recently reinforced with the initial accreditation from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.

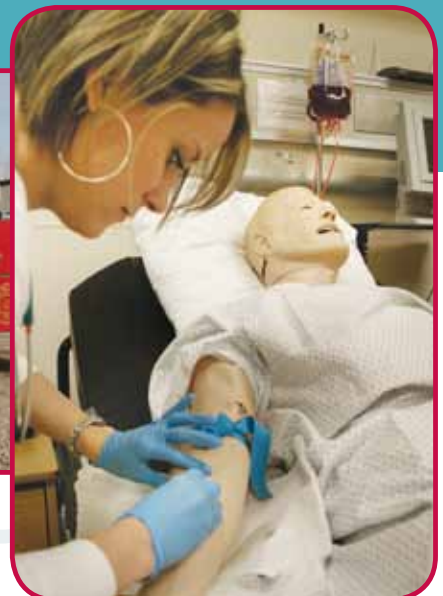
This year, 31 Aims Police Academy graduates took the Police Officer Selection Test (POST) and 30 of them passed

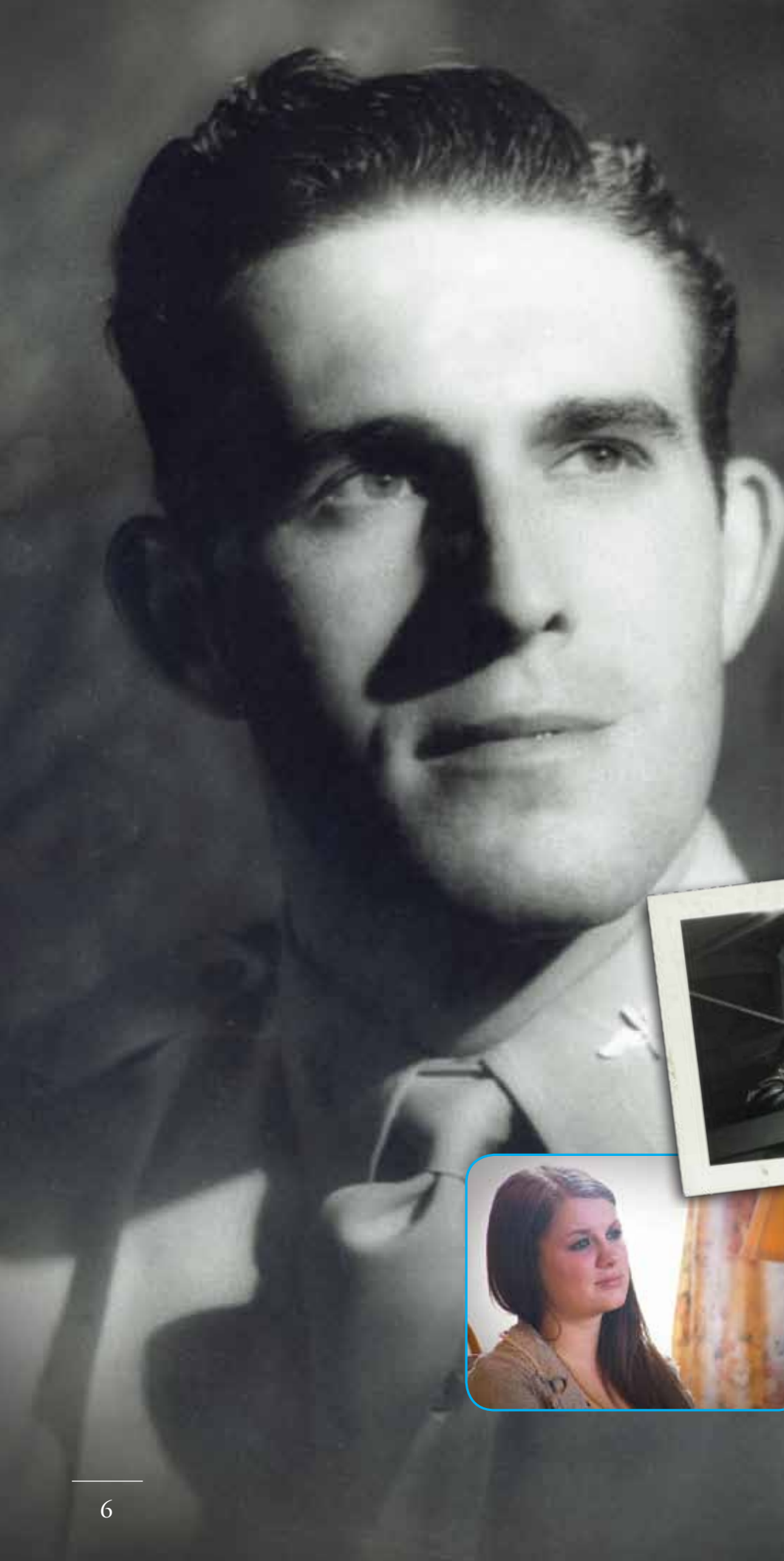
with an average score of 84.6 percent. The national average on POST is 70 percent.

“We see these kinds of results throughout the college,” Souther said. “Aims faculty are not satisfied with just giving the students what they need. They also want our graduates to be the best. That is reflected in these numbers.”

One of the fastest growing areas of the College is developmental education, where students who come to Aims without the skills needed for college-level academics are brought up to that level. To help these students succeed, Aims launched the Emerging Scholars program, which provides extra assistance, tutoring and mentoring for these students. In the first year, students in the program were retained from Fall to Spring at a 76.8-percent rate compared to 58.6 percent who were not in the program.

“Statewide and nationally, elected officials are all talking about completers—students who complete their degree or certificate at Aims,” Souther said. “We are proud of our completers, but we are just as proud of our students who are sticking with college when they might have given up in the past. It all comes down to the impressive quality of our programs. I can’t say enough about them.”





Greeley resident Don Carlisle is one of the local veterans the Aims History Club interviewed for their WWII Veterans Archives. He served in the U.S. Army Infantry from 1938 to 1941, the Air Force from 1942 to 1945, then served 17 years in the Reserve. Carlisle said he enjoyed meeting with the Aims students and faculty and sharing his experiences. "You have to stay focused on the question or you drift off to some auxiliary conversation," he said. "I have memories from the war all the time. They emerge like a bubble out of water."



"I'm just thankful for what they've done, thankful that they share it, knowing how hard it would be to relive some of those details."

Tori LeValley
Treasurer, Aims History Club



Preserving *Living* History

By Professor Clint Heiner

They do it not because they have no lives, or because they are not busy with school, work and family and social obligations. They do it not to make their lives busier and more complicated, and they certainly do not do it for the money, in fact, they probably end up spending a little. But they do it because they care, because it matters, and because in a lot of ways they see a mirror of who they are, and possibly even capture a glimpse of what America once was, and maybe, just maybe, if they are lucky, they get to witness something that has been arguably lost, but should never be forgotten.

Who are they and what did they do? They are a group of Aims students and faculty who have decided to create a WWII Veterans Archive here at Aims whose main purposes are to bring about greater awareness of the contributions and legacies of the Greatest Generation (Americans born before 1945), while also preserving the past. Most importantly of all, however, they do it because they are humbled and honored by the contributions and sacrifices made by many American WWII Veterans and many members of the Greatest Generation in general.

So, you ask, what is it that they do? Well, they (Giovanni Cerenil, Clint Heiner, Tori LeValley, Eli Dicks, and others) who are members of the Aims History Association, faculty and students at Aims Community College, go out into the community on the weekends seeking out WWII Veterans and other members of the Greatest Generation. Once they are located, the group goes to their

homes and conducts audio- and video-recorded interviews with the veterans. The central goal of the Aims History Association's WWII Veterans History Archive Project is twofold: (1) Document and record the contributions and experiences of the Greatest Generation, and (2) Preserve the past. Sometimes it can be work, but overall the experience has been invaluable to the entire group, and most

importantly it gives Aims a chance to give back to the community, especially a group of Americans as patriotic and as special as the Greatest Generation.

So far, about twenty interviews have been conducted and recorded from WWII Veterans from all over Greeley and Weld County. When the archive is complete (it will be ongoing for years to come) it will be placed in the Aims Kiefer Library in order for the public and academics to access it for purposes of research, publication, family histories, local history, genealogy, and just to bring more awareness of the contributions of the Greatest Generation.

Oh That Greatest Generation! If you love and respect them like we do, please, do not hesitate to contact Aims History Professor Clint Heiner at clint.heiner@aims.edu if you know a WWII Vet or a member of the Greatest Generation who would like to be interviewed and become part of the archive. Eventually, we would love to send all of our entries to the National Archive in Washington D.C. as part of their larger project so that our local heroes from WWII and the Greatest Generation will be recognized nationally and never be forgotten.



Betty & Don Carlisle with members of the Aims History Club.



Aims | Guaranteed Transfer

There are 75 dairy goats on Hannah Larson's family's farm and she knows all of their names. Her family milks them and shows them nationally, and it is a huge part of her life. When she had to make the tough decision to euthanize her favorite goat, Larson said the experience solidified everything she'd ever thought about her career aspirations.

"I have always been interested in the medical field," Larson said. "That day I made the call to put my favorite goat down, well, I knew then that I wanted to have the knowledge to relieve the suffering when I could and the ability to stop it altogether when that was necessary."

To fulfill her goal of becoming a veterinarian, Larson started her educational journey at Aims. She earned her associate degree and is now ready to start as a junior at Colorado State University—earning several scholarships along the way, including the esteemed Griffin Foundation award, which provides \$5,000 per semester and is renewable for up to two academic years.

Because Aims is fully accredited and part of the state's guaranteed transfer program, Larson will be transferring nearly all of the credits she earned at Aims. "I took a class without approval from my advisor, and it turns out that that won't transfer, but out of 79 credits, CSU is taking 73," she said. "That's a really big deal."

Larson said she chose to come to Aims first because of the college's affordability, small class sizes and outstanding academic reputation. "I knew I'd be coming to Aims and I'm glad I did," she said, adding that in addition to her coursework, she's learned about independence, responsibility, group dynamics and deadlines—much of which she wasn't exposed to as a home-schooled child.

"I make a point of letting the instructors know who I am, and they are really willing to work with me," she said. "They've been helpful in writing letters for me to earn my scholarships. Knowing that you have so many people on your side and really pulling for you has been so helpful for me."

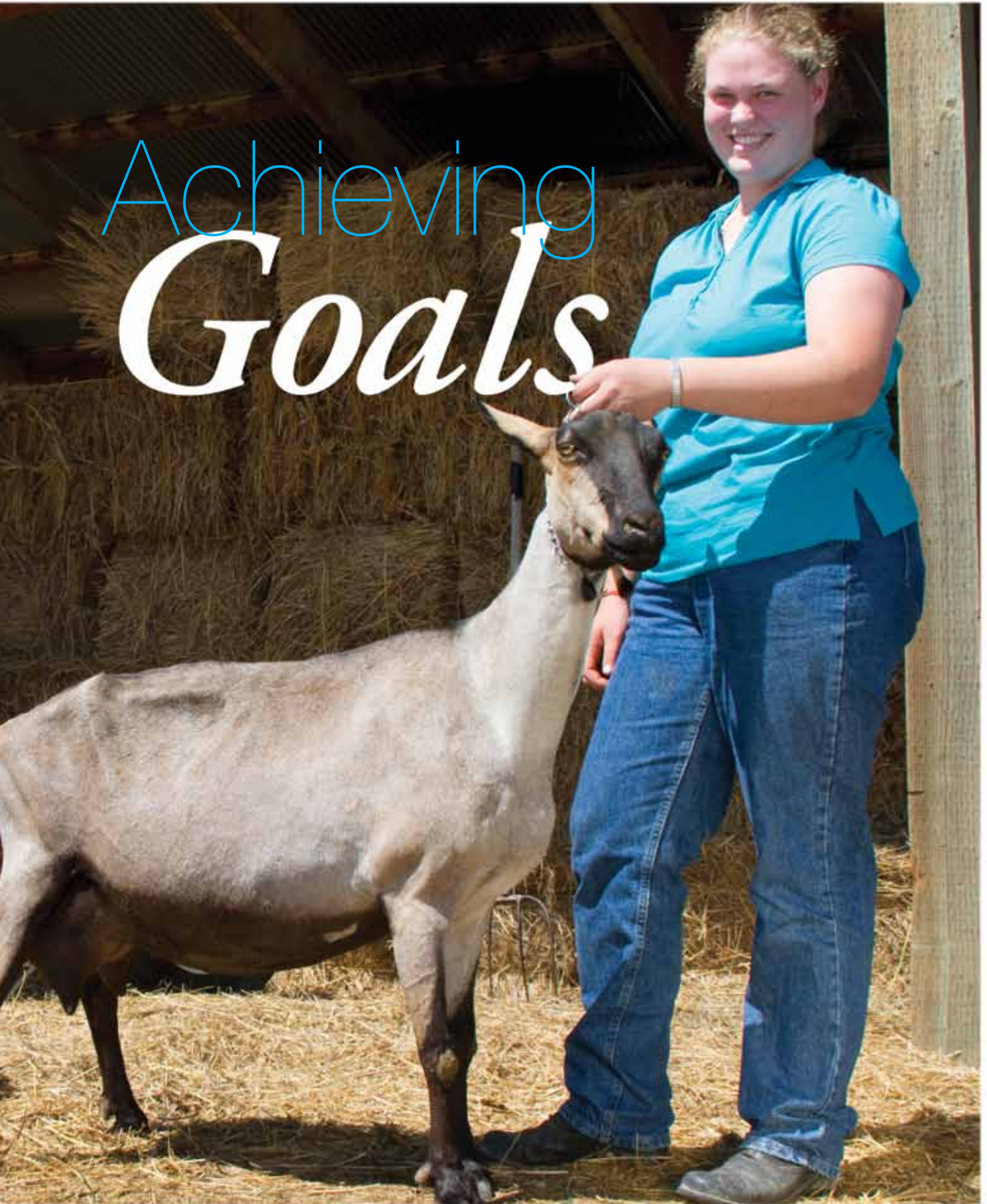
GT Pathways

Aims is part of the statewide guaranteed transfer program where students who complete an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science degree are guaranteed to transfer 60 credit hours to a four-year school once they are accepted for admission to that specific college or university. That means most students are guaranteed to enter the four-year schools as a junior, with only another 60 credits to earn to complete their bachelor's degree.

For more information about the state's guaranteed transfer program, go to: <http://higher.ed.colorado.gov/Academics/Transfers/gtPathways/>



Achieving *Goals*



Guaranteed Tuition Rebate Program

Tired of rising tuition costs? Want to be able to plan out how much your two-year degree will cost?

We hear that a lot. At Aims Community College, we listened and that's why we created the Guaranteed Tuition Rebate Program.

In a nutshell (read the details below), new students will be reimbursed for any tuition increase they may have to pay over their two years upon graduation. How's that for a deal?

Guidelines to Qualify:

- 1 Only for New* Degree-seeking students.
- 2 Must be classified by the Aims Admissions and Records office as an In-District student at time of graduation.
- 3 Must graduate with a degree within six consecutive semesters of beginning the program. Program will run from Summer semester of 2011 through Summer semester of 2013. The student must complete all course work for a degree and be eligible to graduate within this limited period (summer 2011 to summer 2013). See below.
- 4 Students will only be reimbursed at the in-district rate in effect at the time they began their program.
- 5 New in-district students who transfer in credits from other institutions are eligible.
- 6 Students will have three months after graduating to apply for the rebate.
- 7 DOES NOT include fees. All changes in general & course fees during the program period will be charged to the student (i.e. no flat rate for fees).

PROGRAM STARTING AND ENDING DATES:

Starting Semester	Must Obtain Degree By
Summer 2011	Spring 2013
Fall 2011	Summer 2013
After Fall 2011	Summer 2013

*New is defined as a student who has never attended Aims prior to Summer of 2011. An exception will be given to those students who attended prior to summer of 2011 by taking only "Concurrent High School Enrollment" or non-credit classes at Aims (example: GED, ESL, court mandated parenting classes, College for Kids, CED).

Your tuition ... Guaranteed

It used to be that the only two things you could be certain about were death and taxes. In the last few years, however, increasing tuition prices for college seemed to be almost as certain.

But a recent move by the Aims Community College Board of Trustees will go a long way to ensuring Aims students who graduate in the next two years won't have to worry about how much tuition goes up.

"We understand the struggles of financial planning and we want to make it easy for them to make their college dream a reality."

"Aims tuition has increased at a small fraction of other colleges, but every increase impacts students," said Board Member Mike Geile. "We wanted to take the financial guesswork out of planning for college."

The Guaranteed Tuition Rebate Program was implemented this fall. Any new student starting this summer (or high school students who had taken some Aims classes before but are new full-time at Aims), will have their tuition locked in as long as they graduate within two years (six consecutive semesters: fall, spring and summer).

Students will still pay for the increases through their time at Aims, but if they meet all the requirements of this pilot program, they can apply for a rebate of any increased tuition of the in-district rate they had to pay over that time.

"Aims has always worked hard to keep tuition as low as possible," said Aims Chief Financial Officer Michael Kelly. "With this pilot program, we are showing students we understand the struggles of financial planning and we want to make it easy for them to make their college dream a reality."

For all the details about the Guaranteed Tuition Rebate Program, go to www.aims.edu/student/cashier/guaranteed-tuition.

Money in Your Pocket

One way Aims gives back to the community is through collaborations with organizations such as the Denver-based Piton Foundation. Three years ago, representatives from the Piton Foundation asked if Aims would be interested in participating in the Tax Help Colorado program, which provides free tax return assistance to people who earn less than \$50,000.

Accounting Instructor Gina Jones stepped forward, and the program has grown tremendously in the past three years.

“This is a great program for our accounting students. They learn tax law, earn credits, give back to the community and have some solid practical experience they can put on their resume,” Jones said. The students take the tax law class in the fall, and in the spring they earn one credit for volunteering to prepare taxes during the Tax Help program offered during the spring semester.

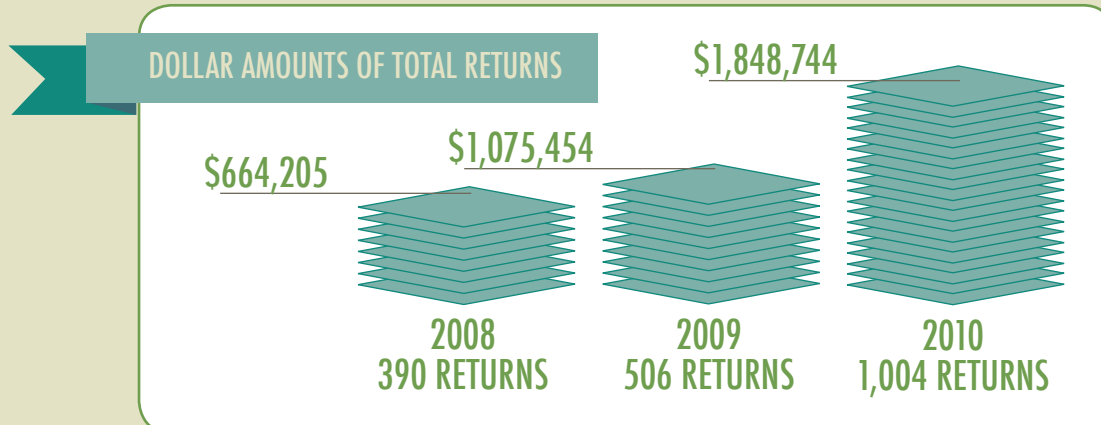


“One of my students earned a significant scholarship from Regis University,” Jones said. “With everything being so competitive these days, I know that her volunteer time put her over the top and helped her win it. They look at more than just grades. They look at community service too, and I know that Tax Help has really helped people get jobs.”

As for the people who take advantage of the free service, Jones said they are extremely grateful to be able to keep a few hundred dollars in their own pockets. “An extra \$200 can make the difference between groceries or not, or diapers or rent.”

“We’re very grateful to Aims Community College for taking the chance to join Tax Help Colorado as one of the first colleges in the program,” said Diane DiGiacomo, director of communications for The Piton Foundation. “I think it’s impressive that after just three years Aims is helping over 1,000 low-income taxpayers a year file their tax returns for free through tax sites at its Greeley and Fort Lupton campuses. That’s nearly \$2 million into the pockets of hard-working families and the local economy.”

INCREASING RETURNS





Aims Community College holds a special place in my heart. In the early 1990s I attended Aims and graduated in 1994. I enjoyed every minute of my time at Aims. The courses offered were just what I needed. The teachers were very involved with the students and very willing to go the

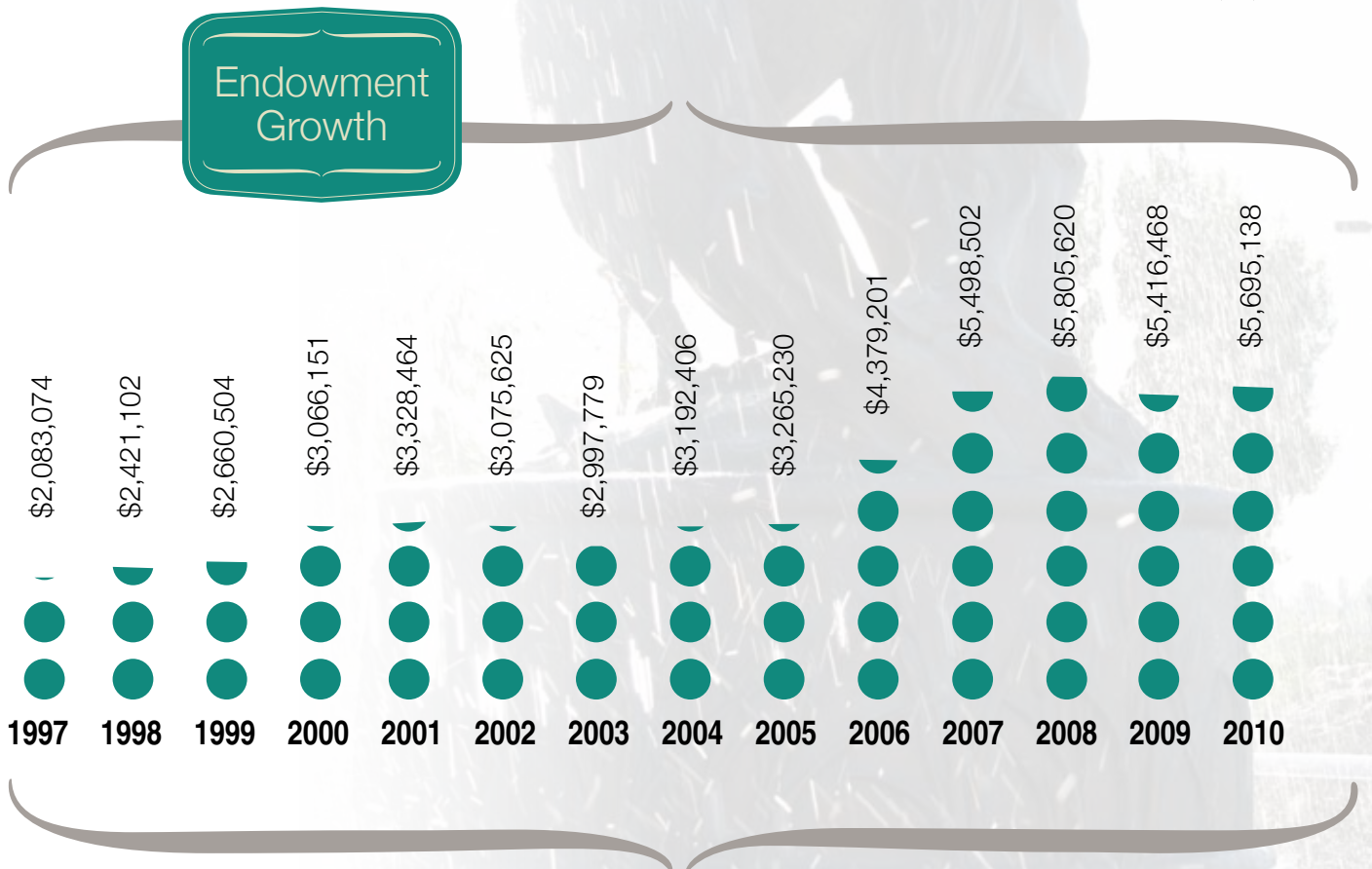
extra mile to help each student learn. It was so good for our children to watch their mother faithfully attending classes and finding time to do homework! As the years have gone by, I have carefully evaluated how I choose to spend my time. Aims Community College is high on my

priority list. I have watched it grow in ways that make it an invaluable asset to Greeley, Loveland, Windsor and Fort Lupton. Two areas in particular highlight this value:

- The College Promise Program provides funds that make it possible for qualified high school graduates to attend one year at Aims free of charge.
- Students who take the academic track are able to graduate from Aims and enter any state college or university as juniors.

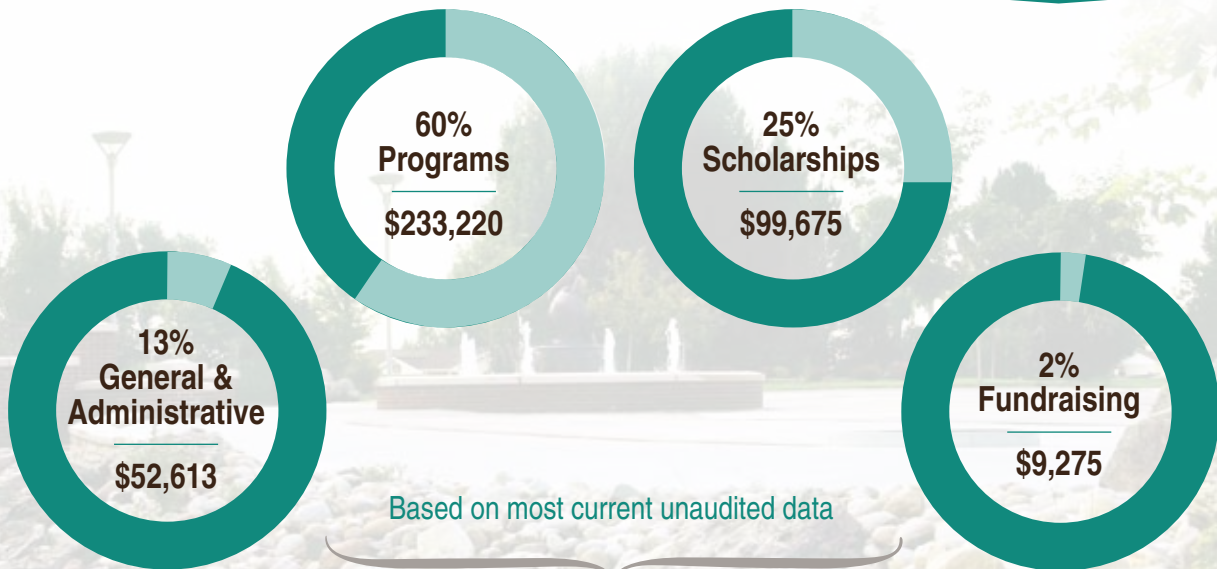
As an Aims Foundation board member, I have been impressed with the way that the donated funds are handled. Aims takes its role as steward very seriously through planned investment and growth. As the incoming Aims Foundation Chairperson, I am looking forward to working with our dedicated and energetic board members to guide Aims in steady financial growth. In my opinion our donors, our students and our staff deserve the very best!

Sally Asmus
Board Chair
Aims Foundation



Report *to the* Community

Private Gifts



For helping us surpass our goals, *special appreciation* to Building for Tomorrow Today Co-Chairs:

John Houtchens
Florence Winograd
Karen Wood
Larry Wood



All the best,
Julie Buderns
 Executive Director
 Aims Foundation

Each year I am humbled and grateful for the support that you, our community, provide to Aims Community College. Your endorsement is appreciated by administrators, faculty and students alike. The Aims Foundation believes in placing support where it is most needed. During the past year, 85 percent of the private gifts received were used to support programs and scholarships. Only 15 percent of the operational budget was directed to administration and fundraising. Programs received a larger percentage of fundraising support this past year. Specifically, almost \$180,000 was utilized by the new Aims Automotive Center in Windsor.

A portion of the program and scholarship funds at the Aims Foundation are invested as endowments or permanent funds. Our Finance Committee and professional money managers take their stewardship role seriously. Since 1997, growth of our endowment funds has averaged six percent. In fact, since 2000, the size of our endowments has doubled. The spending policy of the Aims Foundation limits distributions to the growth of the fund. Therefore, the endowment growth that is illustrated on the graph above represents timely investment strategies combined with increased contributions from you, our donors.

Thank you for your support to Aims Community College through the Aims Foundation.

REVENUE*

Total Revenue
\$47,609,290

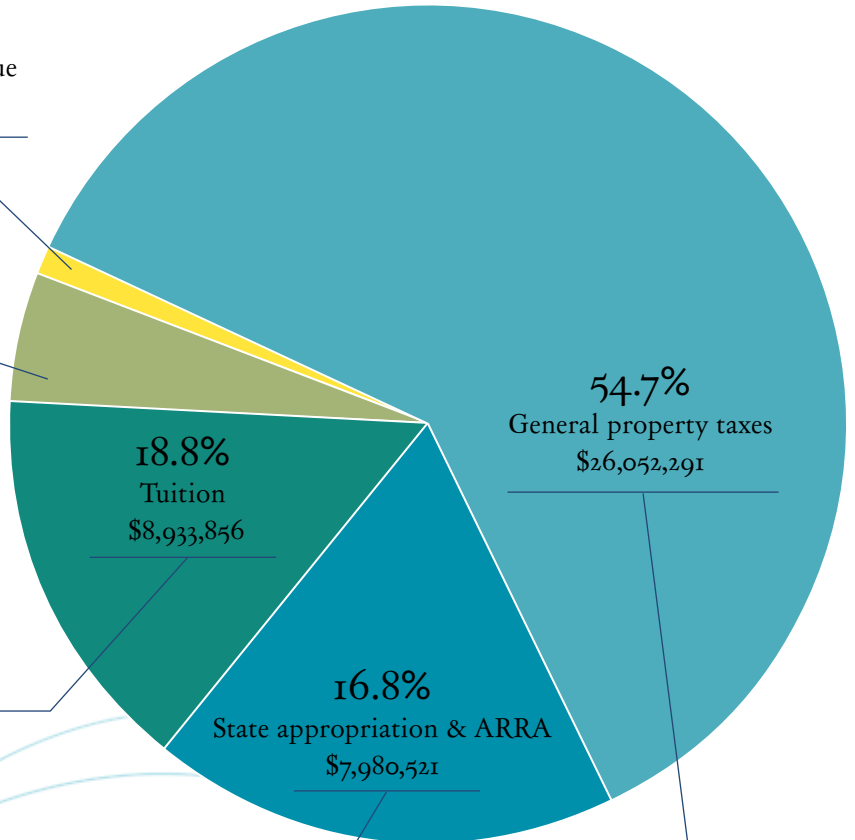
Total Revenue:
Anticipated to be nearly flat from 2010-2011 going into 2011-2012.

0.4%
Other revenue
\$213,144

9.3%
Fees & other charges
\$4,429,478

Tuition & Fees:
Expected to increase from 2010-2011 going into 2011-2012.

State Appropriations & ARRA: Anticipated to drop by almost \$1.7 million from 2010-2011 into 2011-2012. ARRA funds disappeared last year and no more are expected.



General Property Taxes: Relatively flat from 2010-2011 going into 2011-2012.

As a publicly funded institution, good stewardship is always first and foremost in our minds as we move through the budgeting process here at Aims. The information on these pages shows the unaudited revised budget for the 2010-2011 General Fund. The complete budget and financial statements are always available online or by contacting the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer. As always, thank you for your support.

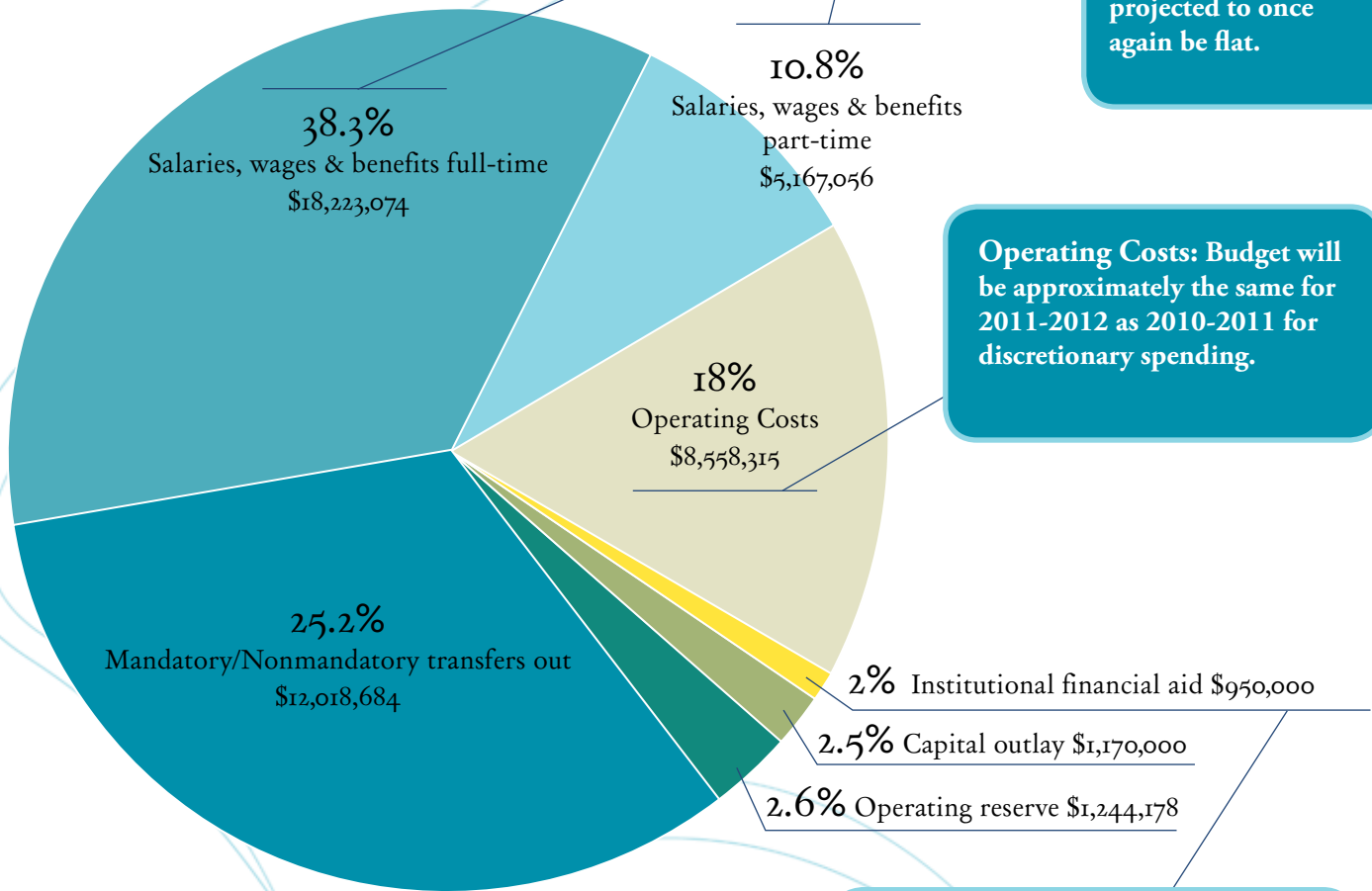
*These figures are from the 2010-2011 Revised Budget, which will be submitted for external audit in November 2011 and are, therefore, subject to change.

Mike Kelly
Chief Administrative Officer
mike.kelly@aims.edu or (970) 339-6655

GENERAL FUND

EXPENDITURES*

Total Expenditures
\$47,609,290



Salaries, Wages & Benefits: Total is relatively flat from 2008-2009 into 2010-2011. College has been on a soft hiring freeze and there was no salary increase for 2010-2011. The total going into 2011-2012 is projected to once again be flat.

Operating Costs: Budget will be approximately the same for 2011-2012 as 2010-2011 for discretionary spending.

Institutional Financial Aid: There was an increase of \$100,000 from 2009-2010 into 2010-2011, keeping with the college's mission to keep higher education affordable for our students.

For their stewardship and financial acumen, we thank our Board of Trustees:
Mike Freeman, Mike Geile
Sandy Neb, Walt Richter, Larry Wood

About *our* Graduates

1,793
Total Degree and
Certificates awarded
in 2011.



A *'typical'* graduate
in the Class of 2011
was a 20-year-old,
non-minority,
first-generation,
non-low-income
male.





top 5 degrees
awarded:

1. AA, Liberal Arts
2. AA, Business
3. AA, Elementary Education
4. AAS, Air Traffic Controller

Tied for 5th
AAS, Criminal Justice
AAS, Rad Tech
AAS, Nursing (ADN)



Class of
2011:

 55% Male
 45% Female

69% Non-Minority
31% Minority


55% First Generation
(to attend college)
45% Not First Generation



top 5 certificates
awarded:

1. Nurse Aide
2. Emergency Med Tech Basic
3. Auto Service Tech
Brakes
Electrical
4. Weld Tech – Basic
Welding/Cutting
5. Phlebotomy Technician

20 is the most
common age
of our
students,
but the average
age is **29**




Degree and
certificate
earning students
in the
Class of
2011
ranged in age from
17
to over
65.



The right *choice*
at every *step*

