REFLECTIONS FROM 9TH

I was Going to get a Degree... and Leave

At the last Auraria Board of Directors meeting, I formally announced my intent to retire from Auraria at the end of the fiscal year. Many have since asked for details about the extended time I have been engaged with this unique place. My tenure is entirely too much to explain in a column, but I will offer this broad sweep.

Of course, my last ten years have been the most fulfilling, as I have served as the Chief Executive Officer alongside a great group of institutional leaders and AHEC staff who share in the spirit of success for the campus. The support of the Auraria Board has made so many cutting-edge initiatives possible, and it has been a wonderful experience to be in a position to truly “make a difference.” We have achieved so much together, not the least of which has been a comprehensive master plan with the expanded neighborhood concept, significant developments and renovations to the campus, connectivity projects to integrate us with downtown Denver, and the creation of place-making elements, such as the Tivoli Quad, that are so important to the campus life experience.

But what many may not be aware of is that I have actually worked on the campus full-time for more than 40 life-changing years, having accepted my first job as a student hourly employee in January 1979. Prior to that, beginning in fall 1977, I had simply been a student on the campus, attending CU Denver. I was working to pay my own way through college, while taking the bus back and forth to my job and school. When I saw an on-campus, full-time job advertised, I jumped
at the chance to apply. After all, it would be so much easier to work on campus until I got my degree...and then I would leave. At that point in time, almost all positions were full-time student hourly jobs, with a small network of permanent administrators.

A little over a year later, I saw a campus job advertised that offered benefits, and I successfully competed for it. Of course, it was still my plan to get my degree...and then leave. But something happened that has happened to so many of us on this campus: I got “the Bug!” I loved this place—the people, the progressiveness, the diversity, the history, the challenge, and best of all, the constant change.

From there I had the tremendously good fortune of competing for various progressive jobs over the years...even after I got my degree! I always pursued the jobs that were different and unique. I was fortified by being surrounded by talented teams of people, as well as, a very supportive husband and family who believed in my crazy drive to make things happen for this campus. When the campus reacquired the Tivoli, I even became the General Manager of the then-active shopping mall, while also running the traditional student center. I subsequently managed the Tivoli as a hybrid student union and shopping mall experiment, complete with nightclubs, high-end restaurants and very long work hours. Along the way, I oversaw many tri-institutional departments, including special events programming, and briefly, career services and disability services for all three institutions, prior to their decentralization.

Everything at one point or another seemed to be part of my path, including all enterprise and revenue programs, business services, facility operations, leasing and property negotiations, development and construction, event management, and much more. It was impossible to be bored in such a vibrant and unique environment! (Of course, during all of this, I earned my advanced degree, also from CU Denver). Ultimately, the part of the story that most are familiar with is that I became the CEO. Who would have thought that a young woman barely paying her way through college could end up running the place? It was a feat that I am quite certain I never would have believed possible so many years ago when I first started here.

It has been inspiring to reflect on the campus through its evolution, and then imagine the extraordinary things that are still possible here in the future. What is wonderfully apparent, though, is that extraordinary things will indeed continue to happen because the people here believe in success and collaboration.

And now that I’m actually going to leave, I’ve realized the truth: you never completely leave a place that has become such a part of your soul and that you have had the opportunity to leave your permanent mark on in so many ways. As someone shared, I will “leave” knowing that my fingerprints remain on everything that’s happened here.

Thank you, Auraria Campus—what a wonderful ride!
Weiske is about to (finally) leave the campus.

Barb Weiske
Chief Executive Officer
CCD Becomes First Authorized Training Partner of Heidenhain Controls

In January, HEIDENHAIN, a company that develops and supports motion control feedback solutions for a wide variety of industries, announced that Community College of Denver's Advanced Manufacturing Center (AMC) is the first HEIDENHAIN authorized training partner focusing on its computer numerical control systems in North America. Both students and industry stakeholders alike can now access and train on the latest in state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment at CCD.

To become an authorized training partner, CCD staff completed several rounds of advanced training on the 5-Axis HEIDENHAIN terminal node controller machine and successfully passed an extensive exam.

“We are thrilled to be able to contribute to domestic manufacturing with these advanced capabilities,” said Matthew Sweeney, AMC Director. “It's exciting to see what can now be done just by knowing what buttons to push on these conversational and effective HEIDENHAIN controls. And we are just scratching the surface of what these HEIDENHAIN controllers can do. Even the most experienced machinist can benefit from these advanced capabilities.”

HEIDENHAIN has been in a relationship with CCD and their Advanced Manufacturing Center in Colorado since 2015, including participating in multiple joint workshops held at CCD for 5-axis machining covering theoretical and practical parts. There are multiple HEIDENHAIN TNC controls in operation at the AMC, and student classes are currently being offered from basic to advanced control programming and training.
MSU Denver Kicks Off Strategic Plan 2025

The future of Metropolitan State University of Denver has arrived with the kickoff of the Strategic Plan 2025 process.

Vice President of Strategy Cathy Lucas and Matt Makley, Ph.D, Professor of History and President of the Faculty Senate, will co-chair the 18-month effort, which will build on the vision of President Janine Davidson, Ph.D. The process will produce goals and objectives that guide MSU Denver in becoming the model urban university in the nation.

“We want this process to be as collaborative and transparent as possible,” Lucas said. “During the last strategic-planning process, we engaged about 2,000 people. This time around, we’re aiming to engage between 4,000 and 5,000 internal and external stakeholders.”

That engagement starts with the formation of a Strategic Planning Team, which will comprise an esteemed and diverse group of faculty, staff, administrators, students, and alumni. The 20- to 25-person team, in partnership with a consultant, will guide the process and keep the campus community updated on progress.

The team will include representation from leadership groups such as the Faculty Senate, the Council of Administrators, and the Classified Staff Council.

At a presentation to the Board of Trustees in December, Lucas noted that the planning process will take place in six phases:

1) Getting organized (January-March)
2) Data gathering and engagement (April-July)
3) Making sense of the issues (August-October)
4) Vision building (November-December)
5) Goals building (January-March 2020)
6) Strategic implementation (April-June 2020)

Strategic Plan 2025 will go into effect July 1, 2020.
### Lynx Population on the Rise

Whether it’s the lure of the Lynx or the magic of the Mile High City, new students are sensing the attraction of the University of Colorado Denver and applying in droves.

A USA Today survey of 600 institutions across the country placed **CU Denver No. 8 in a top-100 list** for application growth, citing a 126-percent increase during a five-year period.

“As a campus, we’ve made a lot of strides in getting on people’s radar,” said Undergraduate Admissions Director Catherine Wilson. “It’s nice to know CU Denver is on the map.”

For the sixth straight year, the university enrolled a record number of first-year students (1,716), welcoming 15,232 total students to campus in fall 2018.

“I think it speaks volumes of the hard work that’s been done in engaging prospective students and their families in the CU Denver community,” said Associate Vice Chancellor for Access and Enrollment Genia Herndon. “It’s truly the whole reason we are here.”

“Our students have a lot going on,” Wilson said. “They tend to work outside of going to school. They have families and responsibilities. So, what they like about CU Denver is that it fits into their lives versus having to disrupt their lives. It’s the flexibility.”

Through online course offerings, students can choose from more than 50 degrees and certificates available, including night and weekend classes. CU Online was recently ranked No. 3 in the state for 2019’s best online colleges by the Guide to Online Schools.

The value of having the city for a campus cannot be overplayed, Herndon said. “Things are happening in this city, and I think students want to be a part of that.”
Facilities Services Adds Value to Engineering Class with Behind-the-Scenes Tour

Facilities Services’ HVAC, electrical, and plumbing trades teams live and breathe the “Make an Impact” Guiding Principle. They are responsible for ensuring that all mechanical systems on campus are always fully operational for the benefit of the students, faculty, and staff. Last semester, the trades groups had an opportunity to make a different kind of impact—by sharing their knowledge directly with a class of engineering students.

Heidi Brothers, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Engineering at CU Denver, approached Facilities Services for a class tour of the mechanical systems in North Classroom. Tara Weachter, Director of Facilities Services, coordinated the effort by breaking the class of 25 students into three groups. The three trades supervisors—Art Ortega (electrical), Tom Johnson (plumbing), and Roddy Palma (HVAC) took each of the groups on customized tours and answered the students’ questions along the way.

The students sent a handwritten thank you note with all of their signatures to express their gratitude to Facilities Services. This tour was so impactful on the students that Brother has added it to the curriculum.

Three new trainings were added to the schedule this year. Hands-on active shooter training took place in the King Center, where officers wore full gear, including gas masks, helmets, and tactical vests. MSU Denver Speech Communication Professor Katia Campbell, Ph.D. delivered a class on anti-bias training, which encompassed the history of the #metoo movement, gender and race bias, as well as microaggressions. As well, the ACPD is now partnering with CU Denver’s Lola and Rob Salazar Student Wellness Center for an intential fitness development program for officers. One of their new winter break trainings included instruction and orientation from the Wellness Center staff.

CALENDAR & REMINDERS

March 25–29, 2019
Spring Break (no classes)

March 31, 2019
Classified Employee performance cycle ends

May 16, 2019
CCD Commencement

May 17, 2019
MSU Denver Commencement

May 18, 2019
CU Denver Commencement

May 27, 2019
Memorial Day (campus closed)
for future classes. The trades groups look forward to continuing this partnership, and helping further the education of the CU Denver students.

“This initiative helped connect our trades staff with students to more fully grasp the concept behind why we are all here, while students gained a respect and appreciation for the knowledge level and dedication required to keep the systems operational and well-maintained,” said JaNae Nelson, Director of Facilities Management. “There were benefits on all sides.”