

**Welcome Back Address
President Stephen Jordan
Wednesday, Sept. 3, 2008**

GOOD MORNING. THANK YOU FOR JOINING YOUR COLLEAGUES, THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND ME AS WE COMMENCE METRO STATE'S 44TH ACADEMIC YEAR. I HOPE EVERYONE HAD A TERRIFIC SUMMER AND THAT YOU HAVE RETURNED ENERGIZED, ENTHUSIASTIC AND FULL OF FRESH IDEAS AS WE LAUNCH THE GROWTH AND INVESTMENT STAGE OF METRO STATE'S JOURNEY TOWARD PREEMINENCE.

HENRY FORD ONCE SAID, "COMING TOGETHER IS A BEGINNING. KEEPING TOGETHER IS PROGRESS. WORKING TOGETHER IS SUCCESS."

I HAVE TO TELL YOU, I AM ENERGIZED AND OPTIMISTIC AS WE GATHER HERE TODAY TO BEGIN THIS ACADEMIC YEAR, AND TO REVIEW OUR PROGRESS AND CELEBRATE OUR SUCCESSES. IT TRULY IS A GREAT DAY TO BE A ROADRUNNER!

MANY OF YOU KNOW THAT I'M PASSIONATE ABOUT SPORTS. I'M AN AVID GOLFER (ALTHOUGH ALBEIT, NOT VERY GOOD), A FORMER RUNNER (MAYBE A RUN TO MANY), AND I PLAYED RUGBY FOR 20 YEARS (NOT PARTICULARLY SMART). I LOVE

THE ROCKIES. I GO TO AS MANY METRO STATE ROADRUNNER GAMES AS MY SCHEDULE ALLOWS, AND I SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF THE NCAA DIVISION II PRESIDENTS COUNCIL.

AND, LIKE MANY OF YOU, LAST MONTH I WAS CAPTIVATED BY THE OLYMPICS. RUTHIE AND I STAYED UP AS LATE AS POSSIBLE TO WITNESS MICHAEL PHELPS ACCOMPLISH HIS HISTORIC RECORD-BREAKING WINS. WE CHEERED THE U.S. WOMEN'S GYMNASTICS TEAM AS THEY FACED SEVERAL SETBACKS AND THEN WENT ON TO CAPTURE THE TEAM SILVER MEDAL AND SIX INDIVIDUAL MEDALS. AND, WE WATCHED IN AWE THE U.S. MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM, WHO, OUT FOR REDEMPTION, PRODUCED A PLAY BETWEEN DWAYNE WADE AND KOBE BRYANT THAT HIGHLIGHTED THE TEAM'S COLLECTIVE ATHLETICISM AND TALENT, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, THEIR SENSE OF WE.

WHILE WATCHING THESE MEMORABLE GAMES, I BEGAN TO COMPARE THESE ATHLETES' SUCCESSES TO THOSE OF OUR COLLEGE. YOU SHOULD BE PROUD THAT AS A TEAM WE HAVE ENJOYED NUMEROUS SUCCESSES ON OUR QUEST TO BECOME THE PREEMINENT PUBLIC URBAN BACCALAUREATE COLLEGE IN THE NATION. AND WHILE OUR CHARACTER HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED BY A FEW SETBACKS, WE CONTINUE TO PROVE TO OURSELVES, OUR COMPETITORS AND OUR FANS—STUDENTS, ALUMNI, AND

THE COMMUNITY—THAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF REACHING OUR VISION OF PREEMINENCE.

JUST AS OLYMPIANS HAVE A CREED THAT SPURS THEM TO EMBRACE THE OLYMPIC SPIRIT AND PERFORM TO THE BEST OF THEIR ABILITIES, METRO STATE HAS A MISSION STATEMENT WITH A STRATEGIC PLAN BUILT AROUND FOUR THEMES THAT FUELS OUR SUCCESS. AS YOU KNOW, THESE THEMES ARE:

- 1. PREPARE STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS IN THEIR EDUCATION, CAREER AND LIFE;**
- 2. PROVIDE A HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE;**
- 3. ENGAGE, COLLABORATE AND WORK WITH THE COMMUNITY; AND**
- 4. EMBRACE AND PROMOTE DIVERSITY.**

MICHAEL JORDAN HAS SAID, “TALENT WINS GAMES, BUT TEAMWORK AND INTELLIGENCE WIN CHAMPIONSHIPS.” LET’S LOOK AT SOME OF THE PAST YEAR’S WINS AND DISCUSS HOW AS A TEAM WE’LL COMBINE OUR INTELLIGENCE, CREATIVITY AND ENTHUSIASM TO ACHIEVE THE MANY CHAMPIONSHIPS THAT WILL SUPPORT THE CORE VALUES REPRESENTED BY THESE FOUR THEMES.

LAST YEAR, TEAM METRO STATE CELEBRATED MANY INDIVIDUAL TRIUMPHS. TO NAME A FEW:

- **OUR URBAN TEACHER PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM WITH DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS CO-HOSTED A NATIONAL SUMMIT ON URBAN EDUCATION. THIS SUMMIT PROVIDED NEARLY 250 PARTICIPANTS A CHANCE TO SHARE WHAT WORKS IN RECRUITING AND RETAINING GOOD TEACHERS FOR SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE IN URBAN SCHOOLS. THE THREE-DAY NATIONAL SUMMIT FEATURED A STRONG LINEUP OF SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS, RANGING FROM LEADING RESEARCHERS TO AWARD-WINNING CLASSROOM TEACHERS.**
- **METRO STATE’S CULINARY TEAM WAS HONORED AT THE STATE CAPITOL AFTER THEY SECURED A FIRST-PLACE WIN AT THE COLORADO BISTRO CHALLENGE AT THE ADAMS MARK HOTEL.**
- **THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AND OUR ALUMNI RELATIONS STAFF PRODUCED THE APPRENTICE CHALLENGE AT METRO STATE, WHICH RAISED MORE THAN \$70,000 FOR THE ASSOCIATION’S SCHOLARSHIP FUND—SOME OF WHICH WAS AWARDED TO THE APPRENTICE CHALLENGERS IN THE FORM OF TWO TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS AND EIGHT \$500 AWARDS FOR TEXTBOOKS. AND, I’M PLEASED THAT THE PROGRAM WILL RETURN THIS YEAR FOR ROUND TWO. THE APPRENTICE CHALLENGE EXEMPLIFIES METRO STATE’S GOAL OF MEETING THE NEEDS OF BUSINESSES AND THE COMMUNITY BY SOLVING PROBLEMS FOR FUTURE GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY.**

- **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF TECHNICAL COMMUNICATIONS LISA ORTIZ WAS AWARDED A VIRTUAL LEARNING PRIZE FROM THE NEW MEDIA CONSORTIUM, FOR DEVELOPING A PROGRAM THAT WILL HELP STUDENTS IMAGINE LIFE WITH A DISABILITY. THE PROGRAM, EXPERIENCE VIRTUAL DISABILITIES, WILL BE USED ON THE VIRTUAL ONLINE SIMULATION SECOND LIFE, WHICH A GROUP OF FACULTY ARE TESTING WITH THEIR STUDENTS THIS FALL.**
- **SPRING 2008 METRO STATE GRADUATE CHAD KROPF HAD THE HIGHEST TEST SCORE IN THE COUNTRY ON THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST EXAM, AND THE SECOND-HIGHEST SCORE IN THE EXAM'S HISTORY.**
- **LAST FEBRUARY, THE METRO STATE CHORALE HAD THE PRESTIGIOUS HONOR OF PERFORMING AT THE SOUTHWEST DIVISION OF AMERICAN CHORAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION (ACDA). UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MICHAEL KORNELSEN, CHAIR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC, THE CHORALE WAS ONE OF FOUR COLLEGE CHOIRS NATIONWIDE SELECTED TO PERFORM AS WELL AS THE ONLY HIGHER EDUCATION GROUP INVITED TO PERFORM BY A BLIND AUDITION, WHERE JUDGES LISTEN TO AN UNIDENTIFIED CD.**
- **OUR WOMEN'S SOFTBALL PROGRAM RECEIVED THE NCAA DIVISION II COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AWARD FOR ITS "BUILDING BRIDGES TO THE COMMUNITY"**

PROGRAM. THIS AWARD-WINNING PROGRAM BEGAN LAST FALL WHEN THE WOMEN'S SOFTBALL TEAM "ADOPTED" THE DENVER WEST HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOFTBALL TEAM AND BEGAN TEACHING THEM A "LIFE SKILLS" PROGRAM TO HELP THESE YOUNG WOMEN BELIEVE THAT COLLEGE COULD BE IN THEIR FUTURE. THIS PARTNERSHIP IS AN ONGOING RELATIONSHIP MEANT TO BUILD BRIDGES BETWEEN THE COLLEGE AND DENVER PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

- ATHLETICS DIRECTOR JOAN MCDERMOTT WAS NAMED THE WESTERN REGION NCAA ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR.**
- AND IN THE MIDST OF OLYMPIC FEVER, METRO STATE JUNIOR AMY NUNN PLACED SECOND IN THE 2008 U.S. COLLEGIATE FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIPS. AS A RESULT OF HER 2ND PLACE FINISH, AMY HAS BEEN NAMED BY U.S. FIGURE SKATING TO REPRESENT THE UNITED STATES IN AN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION IN NICE, FRANCE, IN OCTOBER.**

AND, LAST WEEK'S DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION ALLOWED MANY FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS TO TAP INTO THE HISTORICAL PRESENCE OF THE DNC IN THE MILE-HIGH CITY AND BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

- WE OFFERED METRO STATE GETS UNCONVENTIONAL, A RETENTION PROGRAM THAT STUDENT ACTIVITIES**

- DIRECTOR BROOKE DILLING AND HER STAFF CREATED, WHICH ENGAGED MORE THAN 200 STUDENTS IN SERVICE-LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES DURING THE WEEK THAT CAMPUS WAS CLOSED.**
- **POLITICAL SCIENCE CHAIR ROBERT HAZAN DEVELOPED “BEHIND THE SCENES AT THE DNC,” AN ONLINE COURSE THAT PROVIDED COMPREHENSIVE INSIDER VIEWS OF THE CONVENTION AND THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL RACE.**
 - **PROFESSOR OF TECHNICAL COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA PRODUCTION PEGGY O’NEILL JONES TOOK COLORADO’S K-12 EDUCATORS INSIDE THE DNC WITH THE WHEN HISTORY HAPPENS PROGRAM, WHICH PROVIDED THE TEACHERS WITH CONCRETE 21ST-CENTURY TECHNOLOGY TOOLS.**
 - **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR AND JOURNALISM PROGRAM COORDINATOR KENN BISIO WORKED WITH THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS, THE DENVER POST AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FOR JOURNALISM STUDENTS TO HAVE PAID POSITIONS ASSISTING REPORTERS ON THE FLOOR OF THE DNC. THE STUDENTS SERVED AS REPORTERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS AND WEB VIDEO PRODUCERS.**

CONGRATULATIONS ON THESE INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES, AND ON THOSE OF THE MANY OTHERS WHO, BECAUSE OF SPACE

AND TIME CONSTRAINTS, I AM NOT ABLE TO NAME, BUT TRULY DO APPLAUD.

INDIVIDUALLY, WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH. COLLECTIVELY, WE CAN GO FOR THE GOLD. AS SOCCER OLYMPIAN MIA HAMM HAS SAID, “I AM A MEMBER OF A TEAM, AND I RELY ON THE TEAM, I DEFER TO IT AND SACRIFICE FOR IT, BECAUSE THE TEAM, NOT THE INDIVIDUAL, IS THE ULTIMATE CHAMPION.”

BUT HOW DO THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF INDIVIDUALS LEAD TO A SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT OF A TEAM? FOR STARTERS, LET’S LOOK AT OUR HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION (HSI) INITIATIVE.

WITH THE SECOND-LARGEST UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT POPULATION IN COLORADO AND THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF STUDENTS OF COLOR, METRO STATE ALREADY ENROLLS A QUARTER OF THE STATE'S BACCALAUREATE-SEEKING LATINO STUDENTS.

AS MANY OF YOU KNOW, IN APRIL 2007 WE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED THE BOLD GOAL OF EARNING THE FEDERAL DESIGNATION OF HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION. A DEMOGRAPHIC IMPERATIVE FOR OUR COMMUNITY, THE HSI DESIGNATION WILL BRING WITH IT THE PROMISE OF MANY FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES THAT WILL BENEFIT ALL OF OUR STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF.

SINCE ITS CREATION LAST YEAR, THE NEARLY 70-MEMBER HSI TASK FORCE HAS REACHED MANY MILESTONES TOWARD ACHIEVING OUR GOAL.

LAST SPRING, THE TASK FORCE PRESENTED MY OFFICE WITH 55 RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW THE COLLEGE COULD INCREASE ITS LATINO STUDENT ENROLLMENT FROM THE CURRENT 13 PERCENT TO 25 PERCENT. AND, I'M PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE TOP 16 RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH THE TASK FORCE PRIORITIZED, RECEIVED FUNDING IN THIS ACADEMIC YEAR'S BUDGET.

SHOWING THEIR OWN OLYMPIC SPIRIT, THE TASKFORCE AND MEMBERS OF DENVER'S LATINO COMMUNITY JOINED TO HELP ME MAKE AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT BY WORKING TO HELP PASS VERY IMPORTANT LEGISLATION—SENATE BILL 79.

SPONSORED BY SEN. PAULA SANDOVAL, THIS LAW PROVIDES A STATUTORY DEFINITION THAT ELIMINATES THE PARENTS' RESIDENCY STATUS AS A REQUIREMENT FOR IN-STATE TUITION RATES FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE:

- 1. U.S. CITIZENS**
- 2. UNDER THE AGE OF 23**
- 3. AND HAVE ATTENDED THE FINAL THREE YEARS AND GRADUATED FROM A COLORADO HIGH SCHOOL**

I PERSONALLY TESTIFIED IN SUPPORT OF THIS LEGISLATION LAST SPRING BECAUSE IT CORRECTED A HOST OF SITUATIONS THAT WERE PREVENTING DESERVING COLORADO STUDENTS FROM TAKING ADVANTAGE OF IN-STATE TUITION RATES FOR COLLEGE.

LATER THIS MONTH, METRO STATE WILL BE HONORED WITH THE 2008 SPRIT OF TLATELOCO (TE LAL TE LOLH KO) EDUCATION AWARD, WHICH RECOGNIZES THOSE WHOSE TIME, TALENTS, INTEGRITY AND EDUCATION HAVE ENRICHED THE QUALITY OF LIFE OF NOT ONLY THE LATINO COMMUNITY, BUT THROUGHOUT THE MANY COMMUNITIES OF COLORADO.

AND HSI CO-CHAIRS INTERIM DEPUTY PROVOST LUIS TORRES AND ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT OF ENROLLMENT SERVICES WILL BE RECOGNIZED BY THE COLORADO ROCKIES AS THEY RECEIVE THE “HISPANIC ADULT LEADERSHIP AWARD” AT AN UPCOMING ROCKIES GAME. THESE EXTERNAL AWARDS ARE FURTHER VALIDATION OF OUR SUCCESS IN OUTREACH PARTICULARLY TO THE LATINO COMMUNITY.

ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HOW TEAM METRO STATE SUCCESSFULLY COMBINED ITS EFFORTS AND MADE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS IS THE 2+2 INITIATIVE. THE INITIATIVE ALIGNS METRO STATE WITH THE COLORADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM, ALLOWING COMMUNITY

COLLEGE STUDENTS TO EARN AN ASSOCIATE’S DEGREE AND THEN COMPLETE A METRO STATE BACHELOR’S DEGREE IN SELECTED PROGRAMS, WHILE PHYSICALLY REMAINING AT THEIR COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

THANKS TO THE COLLECTIVE EFFORTS OF DR. CHARLIE BRANCH, SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE PROVOST, AND DAVE CISNEROS, ADMISSIONS TRANSFER COUNSELOR, AND MANY OTHERS IN THE PARTICIPATING ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS, WE NOW OFFER MARKETING, MANAGEMENT AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEGREE PROGRAMS AT FRONT RANGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND DEGREES IN PSYCHOLOGY AND BIOLOGY AT THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA.

THIS PARTNERSHIP WAS AN HISTORIC EVENT FOR COLORADO HIGHER EDUCATION. IT HAS GIVEN THE PARTNER INSTITUTIONS A CHANCE TO EXPAND UPON THE IMPORTANT WORK WE’RE ALREADY DOING: EDUCATING— AND GRADUATING—STUDENTS OF COLOR IN COLORADO. AS LINDA BOWMAN, MY COUNTERPART AT COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF AURORA SAID, “THIS WAS A WATERSHED MOMENT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION.”

BECAUSE SO MANY FACULTY AND STAFF HAVE WORKED HARD TO MAKE THE 2+2 INITIATIVE A REALITY, THE POPULARITY OF THE PROGRAM HAS RESONATED THROUGHOUT COLORADO’S COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM. WE NOW HAVE ARAPAHOE AND RED ROCKS

COMMUNITY COLLEGES REQUESTING THAT THEY, TOO, BECOME PART OF THIS PLAN. QUITE THE FEAT IN THREE SHORT YEARS!

THE COLLEGE'S CENTER FOR VISUAL ART IS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF HOW THE COMMITMENT AND DETERMINATION OF TEAM METRO STATE CAN LEAD TO MOMENTOUS ACCOMPLISHMENTS.

HOUSED IN THE ART DEPARTMENT, THE CVA PROVIDES EYE-POPING VISUAL ARTS OPPORTUNITIES TO MEMBERS OF THE DENVER COMMUNITY, MANY WHO MAY NOT HAVE THE RESOURCES TO EXPERIENCE ART OTHERWISE.

SHOWING THE GRIT AND DETERMINATION OF TEAM METRO STATE, CVA CURATOR AND DIRECTOR JENNIFER GARNER SECURED THE WORLD-RENOWNED "CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE: PRINTS AND OBJECTS" EXHIBITION, THAT IS RUNNING THROUGH NOV. 1.

IT WILL INCLUDE A FREE PUBLIC LECTURE, WHICH THE ARTISTS ARE PRESENTING AS A GIFT TO THE CVA, AND A VIP RECEPTION WITH THE ARTISTS. THIS EXHIBITION AND THE ACCOMPANYING EVENTS OFFER UNIQUE AND EXCITING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE COLLEGE, THE COMMUNITY, THE STATE, AND FOR THE ARTISTS AS THEY PLAN THEIR "OVER

THE RIVER" INSTALLATION, SLATED FOR 2012 IN COLORADO'S ARKANSAS RIVER VALLEY.

THE CRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE EVENT IS ALSO THE VEHICLE FOR PUBLICLY ANNOUNCING OUR FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE TO PURCHASE PERMANENT SPACE FOR THE CVA. FOR NEARLY TWO DECADES, WE HAVE LEASED SPACE IN LOWER DOWNTOWN DENVER. BY RAISING AN ESTIMATED \$2 MILLION IN PRIVATE DONATIONS, THE COLLEGE WILL PURCHASE AND RENOVATE THE CVA SPACE AND THE ADJACENT GALLERY, WHICH WILL ALLOW THE CVA TO INCREASE ITS EDUCATIONAL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING.

LAST YEAR, THE CVA RECEIVED A LEAD \$425,000 CHALLENGE GRANT FROM THE BOETTCHER FOUNDATION. AND, IN 2010, THE CVA WILL CELEBRATE ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY BY REACHING ITS GOAL OF ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT COMMUNITY LEGACY DEDICATED TO ART AND EDUCATION.

THIS MAJOR COUP FOR THE COLLEGE HAS BEEN ACHIEVED THROUGH AN "ALL HANDS-ON-DECK APPROACH." THE CVA STAFF, THE ART DEPARTMENT, THE LETTERS, ARTS AND SCIENCES DEAN, THE ENTIRE DIVISION OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT AND MANY OTHERS HAVE BEEN WORKING

ON THIS PROJECT THAT WILL BE A MAJOR STEPPING STONE IN LAUNCHING THE COLLEGE TO PREEMINENCE.

THE JOURNEY TO WIN THE GOLD REQUIRES NOT ONLY HARD WORK AND DEDICATION BUT ALSO PROPER TRAINING FACILITIES. METRO STATE MUST HAVE ADEQUATE SPACE FOR ITS STUDENTS TO THRIVE AND GROW. IN 1965, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA PRESIDENT CLARK KERR QUIPPED, “I HAVE SOMETIMES THOUGHT OF THE MODERN UNIVERSITY AS A SERIES OF INDIVIDUAL FACULTY ENTREPRENEURS HELD TOGETHER BY A COMMON GRIEVANCE OVER PARKING.”

FORTY YEARS LATER, PRESIDENT KERR’S PUNCH LINE IS A SERIOUS REALITY FOR ME, BUT IT’S ABOUT MORE THAN JUST PARKING. WE ARE WORKING TO ASSURE THAT THE COLLEGE HAS PROPER CLASSROOM, OFFICE, LABS AND TECHNOLOGY SPACE TO MEET OUR EXPANDING NEEDS OF TODAY AND THE FUTURE.

THE AURARIA MASTER PLAN IS MOVING FORWARD WITH A FULL-COURT PRESS. CENTRAL TO THIS PLAN IS THE METRO STATE NEIGHBORHOOD, FOR WHICH WE ARE WORKING DILIGENTLY TOWARD BREAKING GROUND ON THE FIRST BUILDING IN THE NEXT TWO YEARS. WE ARE ALSO MOVING FORWARD ON DEVELOPING A NEW 200-ROOM HOTEL TO INCLUDE A LEARNING CENTER FOR OUR HOSPITALITY

PROGRAM, TO BE LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF AURARIA PARKWAY AND SPEER. AND, WE ARE DEVELOPING PLANS FOR NEW MULTIPURPOSE ATHLETIC FIELDS FOR BOTH INTERCOLLEGIATE AND RECREATIONAL ATHLETICS. COMPLETION OF THE FIRST BUILDING IN THE METRO STATE NEIGHBORHOOD WILL ALLOW THE REALLOCATION OF SPACE IN THE CENTRAL CLASSROOM BUILDING AND THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING TO CLASSROOMS AND FACULTY OFFICES.

AND, OF COURSE, THERE'S THE SCIENCE BUILDING. WHAT A GREAT EXAMPLE OF HOW, WHEN FACED WITH ADVERSITY, TEAM METRO STATE WORKED COLLECTIVELY TO OVERCOME A CHALLENGING OBSTACLE. IN THIS CASE THE OBSTACLE WAS A MAJOR HOLE IN THE GROUND.

LAST SPRING, IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT THIS BUILDING, WHICH WAS PLANNED TO BE FINANCED OVER THREE YEARS, WOULD NOT BE FUNDED, LEAVING A LITERAL HOLE IN THE GROUND. ALUMNI, FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS WORKED TOGETHER AS A TEAM AND PERSEVERED.

THE BIG SCORE WAS THAT THE GOVERNOR AND LAWMAKERS THEN CHOSE TO LOOK AT THIS AS A PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED FOR ALL OF HIGHER EDUCATION, NOT JUST FOR THE SCIENCE BUILDING. OUR HOLE BECAME A METAPHOR FOR THE FUNDING PROBLEMS FACING PUBLIC

HIGHER EDUCATION IN OUR STATE. A SERIES OF BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS WERE DEVELOPED AND PASSED, WHICH, COMBINED, WILL AFFECT \$200 MILLION IN IMMEDIATE CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGHOUT THE STATE AS WELL AS CREATE A LEGACY OF FUNDING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION LONG INTO OUR FUTURE.

AS A TEAM, WE SHOWED THE COMMUNITY OUR DRIVE TO PERSEVERE AND GRIT TO ACHIEVE THE SCIENCE BUILDING, WHICH WILL ALLOW THIS CAMPUS TO CONTINUE TO SERVE MORE STUDENTS OF COLOR IN THE SCIENCES AND SCIENCE-BASED STUDIES THAN ANY OTHER CAMPUS IN THE STATE OF COLORADO.

THE AURARIA MASTER PLAN IS A SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENT NOT ONLY FOR THE CAMPUS, BUT ALSO FOR THE CITY OF DENVER. METRO STATE AND OUR SISTER INSTITUTIONS ON CAMPUS WORKED TOGETHER COLLEAGIALLY TO CREATE A PLAN THAT IS INCLUSIVE AND THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF OUR RESPECTIVE STUDENTS. I BELIEVE THIS NEW MASTER PLAN HOLDS THE PROMISE OF THE INTEGRATION OF DENVER AND ITS SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES WITH THE CAMPUS IN A WAY THAT WE HAVE NEVER BEFORE EXPERIENCED.

IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING HIGH-PERFORMANCE “TRAINING GROUNDS,” WE MUST CONTINUE TO ENHANCE

OUR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PATH FOR FACULTY AND STAFF. FORMER GENERAL ELECTRIC CEO JACK WELCH SAID IT BEST: “AN ORGANIZATION'S ABILITY TO LEARN AND TRANSLATE THAT LEARNING INTO ACTION IS THE ULTIMATE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE.”

THIS YEAR’S BUDGET PROVIDES AN ADDITIONAL \$150,000 FOR FACULTY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND \$100,000 FOR STAFF AND ADMINISTRATOR DEVELOPMENT.

WHILE OUR NEIGHBORING CITY, COLORADO SPRINGS, HOSTS AN OLYMPIC TRAINING CENTER, TEAM METRO STATE NOW HAS THE FACULTY DEVELOPMENT CENTER.

LAST MONTH, INTERIM PROVOST LINDA CURRAN HIRED DR. MARK POTTER, WHO IS BRIMMING WITH IDEAS FOR WAYS TO MAKE THE CENTER TRULY MEANINGFUL. FOR INSTANCE, HE’S DEVELOPING WORKSHOPS ON TOPICS SUCH AS INTEGRATING CRITICAL THINKING INTO THE CLASSROOM AND HOW TO INCLUDE SERVICE LEARNING IN SPECIFIC DISCIPLINES.

AND IN THE TRUE SPIRIT OF NURTURING AND GROWING A TEAM, METROLEADS, THE PRESIDENT’S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, IS CELEBRATING ITS THIRD YEAR WITH A NEW COHORT OF 20 FACULTY, AFFILIATE FACULTY, CLASSIFIED AND EXEMPT STAFF WHO ARE ALSO CONTRIBUTING TO METRO STATE’S EXCELLENCE.

I'D LIKE TO THANK THE CREATOR AND FACILITATOR OF THIS PROGRAM ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS PAUL CESARE AS WELL AS METROLEADS GRADUATES: IT PROFESSIONAL CAMILLE FANGUE (FUN-ghee), ASSISTANT ENGLISH PROFESSOR TAT SANG SO AND ASSISTANT PHYSICS PROFESSOR KAMRAN SAHAMI, WHO CONTINUE TO SHARE THEIR KNOWLEDGE, EXPERTISE AND LEADERSHIP TO INSPIRE AND INFORM THE METROLEADS FELLOWS. THIS SPRING, THE ALUMNI OF THE METROLEADS PROGRAM ARE LEADING AN EFFORT TO CREATE A THREE-DAY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE FOR ALL OUR CLASSIFIED AND EXEMPT STAFF.

A CORE VALUE OF BOTH METRO STATE AND TEAM USA IS DIVERSITY. BOTH OUR TEAM AND THE OLYMPIC TEAM SHOWCASE A DIVERSE MIX OF AGES, SOCIOECONOMIC BACKGROUNDS, ETHNICITIES, CULTURES AND LIFESTYLES. TO CONTINUE TO BUILD ON THE COLLEGE'S DIVERSE BACKGROUND, THIS YEAR, I HAVE ALLOCATED IN EXCESS OF \$200,000 TO CONTINUE OUR PATH OF EXCELLENCE IN DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY.

SOME OF THE INITIATIVES THIS ADDITIONAL FUNDING WILL SUPPORT ARE:

- PHASE TWO OF THE EQUITY SCORECARD, WHICH AFTER EVALUTING QUALITATIVE RESEARCH, WILL**

**DEVELOP BEST PRACTICES ON INCREASING STUDENT
RETENTION AND GRADUATION OF
UNDERREPRESENTED STUDENTS.**

- **EXECUTING A CAMPUS CLIMATE SURVEY THAT WILL
FOCUS ON THE AREA OF DIVERSITY AND IDENTIFY
PERCEPTIONS AND PERSPECTIVES OF METRO STATE
AMONG THE DENVER WORK FORCE.**
- **THE CONTINUED IMPLEMENTATION AND SUPPORT OF
BOTH THE RACHEL B. NOEL AND RICHARD T. CASTRO
ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIPS, AND THE GOAL OF
RAISING \$400,000 FOR EACH PROFESSORSHIP.**
- **THE ALLOCATION OF \$100,000 TO SUPPORT DIVERSITY
INITIATIVES GRANTS ADMINSTRATED THROUGH THE
OFFICE OF INSITUTIONAL DIVERSITY. THESE
PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED TO PROVIDE EDUCATION
AND AWARENESS TO THE METRO STAT COMMUNITY IN
THE AREA OF DIVERSITY.**

**JUST AS OLYMPIC ATHLETES NEED THE SUPPORT OF
SPONSORSHIPS TO COMPETE, THE COLLEGE CONTINUES TO
ADDRESS ITS SHARE OF FUNDING ISSUES TO REMAIN
COMPETITIVE.**

**I WOULD CONSIDER THIS YEAR’S LEGISLATIVE
APPROPRIATIONS SUCCESS A “GOLD MEDAL,” TRULY**

ALLOWING US TO MOVE FORWARD IN THE INVESTMENT PHASE.

METRO STATE SECURED AN 11.2 PERCENT INCREASE IN GENERAL FUND MONIES, THE LARGEST INCREASE FOR ANY COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY IN THE STATE THIS YEAR. THIS ALLOWED US THE FIRST INCREASE TO DEPARTMENTAL OPERATING EXPENSE BUDGETS SINCE 1998.

THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING IS BEING USED TO SUPPORT NEW AND CONTINUING INITIATIVES THAT WILL HELP US ACHIEVE OUR VISION OF PREEMINENCE. SOME OF THE INITIATIVES THAT RECEIVED NEW FUNDING WERE FACULTY PAY FOR PERFORMANCE, WHICH DR. CURRAN JUST ADDRESSED; THE NEW URBAN CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT; HSI; E-MERGE – A CONSTITUENT RELATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM; A MULTI-CULTURAL CENTER; THE FIRST-YEAR PROGRAM; AND 20 NEW TENURED AND TENURE-TRACK FACULTY POSITIONS, BRINGING THE TOTAL INCREASE IN FUNDED TENURE AND TENURE TRACK POSITIONS TO 141.5 IN THE PAST THREE YEARS. THIS ENHANCED FINANCIAL SUPPORT IS ALLOWING US TO CONTINUE TO BUILD TEAM METRO STATE.

SINCE THE SUCCESS OF OUR STUDENTS IS SO DEPENDENT ON OUR FACULTY AND STAFF, WE SEEK TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN THE BEST AND THE BRIGHTEST WHO WILL HELP OUR STUDENTS IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT AND PREPARE

THEM FOR THE FUTURE THEY ENVISION, EVEN ONE THEY MAY NOT HAVE DREAMT OF UNTIL THEY ARRIVED AT METRO STATE.

WHILE WE DON'T HAVE AN OFFICIAL TALENT SCOUT, WE DO HAVE MANY RESOURCES TO RECRUIT HIGH-QUALITY FACULTY AND STAFF. IN ADDITION TO SCOUTING TRIPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY WITH OUR EEO OFFICE, DEANS, CHAIRS AND FACULTY, WE HAVE LAUNCHED A NATIONAL ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN TO RECRUIT TENURE-TRACK FACULTY AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF POSITIONS.

A SERIES OF IMAGE ADS HIGHLIGHTING HOW "OUR SUCCESS BEGINS WITH YOU" WILL RUN THROUGHOUT THE YEAR IN THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION. TELLING THE METRO STATE STORY THROUGH PROFILES OF FACULTY AND STAFF WHO ON A DAILY BASIS DEMAND EXCELLENCE WHILE GIVING UNREMITTING SUPPORT TO THE COLLEGE'S SUCCESS, THESE ADS CLOSE BY ASKING THOSE WHO HAVE THE SAME HIGH-QUALITY STANDARDS TO JOIN OUR TEAM TODAY.

THE CAMPAIGN WILL PROFILE THE TRIUMPHS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE FOLLOWING METRO STATE CHAMPIONS:

HUMAN SERVICES PROFESSOR SHAWN WORTHY, WHO HAS DONE EXTENSIVE WORK WITH CHILDREN AND FAMILIES AS

A CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST, AND WHO SAID, “IT’S NOT HOW MANY GRANTS YOU GET AS A FACULTY MEMBER, IT’S HOW MANY GRADUATES CALL YOU BACK AND TELL YOU WHAT A GREAT EXPERIENCE THEY HAD.”

PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR MARY ANN WATSON, WHO HAS CREATED MANY AWARD-WINNING EDUCATIONAL FILMS, AND WHO SAID THAT METRO STATE AFFORDS HER THE RARE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLORE HER PASSION, WHICH SHE ULTIMATELY EXTENDS TO HER STUDENTS.

ECONOMICS PROFESSOR MOHAMMED AKACEM, A FORMER ECONOMIST WITH THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, WHO SAID, “METRO STATE IS A SMALL, INTIMATE PLACE. YOU GET TO KNOW THE PEOPLE YOU WORK WITH AND BECOME SORT OF AN EXTENDED FAMILY.”

WOMEN’S STUDIES AND PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR ANNJANETTE ALEJANO-STEELE, WHO IS OFTEN CALLED ON TO TRAIN DENVER LAW ENFORCEMENT ABOUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING ISSUES, AND WHO SAID: “METRO STATE IS MORE HANDS-ON AND COLLABORATIVE IN ITS APPROACH. YOU HAVE TO GET ON THE GROUND AND SEE WHERE YOUR KNOWLEDGE IS BEST APPLIED TO THE DENVER COMMUNITY.”

INTERIM ASSOCIATE LAS DEAN ART CAMPA, AN APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGIST WHO REGULARLY WORKS ON

SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES IN SOUTH AMERICA, AND WHO SAID HIS MAJOR ATTRACTION TO METRO STATE WAS THE TRULY DIVERSE STUDENT AUDIENCE. “THEY APPRECIATE AND VALUE THEIR EDUCATION TO GET AHEAD IN CAREERS OR TO SATISFY PERSONAL GOALS.”

AND, AVIATION CHAIR JEFF FORREST, WHO CONNECTS HIS PROFESSIONAL PILOT EXPERIENCE WITH THEORY TO INSPIRE STUDENT SUCCESS, AND WHO SAID, “METRO STATE FACULTY MEMBERS ARE LIKE KIDS IN A CANDY STORE. WE’RE SURROUNDED BY WHAT WE’RE INTERESTED IN AND STUDENTS WHO SHARE OUR INTEREST.”

COLLABORATION, CIVIC ENGAGEMENT, DIVERSITY AND HIGH-QUALITY STUDENTS— ALL THESE ATTRIBUTES ARE WHAT WILL ATTRACT CHAMPIONS TO METRO STATE.

LOOKING AHEAD, WE HAVE A NEW INITIATIVE IN THE WORKS THAT I BELIEVE WILL GREATLY COMPLEMENT OUR QUEST FOR PREEMINENCE.

METRO STATE’S ROLE AS AN “URBAN LAND GRANT” INSTITUTION HAS BEEN AN UNDERLYING THEME OF MINE SINCE I ARRIVED AT THE COLLEGE IN 2005. THE NEWLY CONSTITUTED URBAN CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE IS EXPECTED TO DEVELOP THE PROGRAMMATIC FRAMEWORK FOR METRO STATE’S CIVIC ENGAGEMENT WITH THE CITY OF DENVER.

THE TASK FORCE WAS DEVELOPED TO CLARIFY METRO STATE'S TIES TO THE DENVER METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO SERVICE AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES. THE TRUSTEES AND I WANT THE DENVER COMMUNITY TO SEE OUR FACULTY AND STUDENTS AS THEIR ASSETS AND THEIR RESOURCES. IT IS MY HOPE TO CREATE NOT ONLY A COLLEGE OF LEARNERS, BUT ALSO BETTER CITIZENS WHO HAVE AN INCREASED SENSE OF PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY.

LED BY PROFESSOR A.J. STEELE AND VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES KATHY MCKAY, THE TASK FORCE WILL:

- DEVELOP AN INVENTORY OF EXISTING COLLEGE PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS THAT SERVE THE DENVER METROPOLITAN AREA;**
- PROFILE EXEMPLARY PROJECTS AND NAME BEST PRACTICES RELATED TO PUBLIC SERVICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT; AND**
- IDENTIFY CRITICAL ISSUES, NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT SHOULD BE ADDRESSED AND/OR IMPROVED UPON WITHIN THE COLLEGE'S PUBLIC-RESPONSIBILITY MISSION.**

ENGAGEMENT MAY TAKE MANY FORMS, BUT ONE CONSISTENT TRAIT SHOULD BE THAT WE HELP ADDRESS SOME OF THE SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL, ECONOMIC, HEALTH

AND EDUCATIONAL CHALLENGES FACED BY OUR DENVER METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY.

TO GAIN PREEMINENCE, WE MUST ANTICIPATE THE NEEDS OF THE FUTURE AND HELP TACKLE THEM AS A HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION. THIS WILL EARN US THE GOLD!

THE GOAL WE HAVE CHOSEN, LIKE THAT OF THE OLYMPIANS - TO GARNER MANY, MANY GOLDS, SILVERS AND BRONZES – TO REACH FOR PREEMINENCE - IS AUDACIOUS! WE MUST EMBRACE OUR MYRIAD WINS AND SUCCESSES WITH HUMILITY, LEARN FROM OUR SETBACKS AND TAKE HOLD OF THIS NEW ACADEMIC YEAR WITH DELIBERATE CONFIDENCE, COURAGE AND DETERMINATION.

TEAM USA HAD ALMOST 600 MEMBERS. TEAM METRO STATE HAS NEARLY 1,500 MEMBERS WHO ARE WORKING TOWARD A COLLABORATIVE VISION OF PREEMINENCE. THIS VISION WILL BE ACHIEVED BY EMPOWERING OTHERS, BUILDING TRUST, AND SHARING INFORMATION AND IDEAS.

YOU, EACH OF YOU, ARE THE CATALYST TO TEAM METRO STATE'S ACHIEVING OUR PURSUIT OF PREEMINENCE. I ENCOURAGE YOU ALL TO CHART YOUR COURSE, AND NAVIGATE YOUR SUCCESS, AND THE COLLEGE'S SUCCESS. IF YOU HAVE A GOOD IDEA ON HOW WE CAN FURTHER SUCCEED, SHARE IT. IF YOU WANT TO BE PART OF A

PARTICULAR INITIATIVE, ASK HOW TO GET INVOLVED. IF YOU WANT TO BE IN THE KNOW, SEEK THE INFORMATION.

YOU ARE EMPOWERED! WORK WITH YOUR COLLEAGUES, COMBINE YOUR INTELLIGENCES AND KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE PRIZE. WE HAVE A CREED, WE HAVE THE TRAINING, WE HAVE THE RESOURCES AND WE HAVE ALL OF YOU—TEAM METRO STATE!

THANK YOU AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU AS WE GO FOR THE GOLD THIS ACADEMIC YEAR. I KNOW YOU ALL WILL JOIN ME IN SAYING, “IT IS A GREAT DAY TO BE A ROADRUNNER!”

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