



COLORADO  
COLLEGE

# THE DIFFERENCE

OCTOBER 2012  
ISSUE 1

The Collaborative for Community Engagement Newsletter

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## *Welcome to the Collaborative for Community Engagement!*



A new sign welcomes visitors to Worner 205

## Service Quote of the Block:

Service to others  
is the rent you  
pay for your room  
here on earth.

--Mohammed  
Ali

by Laurel Hecker '13

While most of campus was quiet over the summer, there were some big changes happening in upstairs Worner. The Center for Service and Learning and the Partnership for Civic Engagement merged to create the Collaborative for Community Engagement. As the name suggests, the new Collaborative combines the best of both offices into a single more streamlined entity.

The impetus for the merge came from CC President Jill Tiefenthaler, based on the similarity between the two offices. Both existed to foster civic-minded leadership and provide service opportunities on campus and in the community.

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In the past, students were often confused about which office to approach, since groups and programs were divided seemingly arbitrarily between the CSL and the PCE. The new CCE should prove much simpler, as all groups from each of the parent offices now exist under the purview of a single department. Student groups are now classified under three tracks—public health, human rights, and K-12 education—based on what type of service they are engaged in. Other programs under the supervision of the CCE include the Living-Learning Communities, the Community-Engaged Leadership Certificate, and the 2012 Campus Vote Initiative.

The Collaborative also hopes to use its combined powers to bring a more unified character to service at CC. Jessica Copeland, Director of the CCE, plans to push the Collaborative beyond simple service with an emphasis on academic engagement. Bringing in an aspect of serious contemplation, she says, “offers two additional pieces: a framework through which we can evaluate the effectiveness of what we’re doing, as well as enabling a kind of systematic reflection.” Through evaluation and reflection, the CCE hopes to improve its quality of service. Students will be asked to interpret their experiences such that they can increase efficacy both for themselves and for the communities they serve.

The CCE will also seek to broaden its reach by working with various other departments



CCE Director Dr. Jessica Copeland

and offices. The Office of Minority & International Students and Outdoor Education are two examples of prime opportunities for cooperative service. In addition, the CCE is under the administration of Eric Popkin, Associate Dean of Global, Community & Summer Programs, so it is likely that those three areas will become more closely linked, leading to increased international service projects, as well as opportunities during Summer Session. Another newly-created office at CC, the Wellness Resource Center, may provide another pathway into community service on campus.

It is in the Collaborative’s updated focus on academic engagement, however, that Copeland sees the greatest area for potential. The CCE is “moving in the direction of community-based research,” says Copeland, and hopes to enable students to conduct research and complete projects that benefit Colorado

Springs and its residents. It also seeks to work with and support academic departments to engage with the community in thesis work, capstone projects, and courses. Overall, the Collaborative will strive to help break the CC bubble by offering service opportunities through various aspects of campus life.

While the CCE has lofty yet achievable goals, the task of bringing the new office up to full strength is still very much in progress. Search committees are in the process of hiring four new professional staff: an Assistant Director for Community-Based Learning and Research; Leadership Development Coordinators for K-12 Education and Health & Human Rights; and a Communications and Technology Coordinator. The CCE also plans to eventually employ as many as eight student interns. This merger is a substantial undertaking, but big things are in the works that will eventually be to the benefit of service opportunities and impact at CC.

*Editor’s Note: We at the Collaborative would like to acknowledge the departure of two incredible staff members—Gay Victoria, Director of the Center for Service and Learning, and Tonita López, Assistant Director. We deeply appreciate their many years of hard work, and miss the smiles they always brought to the office.*

# CCE Learning Outcomes

The Collaborative for Community Engagement supports and facilitates a wide range of programming designed to meet these six learning outcomes. From student-run organizations to a community-engaged leadership certificate program, from community-based research to living learning communities, our programs engage a diverse group of stakeholders from the campus and community to promote the common good and propel academic learning into the world.

1. *To engage in increasingly complex, reciprocal and sustainable collaboration with diverse communities, constituents and cultures*

2. *To articulate the connections between theory and practice in iteratively more nuanced ways, and to update one's own beliefs about the world in light of experience*

3. *To understand one's evolving place in civic life, and to demonstrate commitment to and capacity for facing the challenges of remaining engaged in civic life*

4. *To communicate effectively with and listen deeply to diverse stakeholders throughout civic action cycle*

5. *To demonstrate increasingly nimble skills for collaboratively planning, implementing and reflecting upon community engagement projects*

6. *To develop increasing competence in navigating civic systems and structures*

## Public Achievement

by Laurel Hecker '13

Six years ago, a national program called Public Achievement first came to Colorado College. Since then, "coaches" from the CC chapter have been working with K-12 students in Colorado Springs to help them learn that they can have an impact in their communities. The mission is to get kids directly involved with democracy and citizenship in a way that empowers them to enact change.

Public Achievement was founded by the Center for Democracy and Citizenship at the

University of Minnesota in 1990. Focus group studies discovered that youth were very aware of problems in their schools and neighborhoods but felt unable to fix those problems. The Public Achievement program was then designed and implemented in schools, giving young people "an opportunity to be producers and creators of their communities, not simply customers or clients." From a few schools in Minnesota, the program has expanded to numerous states and even a few countries overseas.

At its heart, Public Achievement is a mentoring

program, but it differs from others in its structured format and its extracurricular focus on practical life skills, rather than an academic subject. The CC chapter currently has two sites: one at North Middle School and the other at Wasson High School, both in Colorado Springs' School District 11. The program is largely run by CC students; each school has a site manager who coordinates with the school and CC's 16 coaches, and the chapter is overseen by program manager Ellen Scully '13.

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At each site, groups of six to eight students work with their Public Achievement coaches about twice a week for the duration of the school year. They identify a problem in their community, then plan and execute a project to address that particular issue. Projects can take a range of forms, from painting a mural to doing volunteer work. For example, a group of 8th grade girls, whom Scully mentored as a freshman, created a video to educate their peers about teen pregnancy. “It’s a big issue for them, but District 11 has a rule where you can’t talk directly about sex,” she explained, “so we focused on how hard it is to raise a kid at that age.”

Creative problem solving is just one of the skills that students learn through the Public Achievement program. Some days have specific learning outcomes, such as public speaking, that will help students with their

project and in the future. They also learn to work together and persevere on difficult tasks, as their projects may take months to complete. Many students are apathetic when they come into the program. “They have a negative view of school, their teachers, and of life in general,” explains Scully. But they learn a lot from their college-aged coaches over the course of a year. “A lot of them have this conception that college is an unachievable goal, that everyone who goes to college is a nerd... but when they interact with us they kind of realize that it might be something that they could do,” says Scully of her favorite aspect of the program.

The Public Achievement coaches learn a lot as well. While they are given guidelines for mentoring their group, the day-

to-day lesson plans are left up to them, so coaches are responsible for establishing routines and coming up with teaching activities. Many are interested in pursuing education after CC, so Public Achievement provides hands-on experience. Coaches tailor the curriculum to their group and students’ communities.

The aspect of collaboration that is integral to the Public Achievement program is beneficial to the coaches, the students, and the community. Coaches help bridge the gap between CC and the community, and empower students that might never have had a comparable opportunity. Students who complete the program come out with skills and confidence in their ability to effect change, an invaluable attribute in today’s society.



Students from North Middle visit the CC campus— photos courtesy of Ellen Scully

# Tracking Waldo Canyon Clean-Up

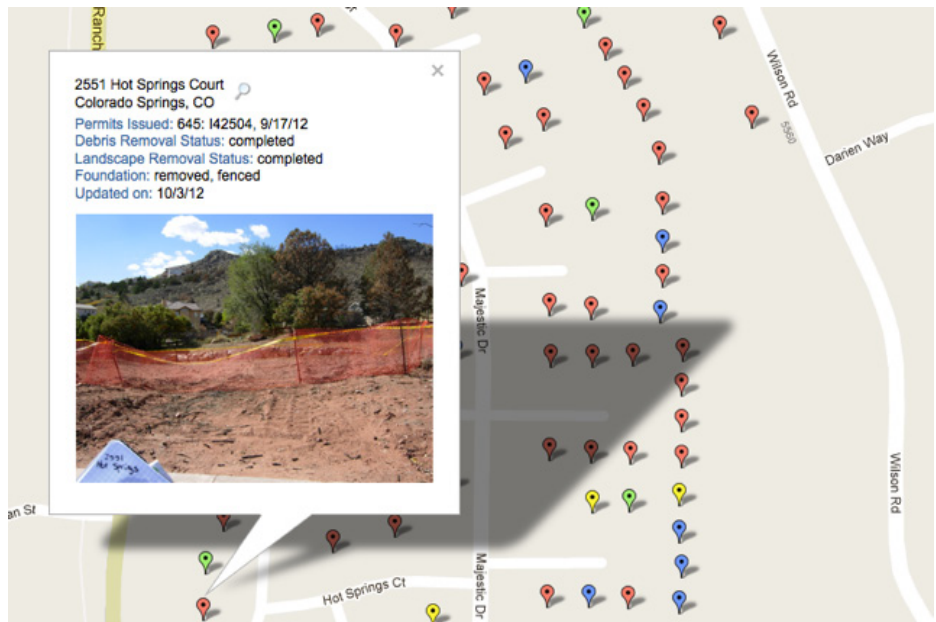
by Laurel Hecker '13

In the aftermath of the Waldo Canyon fire, which burned 29 square miles west of Colorado Springs this summer, communities are still working to recover. To that end, four Colorado College students have partnered with local non-profit Colorado Springs Together to create a restoration map. Erica Sarro '14, Andrew Allen-Fahlander '13, Dylan Sonderman '15, and Edward Crawford '15 have been surveying fire damage and tracking the clean-up process since classes began in early September.

Under the guidance of Bob Cutter, Barry Baum, and Bob Croft from Colorado Springs Together, the four students collected data from each of over 300 entirely destroyed properties. On their interactive map, each site is detailed



A Denver Post photo from the height of the Waldo Canyon Fire



The restoration map shows users the status of properties and neighborhoods.

with permit information, debris and landscape removal status, foundation status, and a photo. They have surveyed all of the properties, but will continue to monitor the progress and update the map as the restoration process moves forward.

This project is an example of the community-based research that will be a major focus of the CCE. The restoration map has many practical applications for the community. Sarro explains, "It's being used by Colorado Springs Police, Colorado Springs Together uses it frequently, and anyone in the community can look at it online. It helps people get a sense of what's going on." Besides the empirical value of a consolidated pool of information, the map has the added benefit of bringing hope to the city. Color-coding the properties based on

their clean-up status makes it easy to see overall how much has been done since the summer. The hardest part of the project, Sarro says, was "seeing the devastation, the rubble of everything these families owned." The destruction was indeed great, but now a majority of the sites on the map are colored red, meaning that debris removal is complete—steps in the right direction.

*View the  
restoration map  
online at  
<http://batchgeo.com/map/waldocanyon>*

# Kitchen Update

*an update on the CC Community Kitchen from Kitchen Manager Savannah Worth '15.*

The kitchen has been going well. I was managing over the summer, along with help from Mpesh Shongwe and Lauren Schultz. The summer was fairly calm, though the fires were making everyone nervous. Shove did indeed get some landscaping renovations, including a new serving area for us, and the pull-around [new driveway east of Shove] so we can stop running over sprinklers on the lawns. Our security guard also changed from Ray to the wonderful folks at campus safety, Billy and Kevin.

We've seen some changes with the transition from being part of the Center for Service and Learning to the Collaborative for Community Engagement, and we are excited to see who will take on the position of Health and Human Rights coordinator, which will supervise the Kitchen.

Sam Scibetta and I are now fully in charge of the kitchen, and working on developing our vision of where we want the kitchen to go in our time at CC. The previous managers accomplished a lot during their time, and I am excited to match their standards and (hopefully) bring my own unique perspective to the kitchen. We are continuing to grow as an organization and it seems like the new managers and leadership will be able to refine the experience for both our volunteers and guests, so we're excited to see where we go!



Kitchen Manager Savannah Worth



The Community Kitchen during its 20th Anniversary last spring



Kitchen Manager Sam Scibetta

# CC Votes

The 2012 Election is fast approaching and the Collaborative's CC Votes initiative has been part of numerous election-related events on campus. Most notably, it has held debate viewing parties for the three presidential debates, the vice presidential debate, and the Bill O'Reilly versus Jon Stewart "Rumble." Students gathered in the major dorms for politics with a side of pizza. The events were well attended, and often standing room only.

Between October 22 and November 2, there will be transportation available to early voting location. On November 6, election day, CC Votes will partner with several groups to put on an Election Night Party.

CC Votes works to encourage political engagement on campus by making the process accessible and fun. The initiative promotes the importance of the election at all levels, from our choice for president to our local representatives.

Like CC Votes on facebook ([www.facebook.com/CCVotes](http://www.facebook.com/CCVotes)) for campus election events and updates. Remember to vote on November 6!




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<p><b>CORNERSTONE</b> main space</p> <p>★ <b>6pm - 12am</b></p> <p>★</p> <p><b>NOVEMBER</b> <b>6, 2012</b></p>	<p><b>ELECTION</b></p> <p><b>NIGHT</b></p> <p><b>PARTY</b></p>	<p><b>FOOD, FUN</b> &amp; friendship</p> <p>★</p> <p><b>sponsored by:</b></p> <p>CC DEMS CC REPUBS PRESIDENT'S ELECTION COMMITTEE</p>
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## A Note from the Editor



Dear Reader,

Welcome to another year of The Difference! Despite the many changes at the Collaborative, the newsletter is happily still here. As the editor, I'm excited to continue reporting on the many aspects of service and civic engagement here at CC. I hope to produce a publication that is both informative and exciting to read. If there is ever a group that you'd like to see profiled, an article you'd like to write, or an event that should be advertised, please don't hesitate to contact me:

[laurel.hecker@coloradocollege.edu](mailto:laurel.hecker@coloradocollege.edu)

—Laurel Hecker '13

# Upcoming Events and Announcements

<b>Vote Early!</b>	
Oct 22 - Nov 2	Free transportation to early voting locations, Monday to Friday (except block break) between October 22 and November 2. Meet on the south side of Worner Center at 2:30 p.m.
<b>Panel Discussion</b>	
Nov 1	Are you still amongst the undecided when it comes to your vote in the presidential election? Come to this panel discussion and information session on the candidates and their policies, Thursday November 1 from 7 to 10 p.m.
<b>K-12 Partnerships</b>	
Nov 5	K-12 Partnerships meeting, Monday November 5 at 2 p.m.
<b>Election Night Party</b>	
Nov 6	Join us on election night to watch the votes roll in! Fun with democracy begins at 6 p.m. and lasts until midnight in Cornerstone Arts Center.
<b>Council on Collaboration</b>	
Nov 12	Council on Collaboration meeting, Monday November 12 at noon in Slocum Hall.

## COLORADO COLLEGE

### THE COLLABORATIVE FOR COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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#### **Our Mission Statement:**

*The Collaborative for Community Engagement challenges students and faculty to integrate rigorous liberal arts scholarship with collaborative community-based work in ways that strengthen and transform both in the process. In the tradition of liberal education and its emphasis on active citizenship, we provide a continuum of opportunities for the Colorado College community to deepen and contextualize classroom learning by engaging in reciprocal and sustainable collaborations with local, regional, national, and global partners. By fostering skills for planning, implementing and examining civic action, the Collaborative facilitates leadership development and promotes a social responsibility that is reflective, imaginative, and self-aware.*