

Chris Ox Edmonds '14



The 2013-2014 Student Trustee must be an individual who can be a liaison between students, administrators, and other trustees. Unlike a student government representative, the trustee must not just be an advocate for students in the decision-making process but take on the responsibility for the long-term health of the institution. As committed member of the CC community, I feel I have the proper qualifications, energy, and experience to serve the college in this capacity. As a leader on and off campus, I feel I am the candidate who can best fit the role as an advocate of the diverse interests of many stakeholders here at CC. I am lucky to be part of the humanities and the social science, two varsity athletic teams, the President's Council, the Campus Sustainability Council and the Energy, Environment and Security Project. Because of my commitments to a variety of groups of stakeholders, I am very aware of breadth

of opportunities and challenges that confront the CC community and I can face them from a variety of perspectives.

I am not running for student trustee in order to drastically change the course of the board; I do not see this as an opportunity to leave a legacy or initiate revolution. Instead, I am running for Student Trustee because I feel that CC is continually approaching its goals and mission and I am passionately devoted to continuing to realize them. I believe the board has a foundational role to play in the health of our institution and is doing an excellent job. I would be honored to continue this trajectory by continuing to bridge the board, administration, and student body as the current Student Trustee has so skillfully done.

As a political science major who has worked in the policy sector outside of the classroom for years, I fully understand the realistic needs of our board from our endowment, our administration, and the rest of the CC community. Throughout my time here, I have seen student initiatives challenge the Board of Trustees, most recently with calls for Divestment. From my perspective, this disagreement doesn't come because either group is acting outside of the values of Colorado College—instead we all must realize that students who are here for four years have very different priorities than the Board of Trustees who must look ten, twenty, and fifty years into the future. As a student but also as someone who has worked for public, private and non-profit groups that must weigh trying financial decisions, I feel I am well equipped to lead

in the Student Trustee position through balance, meditation and practical realism.

As the son of a school counselor, I have been bred to compromise and stay optimistic. When I headed the Multnomah Youth Commission, the official youth advocacy body of my hometown Portland, OR, I found my most affective leadership style was distinctly cooperative. Combining youth from all across the city from many racial, socio-economic, political, and religious backgrounds was always a challenge. But as a leader of the group, I was continually impressed by our ability to find common ground and work towards many goals simultaneously. I see the Student Trustee position as a similar opportunity. If selected, I would be a Student Trustee that not only recognizes need for understanding but also would have the ability to reveal our common concerns, beliefs, and goals for CC.

Finally, the Board of Trustees makes decisions on current and future campus affairs that shape every dimension of the CC experience. Although I will certainly bring a rich understanding of certain aspects, every Trustee will know more than I do about the many issues of business facing the Board. Because I love to research, explore, and further my understanding, I am committed to deeply engaging myself in this position by working tirelessly to meet the demands of the position. Throughout my involvement in Jill's strategic planning process, I have realized how exciting the work of planning our future truly is. As a planner and a policy wonk by nature, making decisions and outlining goals for an institution as dynamic and successful as has been one of the most exciting processes I've ever engaged in. I believe that of all my qualifications, it is my love and commitment to learning and discussing critical issues that make my most fit for the Student Trustee position.

Eugene McKee '14



Students and trustees have different perspectives, different timeframes and thus inevitably differ with respect to some of their priorities. For the board of trustees to understand the needs and objectives of the students and vice versa is certainly key to the success of the college, and communication is the key to understanding. It should therefore be the aspiration of the student trustee to assist the board in more completely understanding the current needs and values of the student body so that these factors can weigh in appropriately on the board's decisions concerning the management of resources and also on its planning for the future direction in which it will seek to guide the college. It must also be the aspiration of the student trustee to help the students understand the decisions of the board.

Since it is the responsibility of a board of trustees to guide an institution, every board

member is leader and a member of a team. I am intimately familiar with the many leadership styles and with the process of team development. I have studied leadership and teamwork academically in formal classes and through an internship that I held with Leadership Austin, an organization that trains business and community leaders. For three years I taught leadership and team development for the National Youth Leadership Training program and in my third year I was the youth director and led a staff of thirteen others to guide sixty-four participants through the week of outdoor teambuilding challenges, at the end of which each patrol (small group of students) was a performing team. I am also an eagle scout and I was the senior patrol leader of my troop.

During my time as the president of the Colorado College inter-fraternity council I facilitated cooperation and collaboration between the leaders of three very different, competing organizations.

I know from experience how to work in a team, how to collaborate, how to compromise how to effectively communicate and how to listen. I know from experience how to lead, and I know that a leader doesn't always have to have the loudest voice but that often he or she may lead most effectively by an example of serving others. I know that a leader is not only a director but also a facilitator of communication and cooperation, and that like any good team member, he or she is sometimes just a good listener.

It is because of these things, because of my involvement on campus with organizations

such as Greek life and Residential life, and because of my deep desire achieve as cohesive a Colorado College community as possible and to preserve this institution by

making sure that its resources are employed most effectively, that I know I could serve this institution well as a student trustee.

Garrett Benisch '14



In the hunt for colleges, CC stood out among the others for its ability to blur the line between student, faculty, and administration. Throughout these years spent at CC, every member of the community has the chance to learn and grow, no matter what position they hold. This position of Student Trustee is a direct manifestation of that ideal: that every opinion on campus is worth hearing and that great ideas can be hatched from any part of it. I would be honored to represent that ideal, and to maintain the family that nurtures intellectual growth and pioneering change.

The position of Student Trustee is one that has the ability to conform depending on the

student body and the student holding the position. As Student Trustee I will work to bridge the gap between administration and students while being sure to plan for present and future. The Student Trustee must have a third party view of the college. He/she must understand that this school will not always be exactly as it is now, and that there are certain core values that must be retained as CC makes its way into the future. High national rankings and a new president have called for a time to rethink the way that Colorado College operates from the micro to macro scale. There is no doubt that change is on the horizon.

This is a topic that I have already become well versed in. I am heavily involved in the strategic Planning process. I currently sit on the Institutional Effectiveness Committee. This committee is working to improve Colorado College communication, transparency, and to make the school a great place to work at overall. This is the only committee that will be working for two years to achieve its goals, and it is therefore an integral, slow paced process. By sitting on this committee I have learned to take each step in the planning process with caution and intent so as not to fall short of the overall goal.

For the past two years I have sat on the Design Review Board. My time on the DRB has helped me to think on a much broader scale than these short four years I will spend on campus. I also run the Integrative Design Club with Dru Warden, a fellow Junior. The IDC seeks to bring the campus community and greater Colorado Springs

community closer through design. One of the events I am responsible for with respect to the IDC is the new "Facilities University" practical skills workshop. This program uses the teaching of practical skills by our facilities staff to bring them closer to our students, staff, and faculty and develop a sense of ownership on campus. The workshops take place every first Saturday of each block, and the topic changes per block. This is an example where the concepts discussed in the Institutional Effectiveness Committee come to fruition quickly and simply. The practical skills are an added bonus to the relationship that is created through this learning experience.

Two other physical proposals the IDC is working on are the Mathias Theater makeover and the "CC Arts District." The Mathias Theater is a room off of the lobby of Mathias that was neglected in the recent renovation. It currently remains bare with a few dusty couches and no projector or audio/visual equipment, despite its theater layout. As an IDC project, we plan to work with City Rock, a local climbing gym, to create a seating area that is naturalistic in form and is built in the way that climbing walls are constructed. This way of building is inexpensive, easy to maintain, and sturdy.

By working with City Rock, we open a dialog between Downtown and Campus that goes beyond the athletics of climbing. The "CC Arts District" is a project aimed towards beautifying and repurposing the alley between Honnen Ice Arena and the back of Worner. This space will bring the currently unattractive alley to an interactive, informative, and welcoming thoroughfare that CC can be proud of.

I have acted as the bridge between student and faculty since Freshman year in many forms. I have taught Batik since Freshman year, an Arts and Crafts adjunct that is usually taught by a Senior. I also run Slackline Yoga workshops in the Climbing Gym, helping to lessen the learning curve and get more people on a slackline more easily. Along with Slackline Yoga, I run a core conditioning class with the yoga program in Cossit to help students get in shape.

The skills I have acquired from all of these committees and initiatives have given me a view of campus that is focused on the future. As student trustee, I will exercise these skills while the experience of this unique decision-making and planning process.

Joel Begay '14



I have found great pleasure and passion in serving and assisting others in all aspects of life and on many different levels; this has driven me to become a Bridge Mentor, to participate in the "Adopt-a-Student" Program, to become chair of several identity groups that include the Native American Student Union (NASU) and SOMOS (the Latino/a student organization of Colorado College), and to become a residential advisor (RA).

My involvements have helped me become a better leader on campus, and a resource for many students, first and second years in particular. As a first generation student, I found the transition to college difficult where I could have used a mentor, but instead I had to learn on my own, encouraging me to become independent. Academically, I've been successful but I've

faced challenges that were difficult to handle on my own. Therefore, I made a personal commitment to support future students and ensure they know of the resources available so that they too may be successful.

Serving as a Bridge Mentor has helped me foster relationships with first-year students, work long-term one-on-one with the students and more importantly, helping individuals find their identity. Similarly, the Adopt-a-Student Program has encouraged me to serve as a peer mentor and host family dinners for my adopted students. My involvement with NASU and SOMOS has helped me refine my skills in creating safe spaces. In addition, working as an RA has provided me with the ability to proactively reach out to students and the opportunity to build community among the upperclassmen; I am an RA in the Western Ridge Apartments. NASU, SOMOS and the RA positions have also encouraged me to work extensively with various departments that include the Department of Residential Life and Office for Minority and International Students (OMIS). For instance, I have been working with OMIS to better the relationship between identity groups and the Colorado College Student Government Association (CCSGA). I currently serve as one of the two Heads of State Representatives on CCSGA and am helping to restructure the organization for the betterment of future students and organizations. With the Department of Residential Life, I am working with OMIS to create and implement a diversity workshop for RA's during their training as well as providing the opportunity for the CC

community to participate in the event. I believe that my experiences in working with departments of the College have provided me with the necessary skillset to effectively work with the administration and help advance the institution. I am a student capable of working with others on many different levels, ranging from one-on-one consultation to working with College staff to help address various issues on campus.

I am interested in serving as the next Student Trustee because I believe that I can continue my passion by having a larger role in the Strategic Planning process. I envision the Student Trustee working closely with CCSGA to help bridge the student body and the administration; connecting both parties will help the College move forward together. As the Student Trustee, I can help Colorado College become a better community and institution for future students, allowing me to find my passion and truly enjoy the position of Student Trustee.