

**Community College of Aurora**

# **GRADUATE REPORT 2018**



**COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE  
of AURORA**

Data collected from  
2017 graduates.

# A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

June 2018

I am pleased to introduce you to the **Community College of Aurora's (CCA) 2018 Graduate Report**. Many thanks to CCA's Department of Institutional Research for their good work in conducting the 2018 Graduate Follow-up Survey and creating this report so that we can share this very positive news with our stakeholders. You will see as you read through this report that it takes an entire college to achieve the positive outcomes we are able to share with you here.

CCA's graduate follow-up study provides strong evidence of the important role that community colleges play in our economy, and more specifically, the terrific job that CCA faculty are doing to prepare our students for transfer and employment. Our Career Services office has also had a significant impact by assisting students with their job search preparation, developing relationships with employers, and connecting students and employers through internships, college and workplace visits, and career fairs.

The mission of CCA is to **serve our diverse community by providing high quality instruction and support services to prepare students for transfer and employment**, and our students affirmed in this study that we are doing what we said we would. Our graduates appreciate CCA's small classes, great instructors, friendly and inclusive culture, and affordability.

This study affirms that students receive a quality education at CCA that gives them a solid foundation to pursue a bachelor's degree or enter the workforce. Our graduates were overwhelmingly positive about their experiences at CCA – and even more importantly, how well the college prepared them for their futures. This study is evidence that access and affordability do not preclude quality instruction and support services, but work together to provide students with the opportunity to succeed in college and beyond.



Thanks for taking a look – I think you will be impressed by what you see.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy Oudenhoven". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betsy Oudenhoven, Ph.D.  
President  
Community College of Aurora

# ABOUT CCA

## Mission

CCA serves our diverse community by providing high-quality instruction and support services to prepare students for transfer and employment.

## Vision

We aspire to be the college where every student succeeds.

## Values

We value respect, collaboration, quality, access, diversity, and inclusion.

## Accreditation

CCA is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. The regional accrediting body is located at 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, Illinois 60604. The office may be contacted at 800-621-7440. CCA has been accredited by the HLC since 1988.

## Campus Locations

### CentreTech Campus

Community College of Aurora  
16000 East CentreTech Parkway  
Aurora, Colorado 80011-9036  
303-360-4700

### Lowry Campus

Community College of Aurora  
710 Alton Way  
Aurora, Colorado 80230-7112  
303-340-7093

# CCA 2017 GRADUATES

CCA's courses are based on real life and work situations so that graduates are more than ready when they start their careers. When students graduate from CCA's programs, they are prepared to transfer to a four-year institution or to begin their career.

## CCA Students

CCA is a global community with students from more than 60 countries. The diversity of the students and the community is one of the college's greatest strengths. CCA has an inclusive, equity-driven, multicultural environment; a reputation for excellence; and a culture that places a high value on positive experiences for all students, faculty, and staff.

## Graduates by Ethnicity

American Indian/Alaskan Native	12	1.4%
Asian or Pacific Islander	60	7.2%
African American/Black Non-Hispanic	122	14.7%
Hispanic - Other	185	22.3%
White Non-Hispanic	410	49.5%
Unknown/Not Reported	39	4.7%
<b>Total Graduates</b>	<b>828</b>	

## Graduates by Age

19 or Less	99	12.0%
20 to 24	283	34.2%
25 to 29	158	19.1%
30 to 34	100	12.1%
35 to 39	80	9.7%
40 to 54	89	10.7%
55 or older	19	2.3%
<b>Average Age</b>	<b>28.5</b>	

**17**

CCA's youngest  
2017 graduate

**75**

CCA's oldest  
2017 graduate

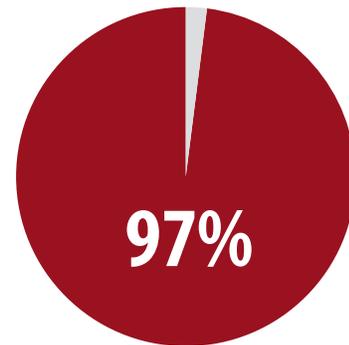
## Graduates by Gender

Female	459	55.4%
Male	368	44.4%
Unknown / Not Reported	1	0.1%
<b>Total Graduates</b>	<b>828</b>	

CCA is dedicated to increasing the retention, completion, and transfer of CCA students—especially those who are underrepresented in higher education, financially under-resourced, the first generation in their family to attend college, nontraditional, or otherwise educationally disadvantaged.

## Graduates by First-Generation Status

First-Generation Students	499	60.3%
Not First-Generation Students	302	36.5%
Unknown / Not Reported	27	3.3%
<b>Total Graduates</b>	<b>828</b>	



97% of 2017 CCA graduate respondents indicated that their CCA program **met their education goals** "well" or "very well."<sup>1</sup>

96% of respondents stated CCA created a **welcoming and inclusive environment.**<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Source: 2018 VE-135 Graduate Follow-up Survey. All student demographic information is from the SURDS enrollment report submission and COGNOS student demographic extracts.

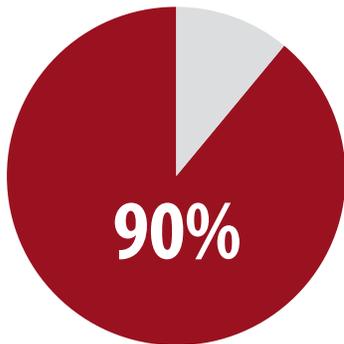
# CCA 2017 GRADUATES



In the 2017 academic year, 828 students graduated from CCA, earning a total of 909 certificates and associate degrees. CCA conducted a follow-up survey with these graduates in the spring of 2018. This report highlights the survey's findings. CCA prepares both transfer graduates and career/technical education (CTE) graduates. Transfer graduates earn an associate degree that allows them to transfer as juniors to a four-year college or university. CTE graduates earn either a certificate or associate degree that allows them to enter the workforce.

*"CCA did a wonderful job to motivate students and allows students to pursue their dreams."*

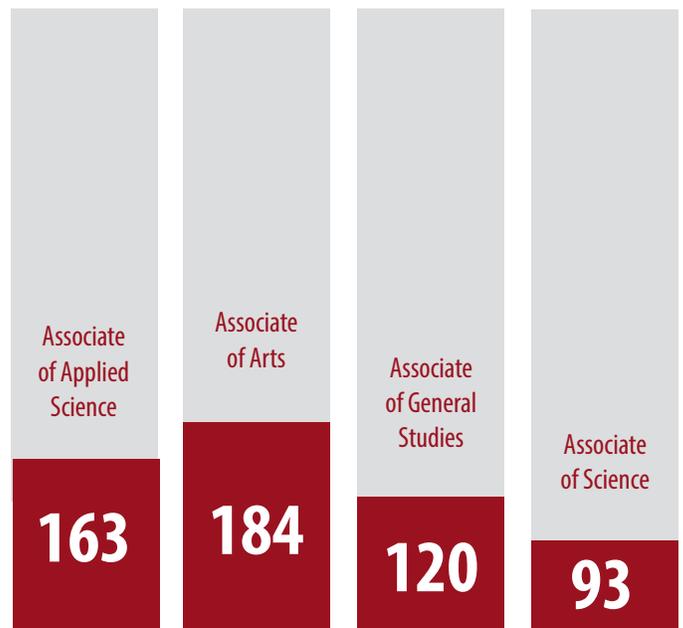
*"I obtained a quality education and experience, the teachers are friendly. It's a good place to pursue your education."*



90% of responding CCA 2017 graduates are **employed or are continuing their education.**<sup>1</sup>

*"Attending classes at CCA was a great experience for me. I met a lot of great people among other students and had really great teachers that helped me improve in all my academic skills. It was very special."*

**560**  
CCA awarded 560 associate degrees in 2017.

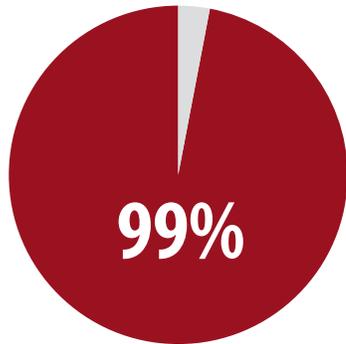


<sup>1</sup>Source: 2018 VE-135 Graduate Follow-up Survey

# 2017 TRANSFER GRADUATES

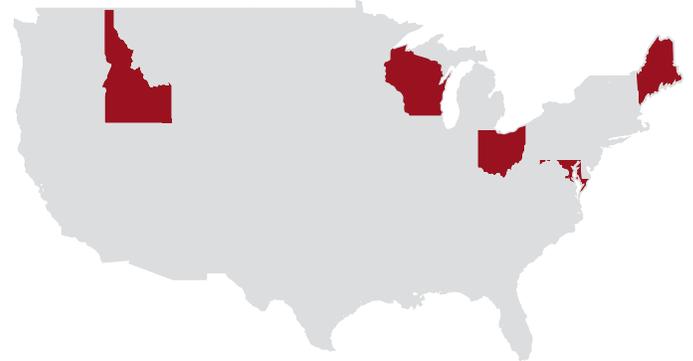
Transfer graduates received degrees in programs that prepared them to transfer as juniors into four-year colleges and universities.

The responses of our graduates from 2017 continue a trend of transfer graduates rating CCA highly on their preparation for further education, saying CCA prepared them “well” or “very well.”



99% of 2017 transfer graduates said CCA prepared them “well” or “very well” for further education.<sup>1</sup>

Other states in which 2017 CCA graduates are continuing their education include **Idaho, Ohio, Maine, Maryland, and Wisconsin.**



Over half of the students who enroll at CCA are interested in transferring in order to complete their bachelor’s degree. CCA degrees are designed to make transferring easy. Students start by meeting with an academic advisor to determine a degree plan; they then use the services of the Career PATHS Center to explore majors and possible career tracks. CCA offers support every step of the way.

More than 62% of CCA’s 2017 transfer graduates reported that they are continuing their education.

91% of CCA’s 2017 graduates who were continuing their education at a four-year school transferred to a school in Colorado.

## Top Four-Year Transfer Schools in Colorado

School	# of Transfers
Metropolitan State University of Denver	43
University of Colorado – Denver	36
Colorado State University	5
University of Colorado – Anschutz Medical Campus	5
University of Colorado – Boulder	3

*“I had a great experience at CCA. It not only helped me get my foot back in the door, educationally, but prepared me for continuing on to a bachelor’s degree.”*



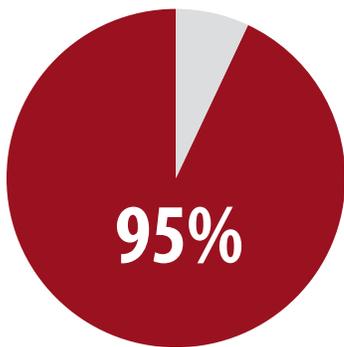
<sup>1</sup>Source: 2018 VE-135 Graduate Follow-up Survey

# 2017 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) GRADUATES

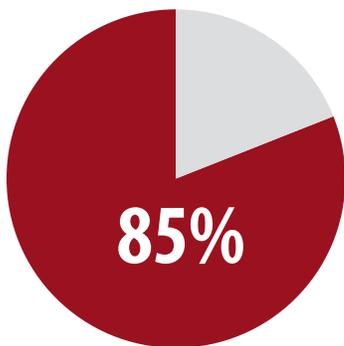
## CCA's Career and Technical Education

CCA's Career and Technical Education (CTE) offers more than 40 certificate or degree-and-certificate programs in which students are engaged in hands-on courses and work-based learning: The Colorado Film School at CCA is renowned as one of the best film schools in the country. The nursing pathway program allows students to attend CCA and then transfer to the University of Colorado, College of Nursing, to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. Programs such as the Police Academy, the Fire Academy, and Emergency Medical Services provide a number of ways for students to learn to serve and protect our communities.

## CTE Graduates in the Workforce



95% of CTE graduates indicated that their CCA program **enhanced their ability to get or keep their jobs.**<sup>1</sup>



More than 85% of 2017 CTE graduates reported that they were **employed**; 58% of those worked in the field related to their CCA programs.<sup>1</sup>



The average wage of CTE graduates is \$18 per hour.<sup>1</sup>

## 2017 Certificates and Degrees Awarded by Programs

Liberal Arts and Sciences Certificates/Degrees	Certificates/Degrees Awarded in 2017
Early Childhood Education	50
Translation and Interpretation	6
<b>Total Certificates and Degrees</b>	<b>56</b>

Professional Studies and Sciences Certificates/Degrees	Certificates/Degrees Awarded in 2017
Allied Health Program	69
Applied Technology	5
Business	88
Computer and Digital Technology	36
Criminal Justice	45
Diesel Power Mechanics	19
Emergency Medical Service	91
Fire Science Technology	17
Multimedia Technologies*	57
Paralegal	29
<b>Total Certificates and Degrees</b>	<b>456</b>

\*Colorado Film School degrees and certificates.

*"I am very happy that I went to CCA to further my education. Without it I don't think I could have the job I got. I enjoyed all my classes and all the professors as well as the hands-on training."*

*"Furthering my education was a wonderful experience and has helped me improve my job skills. This has prepared me to gain a better paying job which will improve my financial situation."*

# CCA CAREER PATHS CENTER

CCA Career PATHS Center is a full-service career development center and resource which is free for students on an appointment or drop-in basis. Students graduate and transfer at greater rates when they know the direction of their career path. The Career PATHS Center supports that journey from start to finish.

## The center assists with:

- Self-discovery
- Career exploration
- Resume writing
- Cover letters
- Creating a LinkedIn profile
- Coaching professional demeanor and appearance
- Interview and networking skills
- Hiring event etiquette
- Success on the job
- Strategies to gain experience

## Employers connect with students through:

- Company spotlights – employers visit CCA's campus and directly recruit students
- Career fairs – the Spring Career Expo provides a great opportunity for employers to meet students and for students to explore possibilities
- Industry specific career events – highlighting particular industries in demand, such as health care, IT and others
- Online job boards
- Internships – students learn about a company from the inside.

## Employer information

CCA Career PATHS Center connects employers with educated and skilled students and alumni. Center staff act as a liaison between a talented pool of potential employees and employers delivering a higher level of customer service partnership that puts CCA students at the top of the hiring order.

Career PATHS Center  
careerservices@ccaaurora.edu  
303-340-4982





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[www.ccaurora.edu](http://www.ccaurora.edu)

For more information about the 2018 VE-135 Graduate Follow-Up survey and other data contained in the report, contact the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, at [CCA.IR@ccaaurora.edu](mailto:CCA.IR@ccaaurora.edu) or call 303-360-4737.