Chemo and upcoming surgery can sap the spirit, but Diana Counterman’s determination to fight breast cancer is strong - and bolstered by the friendship and support of her CCA cohorts.

She’d sit and listen to it by herself: The piano intro, the horn solo, and the gargled-nails toughness that resonates in Bob Seger’s voice during his classic, “Old Time Rock and Roll.”

For Diana Counterman, bobbing along to her favorite song on Friday mornings was a nod not only to her Detroit roots but to the approaching end of another work week, a tacit reminder that the weekend was just hours away.

But that was Diana Counterman, B.C. – before cancer. This solo enterprise has transformed into “The Friday Morning Dance Routine.”

Each Friday, when the dunn-dunn-dunn-dunn-dunn-dunn-dunn-dunn not only unmistakably opens Seger’s song, it kicks off a cramped frenzy in Counterman’s office.

Members of Enrollment Services and Outreach and Recruitment knock the sleep out of their eyes with motion. They begin getting down before getting down to business.

“We just have a laugh,” said Counterman, an administrative assistant at CCA since 2008. “You’ve got to laugh. It beats dwelling on things. And if you...”
Cancer

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watch us do it, it's really funny.”

The speakers are cranked to 10. The lights are off. The doors haven't yet opened and department supervisors still haven't arrived.

So, getting out one's yah-yahs is legal, and encouraged.

“Diana’s on the way to everybody’s office, so every morning everybody stops in and says, ‘How are you doing?’” related Nicole Hockert, one of the dance party’s most, um, expressive participants. “On Fridays it’s not, ‘How are you doing?’ but put the music on and get down with your bad self.”

This is at least the kind of getting down Counterman can endorse.

There’s enough of the getting down that has come and gone since her diagnosis was confirmed on May 26. The mood swings became even more unpredictable after four rounds of chemotherapy leading up to her scheduled Sept. 29 surgery.

“The energy flops onto me from them,” Counterman said of the dance division. And, even when Counterman’s moves produce a leg cramp, as it did in mid-September, it beats the alternative of consistently talking about her condition.

While she appreciates the concern, the dance party beats a pity party any day.

“There’s nothing anyone can do for me, because it’s all up to me,” Counterman said. “So, I’d much rather have this.”

The irony is that every April since 1985 Counterman had given herself a mammogram as a birthday present, even though nothing in her family history or medical background suggested its necessity. A woman with whom she’d previously worked at Community College of Denver was diagnosed with breast cancer way back when, and, in tribute, Counterman decided that a little preventive medicine couldn’t hurt.

About a year ago, there were suspicions after a doctor’s visit that something could be awry, but no action was taken when the concern level seemed low from the professionals. But this April, she discovered a lump in her breast, and this wasn’t tribute anymore but a bad trip. She was called back to the medical facility the following day.

“I did the biopsy and it’s been the go-round ever since,” Counterman said.

She understandably went through the stages of grief when she learned her condition. There were rationalizations. Shock. Despair. She lost her hair, nearly lost her mind, too, when someone treating her told her that the nausea, vomiting and lack of sleep that accompanied her first chemo treatment was mental.

But somewhere along the way, the urge to fight took over.

“At the beginning there was a lot of feeling sorry for myself. Where did this come from? Why me?” Counterman explained. “And then it was, ‘Too bad. Deal with it. You’ve dealt with a whole lot more in your life and this is just another bump in the road. Get over it.”

It’s easier done than said when a support group emerges to provide a man a bejeweled boxing glove pin as a reminder of what lies ahead.

Or, it’s folks like Hurtado, Gaer, Angie Tiedeman and Catrina Semakula joining the dance party with Diana — and Bob.

“I guess what I’m really honored about is the president even stopped by a couple times and asked how I’m doing and whether everything’s OK,” Counterman said, referring to Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven. “Wow.”

Counterman asked a group of men to shave their heads and take a picture with her, in order to publicize Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October and even they obliged.

“I think it means more than people can possibly understand,” said Tomlinson, a close confidante who began her CCA career at the same time as Counterman and was her predecessor in recruiting. “Diana’s always been connected with a lot of people on campus and when she asked people to do that, she was really surprised and thrilled with the response she got, that support, that, ‘Wow, people do love me.’

“I think she knew it, but she didn’t know it was as much as that.”

One of, if not the only, pleasant side effects of Counterman’s fight is that she’s been much more apt to empathy and compassion to others since her own diagnosis. She wants to know every detail of other’s problems and keep the focus off herself — telling them it’s going to be OK.

“A lot of times it’s me-me-me,” Tomlinson said. “Not with her.”

Hockert gave Counterman a book of unfiltered expressions designed to raise her spirits, featuring the ornery old woman Maxine.

If each day is a gift, I’d like to know where to return Mondays.

“Maybe it is a man’s world. Would a woman leave this kind of mess?”

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“Maybe it is a man’s world. Would a woman leave this kind of mess?”

Going to work would be easier if I stayed in bed for a living.

Numerous pages have been ripped out and returned by Counterman to her supporters. They can be found on
When people talk about cancer, they’re often discussing what happens after diagnosis in a patient, or talking about preventative screenings.

In the news and possibly from a family member, you may have heard about genetic screening for the BRCA genetic mutation that places certain people at a much higher risk for cancer than the rest of the population. You’ve probably read about Angelina Jolie and her choice to undergo prophylactic mastectomy surgery, and you may have read some of the negative “news” articles describing how genetic testing has caused a mad dash for unnecessary and drastic procedures among women.

In all of this dialogue, among celebrities, talk show hosts and, occasionally, a medical professional, the real information can get lost. This was the turmoil of bad press, well-intentioned advice, and misinformation I found myself navigating last year when I discovered I carried the genetic mutation and that my chances of getting breast cancer were over 90 percent, with a strong chance of recurrence. The numbers for the risk of ovarian cancer weren’t far behind.

It took me by surprise when I learned how willing my insurance company was to pay for the genetic testing. With the strong history of cancer in my family, it was free. My sister’s insurance company was willing to pay for the testing and can share their results with your insurance company.

When people tell me I made the right choice, all I can say is that it was the only choice I could have made. There will always be somebody telling me that I could have just been more aggressive with screenings rather than go through these exquisitely painful, life-altering surgeries.

Although technology and medicine have vastly improved since the 1940s, I have no wish to go even one step down the road on which my grandmother found herself when she was my age. With a diagnosis of terminal cancer that rapidly spread through her entire body, she was sent home to gather her little family around her and waited to die.

And today, there are still no effective methods of ovarian cancer screening. You find it when you’ve got it. I feel strongly that there must be an increase in honest dialogue about genetics, and improved resources for people who are at a high risk of cancer, before they even suspect they have it. Many are not aware that genetic testing is not just for the wealthy and famous any longer, or they think it’s a matter of chance, a pamphlet somewhere in doctor’s office to read through and discard. It was my experience that many doctors know little about these tests and preventative surgeries, yet have very strong opinions. Consequently, I found it necessary to do my own research to learn the facts through genetics counselors and specialists.

I would encourage anyone with a strong history of cancer in the family to determine if they have the mutation, and find good doctors to talk to about it. If you are wondering about your history, there’s a good chance you’ve got somebody in the family who has undergone a testing and can share their results with your insurance company.

Recent legislation will hopefully continue to make the testing available to more individuals before they are diagnosed with cancer. Knowing what I did about my family’s history, I had been living in fear of it for years, and had already allowed myself to be a victim of something before it even happened to me.

It doesn't have to be that way.

As I near the final stretch of surgeries and reconstruction, I am relieved to have finally taken the first steps toward the implementation of a proactive, aggressive plan to keep me cancer-free.

And I hope one day that genetic testing for everyone will be as routine as a yearly physical.
Pancakes, bacon, fruit, and a healthy portion of laughs comprised the menu at the annual CCA faculty and staff breakfast to kick off the fall semester, held Aug. 20.

The highlight of the event was a video produced by Marketing and Digital Media staff members Ethan Ruzzano, Anna Pan and Jaclyn Zwerg that was a tongue-in-cheek take on college values – collaboration, quality, inclusion, diversity, access, and, r-e-s-p-e-c-t.

Numerous CCA faculty, staff and administrators showed off their dancing moves as the classic Aretha Franklin song addressing the latter served as backdrop.

Dr. Betsy Oudenhoven, the college’s president, and Cabinet members called the meeting to order afterward to discuss serious issues relating to the strategic plan. Those same college leaders also provided critical information on personnel changes and structural or philosophical differences entering the new semester.

But make no mistake, for many it was likely difficult to shake the image of Brad Jacobson, assistant director of the Transfer Success Program at the Student Success Center, taking over as the college’s supreme leader in one of the dystopian repercussions of ignoring said college values.

Consider that a valuable warning ...
(Clockwise) Sharon Connelly, top left, and the staff of the Student Success Center, top right, react to the dancing acumen of several co-workers during a video produced by the Communications Department; good eats, times two; Mike Carter simultaneously appears to be a pacifist and an enforcer while fielding a phone call; Kimberly Suazo waves to the gathering while the rest of Fiscal Affairs applauds its role in processing payroll for the college; Marie Mullan.
Dreams will take flight for a few select CCA students chosen to launch rockets at NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility next June.

The difficult part will be the vetting process that whistles down prospective candidates over the next several months to a team of three that will represent the college for the first time at a RockOn! Workshop held in Virginia.

“This is an amazing opportunity,” said Science faculty Victor Andersen, who serves as the Colorado Space Grant Consortium’s affiliates director for the college. “These are the big-life opportunities for students.”

The chance arose through proposals generated from up high – in Washington D.C., not space, in this case.

NASA’s Office of Education awarded more than $17.3 million in August through the National Space Grant Fellowship Program to increase student and faculty engagement in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) at community colleges and technical schools across the United States.

The winning proposal by the Colorado Space Grant Consortium (COSGC) calls for a minimum of 40 additional community college students and eight community college faculty in COSGC programs. CCA is among the chosen few that will have students competing for scholarships, in summer internships at NASA centers and the RockOn! Workshop at Wallops Flight Facility.

“This is one of the things I have been thinking about for a long time,” said Andersen, now in his eighth year as CCA faculty. “It’s been one of my goals.”

During his tenure, Andersen has been a party to student presentations on balloon flights to scientists and engineers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., zero-G flights at Johnson Space Center in Houston, and an oversized balloon-satellite launch in Fort Sumner, N.M.

But these kinds of unique opportunities have been rare of late due to funding issues and the reality of student turnover at two-year institutions, considering the time commitment involved in this type of project.

But the new emphasis on community colleges and a resulting grant that removes the cost barrier has delivered new possibilities. “Now, we have to identify the right students,” Andersen said.

The RockOn! Workshop affords those students chosen a chance to visit a NASA facility and, in a six-day span, learn the basics of payload building and integration on a rocket. The work at Wallops won’t be judged by Andersen but professionals in the field of space exploration, raising the stakes even further.

“A NASA engineer or engineer is sitting across the table, and if you don’t satisfy them, the rockets don’t fly,” Andersen said.

Participants then return to CCA with the skills and resources necessary to over the next year design, build and integrate a sounding rocket – designed to take measurements and perform scientific experiments during its sub-orbital flight, thereby continuing a relationship with Wallops Flight Facility through its RockSat C or X programs.

That experiment, completely engineered at home, then would be taken out for a trip to Wallops for a second launch in summer 2016.

Details remain, but the students representing CCA will come from groups participating in the college’s Experimental Design course and workshops running this fall. The former will launch balloon-satellites in the spring; the latter will work on a robotics project. It’s important that whomever is selected not only possess the requisite skills but is early enough in his or her college life that the students can remain in the project for the long haul.

“In terms of what we’re looking for, we need to have students who have shown they’ve developed the technical skills necessary. Technical skills are important. Interest is important.

“But the final thing is intangibles,” Andersen said. “The ability to work independently, the ability to work as part of a team, the ability to overcome obstacles.

“We’re not evaluating whether they know how to solder or how to program microcontrollers, but as we give them more obstacles, can they figure things out on their own? Can they overcome challenges? Those are the kinds of things we’re really looking for.”

The rockets that will be launched next summer over the Atlantic Ocean will travel 621/2 miles into the atmosphere before returning to land.

The rocket system is comprised of a pair of motors that run two distinct stages. According to NASA data, the propellant system running the motor results in thrust levels of approximately 19,000 pounds during the first four seconds of burn then trails off to approximately 3,000 pounds until burnout around 25 seconds. Payload weights can range from 200 to 800 pounds.

So, this is no backyard toy – just as they will be no ordinary students running this airborne marvel.

“They are the engineers and scientists of the future. And there’s lots of roads to go where you want to go, but this is a high payoff road,” Andersen said. “A high percentage who go through this will succeed.”
Part-time job fair draws food, foot traffic

CCA students get a sales pitch from CSU Extension-Denver.

Corporate giants PepsiCo and Verizon were newcomers among the 46 companies taking part in the Part-Time Job, Internship and “Free Stuff” Fair on Sept. 4.

“The employers that came were larger, recognizable companies than those at past fairs with deeper career paths and more open positions,” said Barbara Lindsay, CCA’s director of Career Services.

“And they seemed to be very enthusiastic about getting in front of our students. Two companies directly after the event left me messages asking if they could connect in additional ways.”

Lindsay added that at least four companies made hires right at the event.

Verizon was one of those entities, adding two CCA students to its employee roster and connecting with multiple additional applicants.

Elizabeth Williams, recruiter for Verizon, gave dual reasons for her company’s appearance at CCA. First, she researched the college after an employee’s resume indicated she was an alum. Verizon’s recent opening of numerous part-time positions coincided with the primary focus of the fair and sealed the decision.

“Community colleges are a really good place to find our part-time employees,” Williams said. “They tend to make really good employees, and we also offer tuition assistance for part time, as well as a very good benefits package, which is kind of a rare thing for part-time employees.”

Other larger companies on hand included Jackson Hewitt, FedEx Smart Post, Dish Network, and Kaiser Permanente.

David Norman, senior human resources representative, for PepsiCo, said his company only recently began engaging community colleges after tapping into four-year schools.

Part-time jobs have hours that could mesh with the non-traditional student’s schedule. “So we thought it would be a good idea to tap into this student body ... and add them to the candidate pool,” he said.

New addition to CCA is history

JSTOR access boon for students, faculty

You might not get your hands on archival educational journals at CCA, but students, faculty and staff now have the ability to get their fingers on them – thanks to the addition of a powerful new set of databases.

JSTOR, new to the college and online in September, started as a way to store archival print journals, many of which were digitized dating back to their first issues. It was a means to free up physical space in libraries. So, while the few journals CCA did have no longer will appear on the college’s shelves, these journals and hundreds more will be available via computer.

The digitization process began in 1995 and already has reached 50 million pages, with three million more added each year.

The focus of these publications is on social sciences and humanities, which cover a large swathe of materials encompassing economics, history, political science, ecology, mathematics, women’s studies, and health sciences.

“It will fill in some of those gaps for our general education requirements, and it’s all full text,” said Joanna Primus, director of Library Resources. “So you don’t have to get the title and request it through inter-library loan and wait for us to get it back to you. This will be instant access to a broad range of archived materials going back more than 100 years.”

JSTOR – short for journal storage – appears in 8,400 institutions worldwide and was recommended by numerous faculty members, who noted that many universities with which they’ve had affiliations long have made the database available for use with historical, social sciences and other projects.

The information is accessible nearly everywhere through the college’s website, both at home and on campus. CCA now is connected to more than 30 databases, which the college provides as a service to students. Some of the more popular options before the addition of four JSTOR options have included Academic Search Premier, Business Source Premier and America’s Historical Newspapers.

“A lot of these databases don’t go as far back as the first issues,” Primus said. “They may date back to 1994 or 1988. This is going to take you all the way back to the first issue of the first journal in the series, so you’re getting all the back issues, which you don’t get with Academic Search Premier or some other EBSCO host databases.”

CCA won’t be unique now that it has made JSTOR available but it will help the college help students compare and contrast disciplines in the past with present techniques and methodologies.

“Student success, and giving the students the access to information that they need to be successful and helping them navigate that information, is our major goal,” Primus explained. “JSTOR’s going to be a one-stop shop for them, where they can get quality, scholarly information. That’s why it’s so important.”

A side benefit is that students transferring to a four-year institution already will be familiar with the interface.

It also will be a boon for researchers and historians on campus, who Primus aims to please as well with these additional tools at their disposal.

“Mostly Geoff Hunt,” Primus chuckled, referring to the chair of Social Sciences.
On August 28, returning students were greeted by a Lowry event featuring inflatables, prizes, local band The Constant Tourists, food ... even raindrops. But the wet weather didn’t dampen the spirits of CCA’s guests, who were greeted warmly by faculty, staff and administrators to kick off the semester.

Clockwise from top, a Cheshire grin; Behavioral Sciences Club is represented by Tasia VanderVegt and Tanya Cook; Renie DelPonte takes a candid with daughters Anna and Emily (and babysitter Kersten); a young boy reacts to meeting the Fox mascot for the first time; a raffle winner.
Clockwise, a soft landing in the bouncy house; a double dose of Erick Chavez; Angie Tiedeman, Javon Brame and Kristen Cusack at the Moe’s Original BBQ truck; Derrick Haynes is KO’ed in the ring; Stephanie Agner dodges the raindrops, and balances her plate; Tamara White celebrates her win over Haynes; Charles Robinson, Olimpia Marroquin, Gina Iannelli, Jennifer VanderMeer, and Steve Simpson strike a pose.
College, Adama building bridges

Possibilities abound after visit to Aurora

The City of Aurora’s new Sister Cities agreement with Adama, Ethiopia includes a strong educational component, of which CCA is playing an integral role.

During the recently completed 10-day tour by the Adama delegation, not only was the partnership between cities officially signed, but there were discussions about strengthening the relationship and the tools of collaboration that can be most useful moving forward.

Talks and action around health care, international trade and development, and municipal issues represent some of those future directions. Another area does, too.

“We’ve had some conversations about opportunities, and education is certainly one,” the city’s manager, Skip Noe, told a group of CCA students largely comprised of Cultural Anthropology and International Relations students during a tour stop on the CentreTech campus on Aug. 28.

“The Community College of Aurora and the education community in Adama can have an exchange, and the good news about Sister City relationships in this era is that you don’t have to travel to be able to have that exchange. You can have all that electronically. And I think that’s something you’re going to see over the next year as we continue to get to know one another.”

Political Science faculty Dr. Bobby Pace, in concert with many of his peers and college administrators, already is trying to make those steps tangible.

Educational exchanges often occur through students traveling abroad and immersing themselves in culture. Pace and Co. see technology such as iPads and Android tablets as a means to explore another one’s cultures between Aurora and Adama.

“One of the things that we’ve been playing with as faculty is how we can integrate collaboratively courses that would actually place students from Adama in the same classes as the ones students are taking here in virtual fashion,” Pace said.

“It can be as simple as Adama students exploring their community and videotaping it, places such as government buildings or economic marketplaces, and CCA’s students doing the same to gauge the differences and similarities.”

Students in both countries could get Google Hangout addresses and have one-on-one facial conversations with their peers, or students could work in groups.

“We really want to think of the students in Adama as our students, too, and our students as their students so we can really build those ties,” Pace added.

Toking the immersion one step further: CCA is looking to expand its annual Model United Nations to include a trip to New York to an international event, where the college’s traveling group serves as Ethiopia in U.N.-styled debates. Some funding already has been acquired to make that trip happen, though additional monies are necessary.

Adama Mayor Abreham Adula and Jegalo Guye, director of Adama’s Sister Cities Program, spent four hours at CCA, and before leaving, were given a demonstration on how the two countries could be easily linked via technology.

“I’m very pleased with the fact that Adama was selected as a Sister City with Aurora,” Adula, speaking Amharic, said through a translator. “It will be unique in the sense that no other Ethiopian or even African cities have had that opportunity. It’s a chance for exchange of information and technology, with partnerships in education, health care, and most importantly, people-to-people relationships.”

That personal touch was on display at CCA, as nine Ethiopian students had a private meeting with the Adama delegation to discuss American education, differences from their African experiences, and ways to merge the two cultures.

“Here at CCA, it’s a big system that helps students to easily get what you want and what you need,” student Mekonnen Abebe said. “And it’s easy to learn. So I mentioned to them to create this easy system to communicate with instructors, technology, everything.”

The student group discussed gathering their used textbooks and sending them to Ethiopia for its students’ use.

The Adama delegation not only toured CCA but also took part in Global Fest, toured Aurora’s facilities and water purification systems, the Solar Technology Acceleration Center, Anschutz Medical Center, and more, in exploring future ties.

CCA students that met with the mayor were given a business card with his contact information in order to stay in touch — something they plan to do.

“I’m excited. It’s very nice of CCA bringing Adama’s mayor here. It’s like for us going home,” said student Ashenafi Gelaw.

“It costs $2,000 to buy a ticket to go home. But when you bring someone from our country here, it feels like we’ve gone home already.”
CCA donated the use of its high-fidelity medical mannequins for a mass CPR exercise held at Windsor High School on Aug. 13. Teachers, as well as maintenance, nutritional, and administrative staff — totalling more than 600 — took part in the training. Michael E. Blackwill, Operations Chief for Windsor Severance Fire Rescue, wrote the college a letter of appreciation for its assistance.

The Women’s Coalition at CCA will be holding a food drive Sept. 15-19 to support the Gateway Women’s Shelter. Boxes will be placed around both CCA campuses that week.

Donations also will be accepted during two dedicated events: on the 17th in the Classroom Building at CentreTech; or in the main entrance to West Quad at Lowry on the 18th. There will be a hot dog bar at those sites running from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

A raffle ticket will be distributed for every three items donated, with gift certificates and a computer tablet as prizes. All donations will be brought to local food banks courtesy of Colorado Hi-Tec Moving & Storage.

Anita Fleming-Rife, the college’s director of diversity, inclusion and training, attended the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) conference in Montreal in August. Fleming-Rife was recently elected to a second three-year term as a member of the association’s Elected Standing Committee on Teaching. She presented “Incorporating Diversity Into Your Classroom” during a teaching panel.

Additionally, Fleming-Rife was recognized by the Minorities and Communications Division for Outstanding Service as the Professional Freedom and Responsibility Chair. During a panel discussion on Brown v. Board of Education, she presented a paper, “Sixty Years After Brown: The Status of African-American Students, Faculty and Administrators in Higher Education, AEJMC & AEJMC Accredited Programs,” which was well received.

A delegation from the Netherlands interested in learning about Colorado’s community colleges will take a tour of CCAs Disaster Management Institute Nov. 4 as part of its fact-finding mission. In addition to visiting simulation spaces, the group also is scheduled to partake in a roundtable discussion.

Strategic Partnerships is allocating $40,000 to continue the internal innovation grant program that started last year. Any CCA employee is welcome to apply, including full-time and adjunct faculty members, and student support services and administrative staff. Any individual or group may apply for up to $10,000 for a project that meets the criteria outlined in the application form. Applications are due October 10. Please contact Janel Highfill (janel.highfill@ccaaurora.edu) with any questions or for an application.

Hollywood Reporter magazine once again has recognized the Colorado Film School as one of the top institutions of its kind in the United States. The story, appearing in the magazine’s Aug. 1 edition, places CFS at No. 25 among its brethren, including such heavyweights as the University of Southern California, American Film Institute, New York University, and many more.

Executive Director of Advising Services Derrick Haynes participated on an education panel as a part of the Taste of Ethiopia last month in Denver. The panel included a discussion on the cost of higher education; finding scholarships; support services; and academic programs/offering. The panel also included representatives from the University of Colorado and Anschutz Medical Campus.

Student Affairs staff members partnered with College Communications staff members in August to have a college presence at the Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce Leadership Foundation Chamber Connect Annual Golf Tournament. This and Wyoming, will include the creation of an agenda and providing speakers for the 2014-2015 class of participants. She is designing the institute around four key leadership attributes: understanding yourself, understanding institutional culture, understanding political contexts, and building support systems. The first session is Oct. 2.

Dean of Students Tamara White served as a panel presenter for two events in August. She was the only community college representative on a panel about Colorado’s New Admission, Remediation-Credit Transfer Policies for the Colorado Association of School Executives conference in August. She also served on a panel for the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) Policy Conference entitled “Developing Education: Casting Aside Policies of the Past for New Approaches.”

CCA Math Department Chair James Gray will serve as co-principal investigator and college a subcontractor for a new National Science Foundation grant awarded to the University of Denver, entitled “Access in Mathematics for All: Increasing the number of diverse and low-income STEM majors who become secondary school mathematics teachers.”

Internship Coordinator Barbara Young, Assistant Director of Student Life Regina Edmonds, and Political Science faculty at the Center for Simulation at Lowry. Two-person teams were judged on proficiency in safety, clinical knowledge, skills and abilities, including professional operation of emergency vehicles, gurney lifting technique and patient care. The AMR Oregon team took top honors.

The college secured a $5,000 donation from Jeppesen Co. and another $500 from Community Banks of Colorado to support expansion of the college’s Model U.N. program, including on-campus activities linked to United Nations Day on October 24 and participation of a 10-12 CCA student delegation in the National Model U.N. conference in New York City in March 2015.

The CCA Annual Barbecue and Softball game is scheduled Sept. 19 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The event will be held at the field and surrounding area at Lowry in front of the New America School. Makeup date in case of inclement weather will be Sept. 26.

Cathy Berdon was hired as the CCA Foundation’s new Director of Development. Berdon previously has worked in elementary and higher education, health care, social services, and the high-tech industry.

Her experience includes non-profit management, fundraising, marketing, customer relations, business development, project management, quality improvement, and business start-up consulting.