





# 2023 GRADUATE REPORT







# **ABOUT CCA**

#### **MISSION**

CCA serves our diverse community by providing highquality 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

# PRESIDENT'S LETTER

At the Community College of Aurora, our students and graduates are at the heart of everything we do. We understand that their experiences are unique, and their dedication is unparalleled. We are committed to providing an inclusive environment that removes barriers to equitable student success. We believe that every student deserves the opportunity to achieve their academic and professional goals, and we are proud to say that our faculty, instructors, and staff work tirelessly to make this a reality.

This report is a testament to our students' resilience and dedication to their academic and career paths. Of the 931 CCA graduates this year, 49.1% responded to the survey, which is a fantastic achievement. We are thrilled to report that 96.1% of our graduates agreed that CCA helped them meet their educational goals, and 93.8% agreed that CCA provided a welcoming and inclusive environment. Both of these statistics increased significantly from the previous year.

The data presented in this report reflect the outstanding work and dedication of CCA's Office of Institutional Research. We are incredibly proud of our students and graduates' accomplishments and remain committed to ensuring that every student succeeds at the Community College of Aurora. With our continued dedication to inclusivity, equity, and excellence, we are confident that our graduates will achieve great things and positively impact their communities and beyond.

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**Mordecai Ian Brownlee, Ed.D.**President, Community College of Aurora

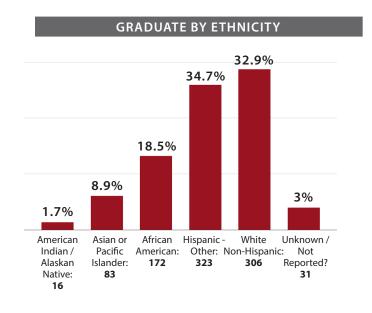


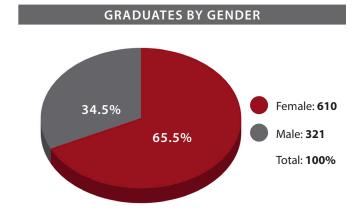
# **CCA 2022 GRADUATES**

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.

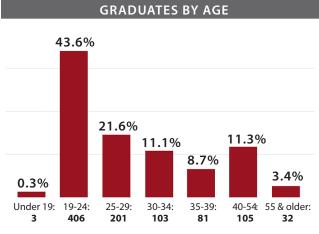
# **CCA Students**

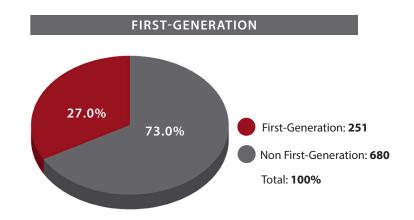
CCA is a global community with students from more than 60 countries. The diversity of the students and the community is one of the college's greatest strengths. CCA has an inclusive, equity-driven, multicultural environment; a reputation for excellence; and a culture that places a high value on positive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





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



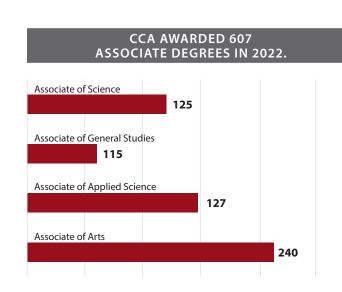


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In the 2022 academic year, 931 students graduated from CCA, earning a total of 1034 associate degrees and certificates. CCA conducted a follow-up survey with these graduates in the spring of 2023. This report highlights the survey's findings. CCA prepares 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.



OF RESPONDENTS SAID THAT CREATED A WELCOMING AND INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT.

OF 2022 CCA GRADUATE
RESPONDENTS SAID THAT CCA
HELPED THEM MEET THEIR
EDUCATION GOALS.

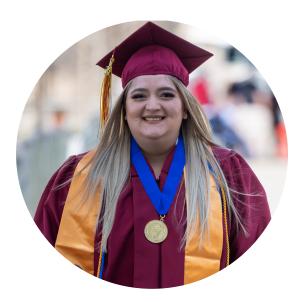
OF RESPONDENTS INDICATED THAT THEY ARE EMPLOYED OR CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION



"CCA was an amazing experience, transfer here was easy, I felt supported in all aspects, even with COVID, I would recommend this community college for everyone!"

- CCA 2022 GRADUATE

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76%

OF CCA'S 2022 TRANSFER STUDENTS STATED THAT THEY WERE CONTINUING THEIR EDUCATION AT ANOTHER FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

# 2022 TRANSFER GRADUATES

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

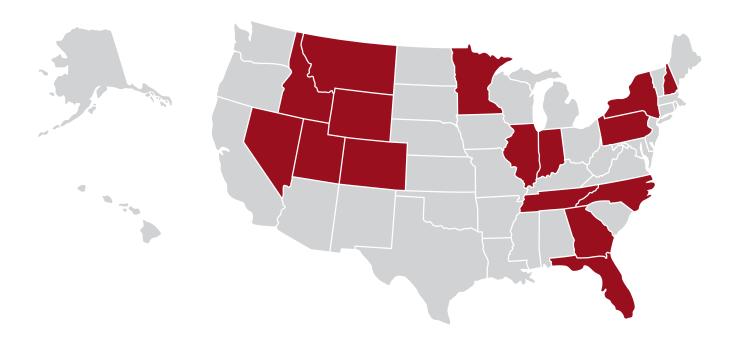
Over half of the students who enroll at CCA are interested in transferring in order to complete their bachelor's degree. CCA degrees are designed to make transferring easy. Students start by meeting with an academic advisor to determine a degree plan; they then use Career Services to explore majors and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

# **Top Five Transfer Schools in Colorado**

Top Five Colleges and Universities for CCA Transfer Graduates

| COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY                      | NUMBER OF TRANSFERS |  |
|---|---------------------|--|
| Metropolitan State University of Denver | 66                  |  |
| University of Colorado Denver           | 59                  |  |
| Colorado State University               | 16                  |  |
| University of Colorado Boulder          | 11                  |  |
| University of Northern Colorado         | 6                   |  |

Other states where transfer students are attending include Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Michigan, North Dakota, New York, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Virgin Islands, and Wyoming.



# 2022 CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) GRADUATES

# **CCA's Career and Technical Education**

CCA offers more than 70 career and technical education (CTE) certificate and 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.

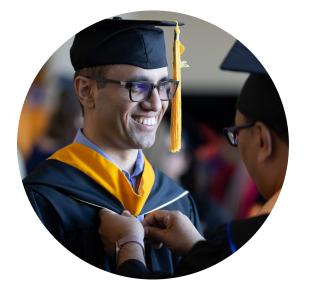
# **Guided Pathways**

Guided Pathways is an academic framework involving goal-setting and holistic supportto increase retention, persistence, and completion. It's based on four principles:

- 1. Create a clearly defined path toward a degree or certificate;
- 2. Provide assistance to help keep students on the path;
- 3. Offer wraparound services to keep students moving on the path;
- 4. Ensure quality learning.

This year, CCA awarded 570 CTE degrees and certificates, and this table shows the breakdown by Guided Pathways.

| PATHWAY                               | DEGREE | CERTIFICATE |
|---------------------------------------|--------|-------------|
| Creative Industries                   | 47     | 11          |
| Health                                | 13     | 87          |
| People, Societies, & Ideas            | 6      | 30          |
| Professional Studies & Public Service | 47     | 147         |
| STEM                                  | 35     | 28          |
| TOTALS                                | 148    | 303         |



84.3%

OF CTE GRADUATES REPORTED THAT THEY WERE EMPLOYED.

\$23.32

THE AVERAGE WAGE
OF CTE GRADUATES IS
\$22.50 PER HOUR.

"CCA was more than excellent. What I wanted to be, I'm able to do because of my education there!"

- CCA 2022 GRADUATE

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# **CCA CAREER SERVICES**

CCA Career Services is a full-service career development center and resource that 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. Career Services supports that journey from start to finish.

### **CAREER SERVICES ASSISTS WITH:**

- Identifying the student's skills, values, interests, and personality traits
- Exploring careers within majors and fields
- Resume writing
- Interview practice
- Building connections in the student's field
- Job/internship search
- Salary/hiring negotiation

### **EMPLOYERS CONNECT WITH STUDENTS THROUGH:**

- Company spotlights employers visit CCA's campus and directly recruit students
- Career fairs fairs provide a great opportunity for employers to meet students and for students to explore possibilities
- Industry-specific career events career events highlight indemand industries such as healthcare, IT, and others
- Online job board (Career Hub) this job board promotes internships, shadowing opportunities, site tours, and informational interviews
- Handshake lists all Career Services Events as well as other outside events

## **EMPLOYER INFORMATION**

Career Services connects employers with CCA's diverse and skilled students. Connect with our Career Network Engagement Specialist to encounter a high level of customer service and catering to meet your hiring needs.

Contact us at careerservices@ccaurora.edu or 303-360-4929.









# Connect With Our Community! CCAURORA.EDU/CONNECT













For more information about the 2022 VE-135 Graduate Follow-Up Survey and other data contained in the report, contact the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, at cca.ir@ccaurora.edu or call 303-360-4737.