

Dr. Lisa M. Matye Edwards

SKILLS AND STRENGTHS

- People-first, collaborative leadership grounded in shared governance
- Student success, equity, and completion strategies with measurable outcomes
- Strategic enrollment management and retention
- Workforce development and regional partnerships
- Fiscal stewardship, grants, philanthropy, and capital development
- Accreditation, compliance, and system-level leadership
- Crisis leadership, transparency, and institutional resilience
- Technology-enabled student success, accessibility, and inclusive design

TEACHING & FACULTY ENGAGEMENT

Instructor, Adjunct Faculty & Guest Lecturer | Community College and University Settings

- Taught and guest lectured in undergraduate and graduate courses focused on higher education leadership, student development, equity, and student success, integrating applied research and community college case studies. Served on multiple dissertation committees.
- Designed instruction grounded in equity-minded pedagogy, universal design, and inclusive teaching practices, with particular attention to first-generation, working, and adult learners.
- Collaborated as a trusted partner with faculty to align curriculum with guided pathways, workforce outcomes, and transfer readiness.
- Regular faculty member and facilitator for NASPA institutes, system cohorts, and national conferences, supporting instructional and academic leaders nationwide.
- Bring an instructional and faculty-informed perspective to executive leadership, strengthening trust, academic freedom, and shared governance.

EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Arapahoe Community College

Arapahoe Community College (ACC) located in Littleton, Colorado, is just south of the Denver metro area. One of thirteen colleges in the Colorado Community College System, ACC is the oldest of metro area community colleges with a budget of \$83 million. ACC's unduplicated annual enrollment in 2025 was just over 23,000 students, 35% of which are first-generation. 30% of ACC's students are full-time with 70% of the students enrolling part time. ACC is open access. In any given term, 50% of ACC's enrolled headcount are students concurrently enrolled in one of the 77 local high schools in the service district. 95% of ACC's concurrent enrolled students are employed or matriculated to a post-secondary partner within 3 years of high school graduation.

Vice President for Student Affairs

Provide executive leadership for equitable student success at a comprehensive community college serving three campuses, three counties, and eleven school districts. Lead a division of 90+ employees with a \$12M budget. Portfolio includes Admissions, Enrollment Services, Financial Aid, Advising & Retention, Career & Transfer, TRIO, Disability Access, Campus Police, Student Life, Fitness Center, Elevate Inclusive Education, and Dean of Students. Previously led Marketing & Communications.

Key accomplishments

- Lead strategic enrollment management efforts, including retention, resulting in seven consecutive years of fall FTE increases, including during pandemic. Growth of annual FTE increase of 29.7% from AY2020-21 to AY2024-25. Increase of overall credentials awarded by 16.6 percentage points from 2022 to 2023 and 13.7% in 2024 – 2025. Develop articulation pathways to four-year partners.
- Foster high morale, growth mindset and quality student services with an accessible leadership style that encourages division staff to innovate, pilot and strive for achievement of annual goals and objectives. Resulting in awarding of a new TRiO Student Success Grant (\$5 million) and renewal in 2025 and a first time Title III Strengthening Colleges (\$3.6 million) multi-year grants to enhance staffing for student supports.
- Serve as lead in college and system-wide implementation of student success platform (Navigate360) resulting in higher student credit enrollments and holistic coordinated student care across multiple college entities, from tutoring to faculty office hours and early alerts. Resulted in 24% increase in student persistence Fall '21 – Spring '21 at the college.
- Collaborate with college leadership in establishing and reimagining the Workforce Development role at the college. Collaborate with the VP of Economic Mobility to become a SNAP Training & Education college. Serve on the Statewide Colorado Task Force for SNAP Benefits at colleges (current in 2024). Resulted in being one of 15 community colleges awarded a national Dept. of Labor Strengthening Community Colleges Training Grant.
- Innovate transformative change in financial aid awarding, shifting timing of aid awards to prior to academic term starting, resulting in a 16% point increase for First Generation, BIPOC students receiving aid and an 18% point increase in retention overall in the first year of implementation (2019 to 2020).
- Create vision and educate students on the benefits of a future collaboration campus offering a first of its kind seamless pathway for high school students to complete bachelor's degrees in their community, resulting in a student-approved building bond and \$10 million donor gift (largest in college history), necessary to construct the \$40 million Sturm Collaboration Campus in Castle Rock.
- Champion equity and access, resulting in ACC becoming the first community college in Colorado to offer inclusive higher education options for students with intellectual disabilities (known as the Elevate program). ACC awarded \$225,000 by legislative allocation for program pilot, now a self-funded operation.
- Evaluate, assess, innovate and lead strategic direction for college enrollment efforts, including system-wide RFP and pilot of student success software (EAB Navigate360) to increase academic planning and completion. Key measures for years 2020 – 2024:
 - Increased fall to fall retention by 7% for all students to 69.3%.
 - Increased by 5% overall student transfer rate and closed gap for students of color transfer rate compared to overall student transfer rate.
 - Utilize Navigate360 system to coordinate campus wide care & concern calls to all enrolled students during COVID-19 crisis. As result, ACC recorded the most stable enrollment, experiencing summer & fall growth in 2020 and the least reduction in enrollment for Spring 2021 of any community college in the Colorado Community College System.

- Provide leadership for HLC accreditation, ongoing monitoring and reaffirmation reports, and participate and contribute to program specific accreditation needs for career and technical programs.
- Collaborate with faculty and Instruction on apprenticeships and talent-pipeline options for workforce development, including non-credit and credit, community efforts and employer partnerships. Develop, maintain and enhance articulation pathways to four-year partners. Create, develop, achieve state and HLC approval and provide support for seven successful bachelors of applied science degrees at the community college level.

Lower Columbia College

Lower Columbia College (LCC) is in Longview, Washington on a deep water port on the Columbia River in SW Washington. LCC is one of 34 colleges in the Washington Community College State system, with both a local governor appointed Board of Trustees and a system State Board. Located in a rural community, LCC serves a high poverty rate service area (16%). An Achieving the Dream Leader college from 2011 – 2015, LCC serves an unduplicated headcount of just over 5000 students. 33% are transfer, 46% are workforce/career/technical and 16% are adult basic learners. 46% of students are enrolled full time. LCC is a member of the Northwest Athletic Association and competes in Men & Women's Basketball, Men's Baseball and Women's Softball, Volleyball and Soccer.

Vice President for Student Success

2010 – 2015

Responsible for comprehensive student services at a rural community college with an enrollment of 3300 full time equivalents, 6300 headcount. Division areas included Athletics, Financial Aid, TRiO, Enrollment Services, Advising, Testing, Disability Services, Student Activities, International Programs, Counseling, Career & Employment Services. Supervised, managed and empowered fourteen professional staff with a division of 40+ employees. Participated in both significant compliance monitoring and successful accreditation and reaffirmation for the college.

- Created data-informed process to leverage donations to establish annual \$50,000 student success fund to assist student most at risk for abandoning their education due to financial hardship, which has continued from establishment until present time (10 years).
- Redesigned student academic warning & probation process with faculty to reduce student withdrawal/departure due to academic or financial aid suspensions by 50%.
- Core team member for Achieving the Dream implementation, including advising reform and equity efforts resulting in national recognition as a Leader College.
- Served as college leadership member of the President's Cabinet, Governance Committee, Leadership Team, Accreditation team and Achieving the Dream Completion team under a policy governance board of trustees' model.
- Served as the college Affirmative Action officer and Title IX coordinator. Established the first LCC Diversity & Equity Center, enhancing existing programming and education around issues of inclusive excellence, equity and diversity.
- Provided campus leadership for one of five monitoring reports including key performance indicators of Access and Transfer for the college. Worked closely with faculty to identify opportunities for continuous improvement in student success.
- Participated in collective bargaining with faculty and classified unions. Accomplishments include establishing special projects positions, creating and advising on educational pathways for classified union members and earmarking annual training funds for professional development opportunities.
- Peer evaluator for the accreditation review process of the Northwest Commission of Colleges and Universities.

University of Denver

The University of Denver (DU) is a comprehensive private residential liberal arts university located in Denver, Colorado. In 2010, DU enrolled almost 14,000 unduplicated headcount, 5,800 undergraduates, predominately full-time. A selective institution, DU has a 60% acceptance rate with a 10% yield for undergraduates. 25% students of color, overall first-year persistence in 2019 was 84%. DU is an NCAA Division I athletic school and has an endowment of \$772.1 million.

Director, Academic Advising & Orientation

2007 – 2010

Responsible for undergraduate advising, student support and student onboarding. Implemented the redesign of undergraduate general education (Common Curriculum) through faculty adviser training and student workshops.

- Increased student perception and satisfaction with academic advising experience from 34% to 70% Led undergraduate advising and onboarding; redesigned advising systems aligned with general education reform.
- Increased student satisfaction with advising from 34% to 70% within 18 months.
- Served on senior leadership teams and chaired institutional accreditation and compliance committees.
- Increased faculty involvement and increased student academic engagement through a complete redesign of the undergraduate orientation. Program success resulted in a renewal of a \$250,000 internal grant and subsequent budget increase of over \$300,000 for the orientation program. Provided ongoing leadership, coordination and supervision of the comprehensive one-week orientation program for incoming new and transfer undergraduates.

Earlier Roles (2001 – 2007): Director of Student Orientation & Student Life Project Manager; Director of Student Orientation, Advising & Registration

Grinnell College

Grinnell College is located in Grinnell, Iowa, a rural Iowa town of 9,000. A private undergraduate residential liberal arts and sciences college, Grinnell enrolls 1700 students with a 23% acceptance rate and is consistently nationally ranked in the top 10 for best undergraduate teaching and research. Grinnell's endowment is \$2.1 billion, the sixth highest endowment to student ratio and practices need-blind admissions. Grinnell offers 27 major fields and has 20 NCAA Division III varsity sports.

Director of Student Activities and Harris Center

1997 - 1999

Sexual Assault Education Coordinator

1997 - 1999

Residence Life Coordinator

1995 - 1997

Academic Advising Counselor, 25% Collateral Position

1996-1997

Assistant Director of Student Activities, 25% Collateral Position

1995-1996

EDUCATION

Ph.D , Higher Education and Student Affairs Leadership, University of Northern Colorado, CO	2008
Certificate, Leadership, Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship, Stanford University, CA	2020
Summer Institute for Women In Higher Education Administration, Bryn Mawr, PA	2005
M.Ed. , Student Personnel Administration, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA	1997
B.A. , Political Science, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA	1991

SELECT PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Colorado College Student SNAP Project State-wide Advisory Group 2024 - present
- Higher Education Research & Development Innovation Board Member 2021 - present
- American Association of Community College (AACC) Student Success Commission 2021 – 2025
- Colorado Community College System Data Analytic, charter member 2017 - present
- CCCS IT Governance, charter member 2015 - present
- Student Success Innovation National Council, Educational Advisory Board (EAB) 2018 - 2019
- Faculty, NASPA Mid-Level Institute, Regional Conference 2016
- Faculty, NASPA Mid-Level National Institute 2016
- Englewood/ACC Partners in Completion Chair 2016 - present
- Northwest Commission Colleges & Universities Peer Evaluator, multiple site visits 2012 - 2016
- WA Association of Community & Technical Colleges Allocation & Accountability Task Force 2013 - 2015
- WA Association of Community & Technical Colleges Technology Board 2011 - 2015
- Member, Washington State Student Services Vice Presidents Commission 2010 - 2015
- President 2015
- Vice President 2013 - 2014
- Washington State Community College President’s Technology Group, VP Liaison 2013 - 2015
- Chair, Gender, Equity and Student-Athlete Well-Being (Measurable Standard 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3) for NCAA Division I University of Denver Athletics Re-Accreditation Process 2010
- Chair, Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Self-Study, Learning Environments 2009 - 2010

SELECT COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Steering Committee, Citizens for Littleton Public Schools 2020 - present
- Chair, Social Media Communications for Citizens for 4C (successful local mill levy override) 2020
- Arapahoe County 2Gen Housing Solutions 2015 - 2022
- Heritage High School Softball Booster Board, President 2021 - 2025
- Runyon PTO, Littleton Public Schools, President 2016 - 2018
- Littleton Public Schools PTO Council of Presidents 2017 - 2018
- Board Member, Pathways 2020, Community Health non-profit in Cowlitz County, WA 2010 - 2015
- Member, Greeley Underage Drinking Model Program Task Force 1999 - 2001
- Volunteer Firefighter, Grinnell Volunteer Fire Department 1997 – 1999

SELECT RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

- National Fellow, Aspen Rising Presidents Fellowship 2019 - 2020
- National Visionary Leadership Award, EAB 2019
- FYE@ACC First Year Experience Program League of Innovation, Innovation of the Year Award 2019
- Exempt Employee of the Year, Lower Columbia College 2012
- Dean’s Citation for Excellence, University of Northern Colorado 2008
- Dean’s Citation for Outstanding Dissertation, University of Northern Colorado 2008

SELECT PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

Matye Edwards, L. M. (2109). Tiffany: A Case of Intersection and Disciplinary Process. In E. Sandoval Lucero & J. Maes (Eds.) *Case Studies in Equity, Diversity & Inclusion in Higher Education: An Intersectional Perspective*. (17-22). Kendall Hunt, Dubuque, IA.

Calhoun, J., with Matye Edwards, L. (online). *In Praise of Community Colleges*. Collegiate Parent. CollegiateParent.com

Matye Edwards, L. (2024). *Today’s Students: The Changing Landscape of College Demographics & Enrollment*. WICHE Legislative Advisory Committee.

Daugherty, L. & Matye Edwards, L. (2024). *Building evidence on Basic Needs in Colorado Community Colleges*. DREAM 2024, Orlando, FL.

Matye Edwards, L. & Zirkel, T. (2024). *Improving Student Outcomes via Tutoring and TRIO Coodinated Care Networks*. AACC, Louisville, KY.

Briggs, D., Matye Edwards, L. & O'Brien, K. (2020). *Are we there yet? Launching an FYE at a Community College*. League of Innovation, Seattle, WA.

Matye Edwards, L. (2019). *Reimagine the Early Alert Process*. [EAB, On Demand Webinar Series](#).

Matye Edwards, L. (2018). *Guided Pathways & Impacting Change*. Invited symposium keynote.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Faculty, NASPA Mid-Level Institute, Regional Conference Faculty, NASPA Mid-Level National Institute Instructor, University of Denver Campus Connection

Co-Instructor, Higher Education Law, *University of Denver*

Research and Editorial Assistant, *Dr. Rosemary Caffarella, University of Northern Colorado*

Instructor, First Year Experience, *University of Northern Colorado*

Instructor, Library Science Course, *Woodring College of Education, Western Washington University*

OTHER

- Sub-Recipient, Lumina Foundation, Adult Learners REACH Grant 2022-23
- Department of Education, Title III Grant, 5 year grant, \$3.6 million 2021-26
- Teaching Excellence Grant, Colorado Community Colleges System Cohort 2021, 22, 23
- American Association of Community Colleges Equity in Transfer National Cohort 2021, 22
- First Scholars Inaugural Cohort, National Association of Student Personnel Association 2020-present
- Department of Education, TRiO Student Support Services, 5 year renewable grant
Lower Columbia College 2011, 2016
Arapahoe Community College 2020, 2025
- National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA), Culture of Respect Cohort 2018-22
- American Association of Community Colleges Pathways 2.0 2018
- Truth Initiative Grant 2017
- Inclusive Higher Education Options, \$225K direct Colorado Legislative Allocation (Elevate @ ACC) 2017
- NASPA Community College Symposium Series at Arapahoe Community College 2017
- SW Washington Workforce Development Worker Retraining, \$25,000 2013
- CollegeSpark grant to support Achieving the Dream, \$200,000, four year 2012
- Department of Education, TRiO Talent Search, inaugural Lower Columbia College grant (\$1.8 mill) 2012