

Thursday, April 20, 2017

To The Capital Development Committee,

We are writing this letter to confirm our support of ACC's building of the Collaboration Campus at Castle Rock. As involved members of the campus community, we have a good pulse on the benefits the Collaboration Campus would have for ACC students. This project will further educational opportunities for our students by connecting them with other educational and employer partners during their time at ACC. We are excited about the unique concept of bringing together Douglas County Schools, ACC, CSU and the Castle Rock business community on one campus to provide hands-on infrastructure and direct apprenticeship opportunities. In order to make this plan a reality, our Student Government understands and has discussed that ACC is likely to propose a modest increase in the building fee for students to vote on in the upcoming academic year.

Here are a couple of our individual thoughts on this project:

“On a personal level, I am a minority, non-traditional student returning to school after almost 20 years. I am set to graduate from ACC this May. While I am pursuing my education, I am also raising my two beautiful daughters. Currently, I have a daughter in high school and another one in elementary school in Douglas County. Raising a teenager doesn't give me wiggle room to move to other locations. With the collaboration campus, I would be able to pursue my Bachelor Degree from CSU without moving my family to Fort Collins. Having CSU available at a campus in Castle Rock also means I will have more options where I can further my education than what is currently available in the area.” –Leah Porter

“As a student with little transport or financial options, having a collaboration campus within a certain distance would allow me to pursue my degree from CSU. I currently help my grandmother with her living situation while also going to school and working a job at a local bookstore nearby the school. Trying to complete my Bachelor's Degree at the Fort Collins CSU campus would be problematic as I would be uprooting myself and replanting myself far away from support systems and responsibilities. Online options are also not conducive to my learning ability, as I need face-to-face instruction. A collaboration campus in Castle Rock would allow a student such as myself to be able to attend my school of choice without having to take away from my personal and professional responsibilities.” –Scott Bright

“There is one element of the Castle Rock Campus that I favor above all the rest: the involvement with real life work experience. I started at ACC with no expectations for success, after years out of school. It is only because of ACC's inspiring professors and focus on the students that I have become the successful person that I am today. I have gone to international leadership conferences, met astronauts at NASA, built payloads and robots on the Colorado Space Grant Team at ACC, and become an international leader for Phi Theta Kappa. All of this happened because ACC is devoted to creating student opportunities that will lead to future success. For me, the most lasting experiences I have come from real life work experience like our DemoSat team and the NASA NCAS program ACC science professors encourage students to participate in. I am a STEM student that wants to pursue a degree in Physics, so that I can become a research scientist at NASA. It is amazing that I have had opportunities like these, but many students in other fields of study do not currently have similar programs. The collaboration campus would give students that would not have had the opportunity to participate in the area directly related to their field of study. To me, that is an immensely exciting prospect. When I participated in such programs, it helped to motivate me with what I have to look forward to in the future, after I graduate.” –Tasha Estein

“Constructing the Castle Rock campus is necessary to sustain the needs of one of the fastest growing communities in the nation. The Castle Rock campus allows ACC to expand its community outreach, and continue providing quality education to a larger student body. The current proposed fee and financing plan is responsible and protects the student body's financial interests.” –Nate Bertz

“I am in full support of ACC’s building of the Collaboration Campus at Castle Rock. I am a non-traditional ACC student from Elbert County. I commute to Littleton for classes. I have one more year at ACC and have begun to consider my options for transferring to a four-year institution. As it is now, all my options will require over an hour commute. If CSU and the Castle Rock campus were to offer a four-year degree it would provide a wonderful local opportunity for students like myself to pursue a four-year degree.” –Rachel Bellinsky

“As a non-traditional student and veteran I support the collaboration campus. I love the concept of having a community college and university come together to help students have education much more accessible to them.” -Daniel W. Madero

“The collaboration Castle Rock campus will largely benefit both current and future students of ACC who desire a four year education closer to their community. I support moving forward with the collaboration campus because it provides a seamless transition from an individual’s associate’s degree into their bachelor’s degree, which will ensure students are taking courses relevant to their bachelors program. Also, many ACC students have already expressed interest in the collaboration campus through the surveys student government have conducted over the past semester.” –Ashley

Thank you for your consideration of our voices in support of ACC’s Collaboration Campus.

Sincerely,



Tasha Estein
Vice President of Division IV, Phi Theta Kappa International (2017-2018)
President, ACC Student Government (2016-2017)
Historian, Sigma Phi Chapter, Phi Theta Kappa (2016-2017)
Member, ACC’s Student Advisory Council (2016-2017)



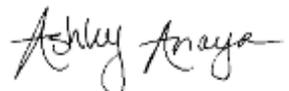
Leah Porter
State Student Advisory Council Representative, ACC Student Government (2016-2017)
Vice Chair, State Student Advisory Council (2016-2017)
President, Phi Theta Kappa, Sigma Phi Chapter (2016-2017)
ACC Presidential Student Advisory Council (2016-2017)



Daniel W. Madero
Vice President, ACC Student Government (2016-2017)



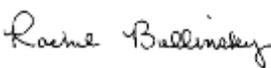
Nate Bertz
Treasurer, ACC Student Government (2016-2017)



Ashley Anaya
Treasurer, ACC Student Government (2016-2017)



Scott Bright
Candidate for the Office of Secretary, ACC Student Government (2017-2018)



Rachel Bellinsky
Candidate for the Office of State Student Advisory Council Representative, ACC Student Government (2017-2018)