

{to a higher degree}

2009
report to the community



{to a higher degree}

LEADERSHIP



Aims President Marsi Liddell, left, stands with the Aims Board of Trustees, from left: **Mike Geile, Beth Bashor, Walt Richter, Sandra Neb and Richard Bond.**

Numerous government and business leaders have identified community colleges as key to America's economic recovery plan.

At Aims, we have been part of the economic stimulus of our community since 1967, ensuring an educated and trained local workforce. In the current economy, this demand is growing, and that is exactly why Aims is working "to a higher degree" to meet these challenges.

Our pledge to you is working "to a higher degree" for:

- Students, who learn the skills needed to meet their goals at an affordable price and in an atmosphere that fosters learning.
- Employers, who demand highly trained employees who know the latest technology and are ready to hit the ground running.
- A green economy, because sustainability is our future.
- Our communities, that benefit from stronger careers, a better skilled workforce and increased quality of life.
- Those who contribute to Aims, who see an immediate return on their investment every day.

This year's annual report to our community highlights some of the ways Aims is working to meet these needs and to ensure that your community college is working for you "to a higher degree."

Marsi Liddell
President, Aims Community College



“ In an economy where jobs requiring at least an associate degree are projected to grow twice as fast as jobs requiring no college experience, it's never been more essential to continue education and training after high school.”

President Obama

CAMPUS UPDATES

Greeley

A remodel of the College Center will bring all student services to one convenient location.

Greeley Downtown Center

Enrollment and course offerings are expanding as the Downtown Center continues to serve University of Northern Colorado students with the innovative co-enrollment program, First Step.

Fort Lupton

As the south campus celebrates 25 years, the community enjoys enhanced offerings through a dual-enrollment program that allows area high school students to take guaranteed transfer and Career and Technical Education courses.

Loveland

The west campus continues to grow as more students realize the advantages of starting their four-year college careers with two years at Aims.

Windsor

The Automotive Technology Center is set to open in Spring 2010 with plans to offer additional training in alternative-fuel technology.

Online

The courses available to students online continue to grow as more students opt to earn their associate degree completely online.

SERVING STUDENTS

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At Aims, student learning is at the heart of every decision. This concept is ingrained in the classroom, in our organizational culture, in developing our facilities and technology, and in assessing student learning.

The community college mission is to serve students of widely varying skills, backgrounds and levels of preparation for college. With the goal of meeting the needs of the entire spectrum of students, Aims has initiated several new programs.

The Emerging Scholars program provides intensive assistance to those students who come to Aims with developmental education needs in English, reading and math. This program recently received \$115,750 from TG's Public Benefit Grant Program to support Peer Mentoring. Since the program began, nearly 600 students have participated in Emerging Scholars. Also, a new Honors Program launches this fall providing rewarding educational and leadership experiences to high-achieving students. Students who graduate from an honors program generally have access to more scholarships and university honors programs, and it looks pretty good on a resume, too.

38% of students are first-generation college students, meaning their parents have not attended college.

53.4% of Aims students receive Financial Aid.

The college awarded **\$13.5 million** in Financial Aid in 2008 and the average student award was **\$4,900.**

“It’s not like you’re on your own here. All of my teachers, the staff, the advisors ... everybody is really willing to help.”
Diego Alcala,
Aims student,
future Physics professor



Leah Yeada, needed to refresh her math skills before tackling college-level courses, so she turned to the Emerging Scholars program at Aims. “It helps me to push myself to get more than just a ‘B,’” Leah said. “It’s fantastic. It really helps you succeed.” Program Coordinator **Marti Demarest** said Emerging Scholars who complete the program are successful. “We keep them motivated, keep them focused, and keep them going,” she said.

TRAINING FOR THE FUTURE

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The Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs at Aims prepare students to enter the workforce in rewarding, well-paid careers after earning their associate degrees.

Just ask around and you'll find Aims alumni practically everywhere you go:

- The nurses, surgical and radiological technicians at the hospital and doctors' offices
- At the police, ambulance and fire departments
- At the airport
- Your mechanic and machine shops
- On the radio and behind the scenes
- Making your computers run
- Creating advertising that sells

We're everywhere—and so are our supporters. More than 200 business and community leaders serve on the Aims CTE advisory boards providing a vital connection from students to practitioners. This is one way Aims continues to teach students the latest, most relevant skills required in the quickly evolving business environment. Just in the past year, Aims awarded nearly 2,000 degrees and certificates to students who contribute to the community and economy every day.

“Aims is a tremendous benefit to the community. The college has an exceptional reputation in and out of the state. As an Aims advisory committee member, I'm proud to serve as a bridge from the school to the world of practitioners.”
Stephen Charles, Fire Chief, Berthoud Fire Protection District



Aims offers more than **160** degree and certificate programs from Aviation to Welding and everything in between.

More than **200** community members serve on Advisory Boards for the college's Career and Technical Education programs.



Aims Radiological Technology students **Kelly Cavalleno**, left, and **Rene Cole** demonstrate their skills to **Dan Dennie**, director of Medical Imaging at North Colorado Medical Center. Aims Allied Health students perform their clinicals in regional hospitals and medical clinics. “It’s a huge community collaboration. We’re supporting the college and at the same time the students are supporting us,” Dennie said. “Students graduating from Aims are very well-rounded, competent and very well-trained.”

GOING GREEN

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While the Obama administration has vowed to create 5 million "green-collar" jobs over the next 10 years, and Gov. Bill Ritter promises that Colorado is poised to lead the country in the New Energy Economy, Aims is gearing up to train professionals in the developing fields of renewable energy, green technology and sustainable construction.

Plans for a new campus in Berthoud focus on going green, with the new Applied Environmental Technology program leading the way. Taking a jump-start from the MIST (Multi Industry Systems Technician) program, the AET program will provide more in-depth study into solar, soil, wind and water technology. This will be combined with the Aims Engineering and Construction Trades & Management programs, focusing on green construction. The campus and grounds will be designed as a living laboratory for students, promising a pioneering program to train the green leaders of tomorrow.

“ In the next year and a half, we’ll be hiring more than 700 people. When we have that much growth, and all of it in Weld County, we have a lot of training needs. That is what Aims is really good at, providing high quality training, doing it fast and doing it well.”

Kevin Cory, director People & Culture for Vestas Blades America Inc.



5 million "green-collar" jobs are anticipated to be created over the next 10 years.



Nathan Carrier, left, who hopes to own his own solar panel company one day, will be one of the first students to graduate from the Aims Multi Industry Systems Technician (MIST) program. Headed by Aims Construction Management Instructor **John Mangin**, right, MIST was developed to prepare students to become the energy technicians of the future. "Eventually, everything's going to run on some alternative kind of energy," Nathan said. "The MIST program gets you ready for what's coming and prepares you to work in the field and in the factory."

QUALITY

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When the Colorado School of Mines looks at engineering students, Aims Community College graduates are always near the top of the list.

When employers are looking to hire well-trained and highly skilled workers, they know Aims alumni have what it takes. And when students want a jump-start on a four-year degree, they know Aims will help them succeed, even better than students who start at a university.

Why?

The answer is simple: Quality.

A lot of words can describe the Aims experience. Affordable. Fun. Caring. Comfortable. But the quality of an Aims education is what has brought students to Aims for the past 42 years and what ensures employers and four-year universities that an Aims degree is proof of that desire for excellence.

“I like the smaller classes, because the students are able to get more one-on-one attention from the teachers. There’s always someone who will help you.” **Samuel Soto**
Aims Fort Lupton student



99 %

The average score of Aims Nurse Aide graduates on the written state certification test last year.



92.3 %

Current Aims students said they would recommend Aims to a friend.

90.3 %

Current Aims students said Aims was a top choice when selecting which school to attend.

ACCREDITATION

Aims is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association, which ensures the college meets expectations for educational excellence.

“Accreditation is important for students because it means the college is meeting academic standards, and students will have an easier time transferring their credits to other accredited schools,” said **Jeff Reynolds**, dean at Aims.



Jeanine Lewis loves teaching Developmental Math at Aims because of the quality and quantity of time faculty spend with students here. “I get tremendous satisfaction in being able to help students,” said Lewis, who serves on the executive board of the National Association for Developmental Education and was selected by the academic deans this year for the Teaching Excellence Award.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

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How do you measure the impact a community college has on the local economy?

Is it simply the millions of dollars spent in the community through local purchases and employee salaries?

What about the money that is saved by businesses that increased their efficiencies due to training from Aims Corporate Education?

Can you forget the increased salaries graduates receive for the training and degrees they received at Aims?

And there are, of course, the businesses that move into town specifically because Aims is available to train their prospective employees.

It takes all of these factors and many more to truly understand the economic impact of Aims on our communities. A Socioeconomic Impact study revealed that the economy in the Aims Service Area receives \$1 billion in regional income each year due to Aims and its students.

That's true economic stimulus, and Aims has been driving it for 42 years.

“Aims Community College has proven consistently to be a valuable economic development partner—bringing customized training resources to employers in a direct, meaningful fashion, and executing that training effectively.”
Larry Burkhardt,
President/CEO Upstate Colorado Economic Development



\$169
For every credit completed, Aims students earn, on average, this much more each year they are in the workforce.

1.9
Benefit/cost ratio, which means that every dollar of state or local tax money invested in Aims today returns \$1.90.



Weld County Sheriff's Deputies **Dan Heintz**, left, and **Les Wiemers**, right, both attended Aims Community College before joining the police force. Now, after a combined 30 years of service to the community, the two are proud to be serving their alma mater, maintaining a safe and secure atmosphere at Aims Community College for students, employees and community members.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

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The community support for Aims is seen throughout the college as taxpayer money is used efficiently to support student learning. But there are additional needs, which is where the Aims Community College Foundation makes its impact.

The Foundation raises money for scholarships and projects, and nothing says more about the support Aims students receive from the community than the thank-you letters Foundation scholarship recipients write to donors ...

"I am a single mother who is trying to show my 10-year-old son how important education is. This scholarship was a prayer answered ... I can't express the words from my heart, but please know you have touched my life as well as my son's."

"I promise you that I will try my best to make you all proud of me."

"I just wanted to let you know how great I think this scholarship program is, not only for me, but for the community as a whole."



I tell people an investment in Aims is an investment in a brighter future for our community."

Scott Ehrlich, founder of College Promise scholarship program at Aims for local high school graduates.



Where do Aims Foundation donations go?

**General
\$ 41,446
13%**

**Scholarships
\$154,000
49%**

**Fundraising
\$8,850
3%**

**Programs
\$110,361
35%**

When **Nancy Lopez** realized she wanted to be a doctor, she changed her focus in high school and went from ditching classes to taking advanced placement courses. She was recently awarded a College Promise scholarship at Aims and she knows she's on her way to big things. "When I received the congratulations letter, I screamed, jumped and even gave my brother a big hug," she said, thanking the donors of the program. "This college thing is going to be hard and I know that, but with people like you, it seems a whole lot better."





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