

# LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN - SUMMARY OF CONSTITUENT INTERVIEWS

## Strategic Program

- The College needs to demonstrate that it knows where it is going and how to get there.
- The Block Plan, location and people are the most “special” qualities about Colorado College. The campus should develop in support of these three primary elements.
- The Mission of the College is to be the best liberal arts college in the country. This is impeded primarily by the lack of competitively appropriate facilities, notably for the Arts, Library and Fitness.
- The quality of the campus environment should better respond to the Core Value ethic of environmental sustainability.
- Issues exist with campus neighbors related to: parking on neighborhood streets; students’ parties; off-campus over-occupied rental properties; and a perceived lack of promise keeping by the College.
- While the development of new facilities is important to the mission and image of the College, efforts need to be made to maintain and/or improve existing campus facilities.
- Improved athletics facilities are important for recruitment and competition with other schools.
- An effort should be made to recognize Colorado College as the north anchor to downtown Colorado Springs.
- Planning needs to engage as much of the campus population as wants to be engaged, especially the students.

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## Academic Program/Student Life Program

### Academic

- There are currently extensive perceived space deficits for faculty, staff and student office and support functions.
- The Block Plan affects classroom efficiencies such that the existing facilities aren't supporting the "one class, one classroom" ideal of the Block Plan. Should there be a shift in how the Block Plan is applied related to classroom use, or does the College need additional classroom space?
- Small class sizes offer great opportunities for intimate interaction among students and professors, but also reduce the efficiencies of classroom space utilization.
- The faculty ratio at CC allows instructors and students to develop relationships during blocks that other institutions cannot match. As such, many of the memories that graduates have of their time at CC are related to faculty members or classes rather than places on campus.
- As tenured faculty numbers increase over the coming years, academic support staff will grow as well.
- The Civic Engagement program may develop in a way that uses the campus as more of a community resource. It may also hold an opportunity to create a living/learning community on the east campus.

### Student Life

- The current occupancy levels for on-campus housing suggest that students would be willing to live on campus in greater numbers than today if the facilities existed.
- Students have taken ownership in "un-programmed," malleable spaces near campus (ie, the Whitney Building) where they are able to define how the space looks/works functionally related to their particular needs. Can this concept be applied on-campus as an application of the adventurous spirit at CC?
- We need to remember that the campus is home to the students. Planning needs to encourage interaction between students' academic and social lives.
- The Palmer Quad should continue to be used at a high level for recreational and social activities.
- More student social spaces are needed across campus, indoor and outdoor, large and small.
- An indoor or outdoor space is needed on campus for student gatherings and activities. This type of space may accommodate up to 1,000 people, and ideally could be used to host on-campus parties and events that students either cannot now engage in or may search for off-campus.

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## Financial Program

- The Action Agenda building priorities (Cornerstone Arts, Library and Fitness/Wellness Center) are consistent with the majority of the campus populace. Additionally, there is a desire to replace Armstrong Hall with new or improved facilities for the Humanities.
- Funding should be set aside for deferred maintenance and repair and replacement projects for the following: Shove Chapel, Loomis Hall, Slocum Hall, Mathias Hall and Armstrong Hall.
- Funding of new buildings and campus improvement projects should not come at the expense of funding for services for the campus population.
- Currently, the Annual Fund does not allow alumni to earmark funds for building and development projects. Should this change to encourage additional alumni support of development projects?
- Land and property acquisition strategies to relate to city zoning.
- There may be opportunities to for the College to pursue public-private development partnerships on or near campus to provide amenities to the campus and to generate income for the College.
- Amenities desired near campus include: bookstore, pharmacy, office supplies, restaurants, pubs, post office, coffee shop, hotel, etc.
- Partnerships with the Fine Arts Center related to Cornerstone Arts should continue to be pursued.
- Could the Childcare Center be enlarged to allow more attendance and additional income for the College?
- Rental properties on the east campus should be brought back to College management and used for theme houses, student housing, faculty and staff housing, etc.
- Financing of development projects needs to be realistic.
- Information technology needs to be readily available and of high quality. The demands of the College make system uptime critical.

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## Physical Program

- We need to be conscious of the “place” by using native/regional materials where possible and accepting the opportunities and limitations presented by our climate.
- The maintenance of the campus buildings and grounds is important in terms of attracting students and parents.
- The physical campus needs to demonstrate that students have the ability to shape their education.
- Cascade, Nevada and Cache la Poudre fragment the campus. Efforts should be made to safely integrate the campus across these city streets.
- The campus has become academically zoned, with the Sciences and the Arts occupying their own “corners” of campus. While convenient for the users of these departments, the zoning causes further isolation of the campus population.
- The east campus feels disconnected from the rest of the campus. How can we maintain the neighborhood scale of development of the east campus while visually integrating the entire campus?
- While the boundaries of the campus should be made clear to the public, we don’t want to present an exclusionary image to the surrounding communities.
- The views to Pikes Peak are a signature of the campus. Many people relate to the early photograph of Cutler Hall standing along with the Peak in the background.
- The campus should reflect the adventurous spirit of the students and the place.
- There is a perceived parking shortage on campus. This is especially true for visitor parking.
- Parking (and traffic) should be directed to the perimeter of campus, leaving the interior of the campus open for safe pedestrian activity.
- The current parking policy should be reviewed.
- Where should the “front door” for the campus be? There doesn’t seem to be one today.
- An effort should be made to incorporate sustainable materials and design into all campus development projects. This effort should include opportunities to teach and demonstrate, making CC a national model for sustainable development.

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## Physical Program (continued)

### Campus Grounds

- It is important to maintain a level of mature landscape within the Palmer Quad.
- Locations should be made available for outdoor classrooms, although these shouldn't interfere with areas dedicated to outdoor recreation activities.
- There should be a balance between xeric and manicured landscapes to accommodate the active student population while demonstrating environmental sustainability.
- Opportunities should be explored to better connect to Monument Valley Park and the regional trail system.

### Campus Facilities

- The Van Briggie building should be put to a use more suited to its physical beauty, such as a visitors' center or museum.
- While the Western Ridge development turned its focus toward the mountains and away from quadrangle development, it also built a wall of buildings on the west edge of campus that block views that once existed.
- Buildings listed as important to maintain include: Palmer Hall, Shove Chapel, Cutler Hall, Cossitt Hall, Bemis Hall and Lennox House.
- Buildings listed as eyesores or internally problematic include: Armstrong Hall, Tutt Library, Boettcher Health Center, Mathias Hall, Loomis Hall, Slocum Hall, Olin Hall, Tenney House, Honnen Ice Arena, El Pomar Sports Center.
- A new building for Humanities would be appreciated.
- A one-stop-shop for student services and administration would be helpful to students.

## THE COLORADO COLLEGE MISSION AND CORE VALUES

### MISSION

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At Colorado College our goal is to provide the finest liberal arts education in the country. Drawing upon the adventurous spirit of the Rocky Mountain West, we challenge students, one course at a time, to develop those habits of intellect and imagination that will prepare them for learning and leadership throughout their lives.

### CORE VALUES

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- As members of the Colorado College community, we share a commitment to
- honor the life of the mind as the central focus of our common endeavor;
  - value all persons and seek to learn from their diverse experiences and perspectives;
  - practice intellectual honesty and live with integrity;
  - serve as stewards of the traditions and resources of Colorado College;
  - nurture a sense of place and an ethic of environmental sustainability;
  - encourage engagement and social responsibility at local, national and global levels;
  - seek excellence, constantly assessing our policies and programs.

## 2003 CAMPUS MAPPING CAMPUS THEME GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### *Stewardship*

- Improved planning and funding for facilities and land use.
- Visual integration of the Campus.
- Historic preservation.
- Enhancement of accessibility, life safety, occupational safety and health, and environmental protection.
- Development of engagement and resource sharing with the local community.
- Implementation of utilities goals.

### *Enhancement*

- Improvement of campus spaces for teaching and learning, including:
  - New performing arts/gallery venue
  - State-of-the-art library/learning center
- Improvement of campus spaces for student study, social life, athletics, and health and wellness, including:
  - Better indoor and outdoor social spaces
  - Better athletics/recreation facilities
  - New wellness center
- Improvement of campus spaces for administration and support

## 1995 MASTER PLAN GUIDING BELIEFS AND THEIR APPLICATION

We are committed to teaching, learning, and discovery.

*The Plan emphasizes the creation and renovation of academic buildings.*

We are committed to the education of the whole person.

*The Plan emphasizes the creation of additional theme houses, suites, and apartment-style residences.*

We believe that students learn through involvement in activities outside the classroom.

*The Plan emphasizes new spaces for student organizations, social activities and the Greek system.*

We believe that vigorous exercise complements intellectual growth.

*The Plan emphasizes expansion of athletic spaces and playing fields.*

We believe that we must be environmentally responsible.

*The Plan emphasizes “green” buildings, traffic calming, street closures and remote parking.*

We believe we must be a good neighbor in Colorado Springs.

*The Plan emphasizes the sensitivity to neighborhood scale, preservation of historic buildings and a new performing arts facility.*

We believe that Colorado College has a unique setting at the base of Pikes Peak.

*The Plan emphasizes the creation of formal and informal quad areas and an orientation of development toward the mountains.*

## LONG RANGE DEVELOPMENT PLAN - EXAMPLE OF A PLANNING PRINCIPLE

The Principles for the Long Range Development Plan should be specific enough to Colorado College that they can adequately be applied at intervals in the planning process to test the validity of planning assumptions, development concepts and the ultimate plan document. The following may be used to create Principles that relate specifically to Colorado College:

*Begin with a general principle statement that applies to Colorado College:*

Views of the campus from surrounding neighborhoods and roadways shall be visually enhanced.

*Determine what aspects of Colorado College the statement may specifically apply to:*

- Neighborhood scale
- Campus boundaries
- Create a sense of place for the campus
- Historic Colorado Springs infrastructure
- Continuity of the campus

*Combine the general statement with Colorado College detail to create a Principle that may be used to adequately test planning concepts:*

Views to the campus are to create a strong sense of approach and arrival along important regional visual and vehicular corridors while respecting the history and scale of development in the surrounding neighborhoods.