

Growing
Stronger.

Reaching
Higher.



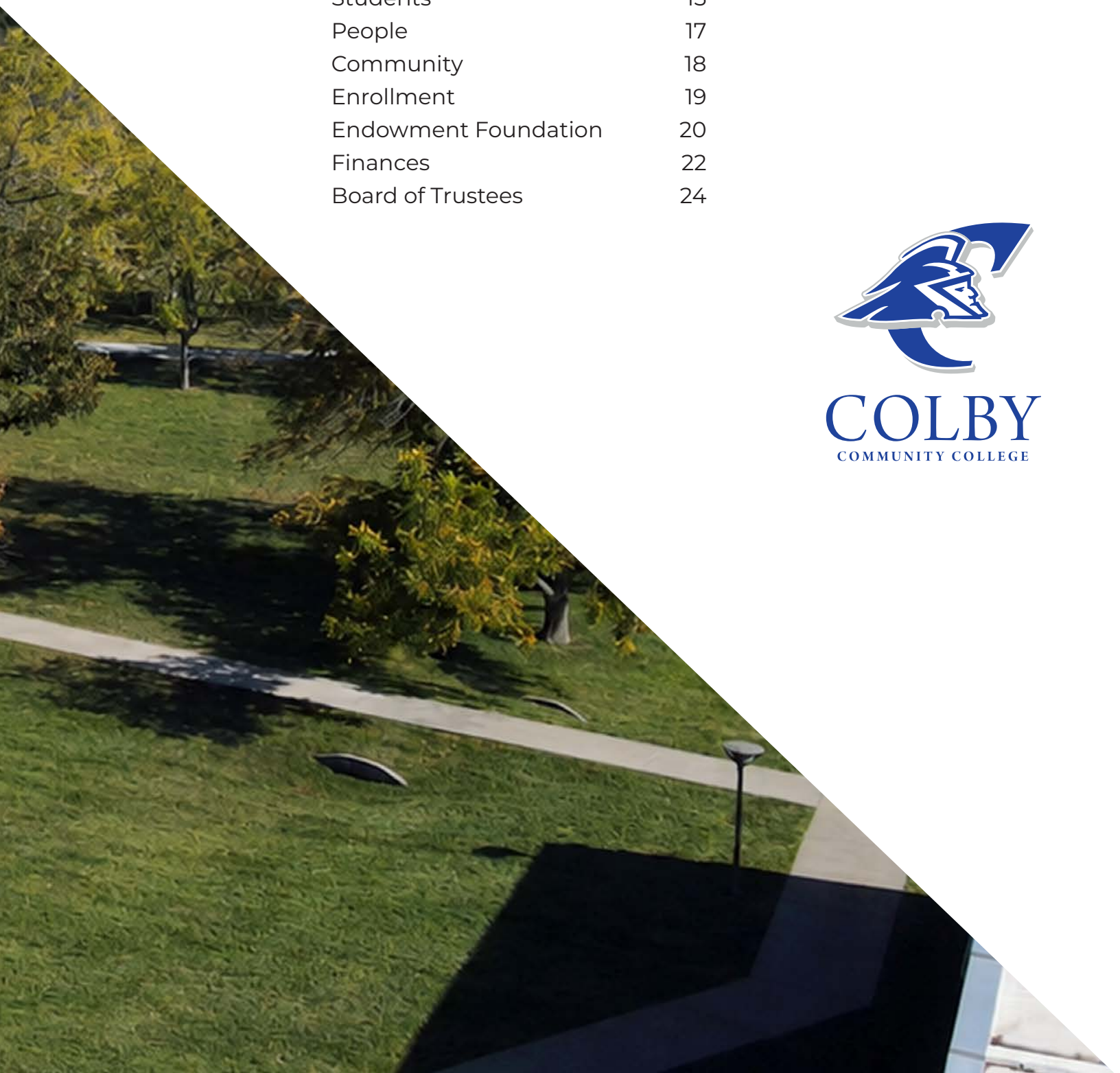
COLBY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

2025-2026
ANNUAL REPORT



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Letter from President Carter



At Colby Community College, our mission is rooted in helping students reach and surpass their goals through a student-centered, holistic approach to education. Guided by our 2022–2027 Strategic Plan, we remain focused on fostering academic achievement, supporting student success, and serving our communities with purpose and integrity.

This Annual Report highlights the progress we've made over the past year and outlines key initiatives that will shape our continued growth. It reflects our unwavering commitment to planning, accountability, and advancing the mission and vision of Colby Community College.

Seth Macom Carter

Dr. Seth Carter
President

Challenge. Create. Connect.



Improve the
holistic student
experience



Improve
institutional
infrastructure



Develop and assess
marketing strategies
to reach new areas
and locations



Improve
student
achievement



Provide programs and
services that prepare
students for the
future



Increase the
institutional footprint
with community,
state, and nation



Increase the academic
performance of students



Strengthen commitment
to employees and ensure a
sustainable workforce

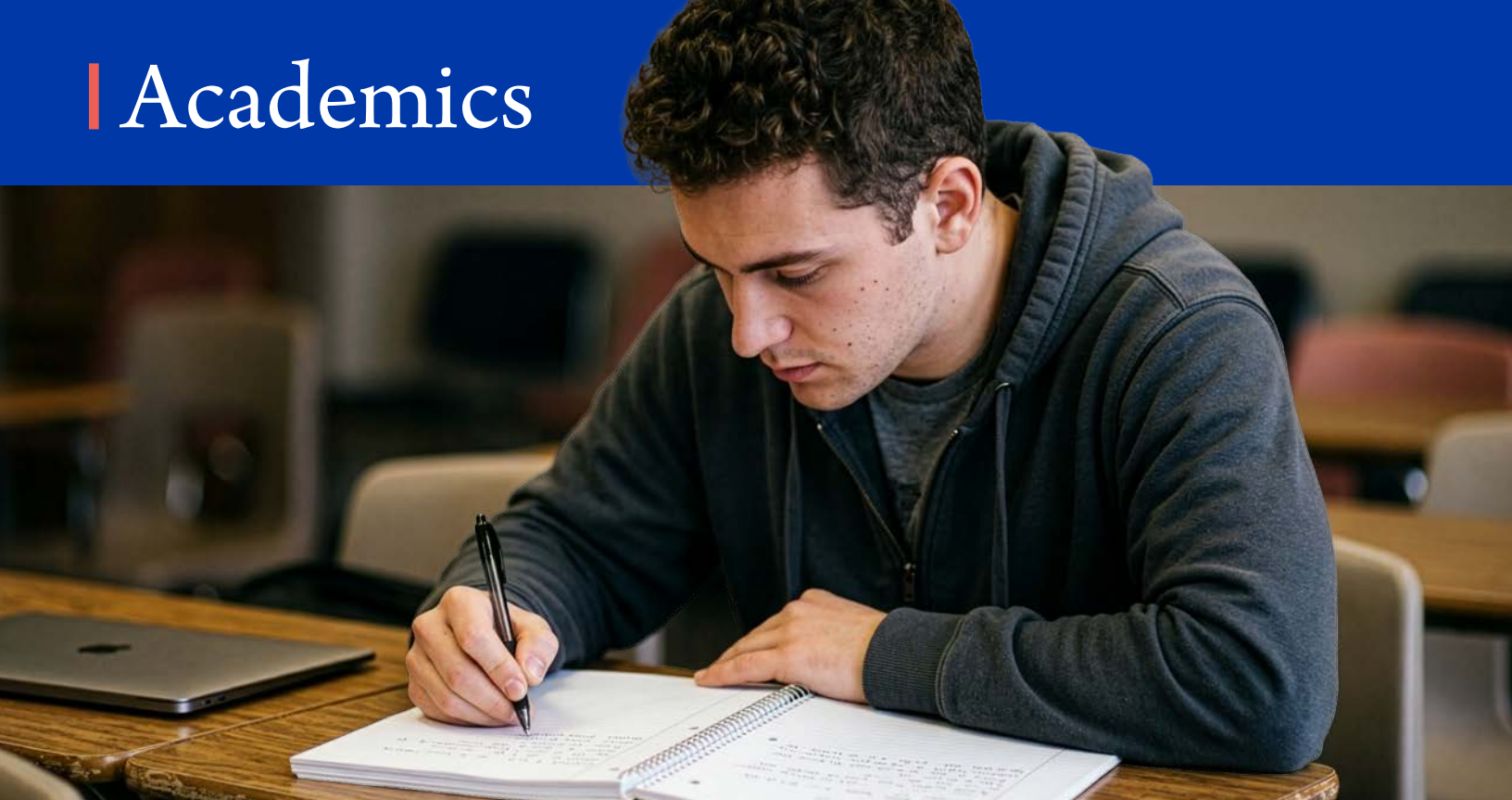


Establish mutually
beneficial community
and business-related
partnerships

**Student
Success**

**Growth &
Development**

**Public
Relations**



ADVANCING EDUCATION IN CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES

Correctional education programs expanded during the 2025-26 academic year, providing residents with opportunities to gain workforce credentials, earn college degrees and complete their high school education.

New programs were introduced in fall 2025 at two locations. A welding program launched at Hutchinson Correctional Facility in October, enrolling 28 students and awarding 16 certificates during its first year. At the Norton Correctional Facility East Unit in Stockton, 20 students enrolled in a new forklift certification program, and all 20 earned certificates.

Programs at the Norton Central Unit continued to produce strong results:

- 25 enrollments in alternative energy
- 28 enrollments in welding
- 19 enrollments in telecommunications networking
- 129 enrollments in forklift training
- 184 certificates and eight associate degrees awarded
- 29 GED completers

The College also expanded access to technology-based learning. For the first time, general education courses supporting the Associate of Applied Science in Alternative Energy were delivered through Blackboard on laptops. This approach provides opportunities for the College to offer additional courses.

In February, ten tablets were issued at the Stockton facility, allowing adult education students to study remotely and complete tests when ready. Two students earned GEDs through the program by the end of the academic year.

Across the three facilities, CCC recorded 249 career and technical program enrollments and awarded 220 certificates, eight associate degrees and 31 GEDs.

DAVIS-STEPHENS PRESENTS RESEARCH AT WORLD ANTHROPOLOGY CONGRESS

Criminal justice instructor and anthropologist Dr. Linda Davis-Stephens presented virtually at the World Anthropological Union 2025 Congress, held November 3–8 in Antigua, Guatemala. It marked her sixth presentation to the organization.

Her paper, “Cheyenne Action Anthropology — Doing Justice,” examined efforts to preserve Cheyenne-Tsistsistas cultural identity, Indigenous law, dignity, and land-based traditions. The research explored the effects of historical trauma on Cheyenne youth and documented community efforts involving reconciliation, repatriation, and reparations.

Davis-Stephens incorporates these perspectives into her courses, encouraging students to examine history and culture through a global lens.



COLBY EDUCATORS SHARE EXPERTISE AT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Dean of Online Learning and Institutional Effectiveness Dr. Dana Juenemann and mathematics instructor Dr. Aanuoluwapo “Joshua” Adigun represented the College as distinguished speakers at the International Multidisciplinary Research Conference in Ibadan, Nigeria. The global conference focused on sustainability, innovation and the future of education.

Adigun delivered the keynote address and presented research on digital transformation, technology-enhanced learning and modern assessment in higher education, while Juenemann presented virtually on educational assessment, institutional effectiveness and online learning.

Their participation showcased Colby’s expertise on an international stage and reflected the College’s commitment to academic excellence, innovation and student success through teaching, assessment and continuous improvement.



Adult Education Creates Pathways to Success

In 2025-26, Colby Community College Adult Education served **199** students, including **114** in a correctional setting and **85** in the college’s multicounty service area.

By the Numbers

GEDs awarded at Norton Correctional Facility:	29
GEDs obtained in Colby/Hays:	16
Students who passed an Occupational Skills Exam:	48
Hours of Instruction Provided:	12,637

Notable Outcomes:

Of students enrolled in Adult Education programming, **74.37%** achieved at least one measurable skill gain, surpassing the state target of **60%**.

Colby Adult Education consistently reports outcomes well above the state benchmark.



| Academics

EXCELLENCE IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Colby Community College continues to be recognized as one of Kansas' top-performing community colleges for student success. According to the 2026 Kansas Community College Data Book published by the Kansas Board of Regents, CCC ranked third statewide in graduation rate and sixth in full-time student retention among the state's 19 community colleges.

Colby's two-year graduation rate for first-time, full-time students reached 48.5%, placing the college just 2.3 percentage points behind the state leader. Over the past 11 years, CCC has earned the top graduation rate in Kansas seven times.

The college also posted a 66.5% full-time retention rate, ranking sixth in the state. Retention measures the percentage of first-time, full-time degree-seeking students who return for their second year. Colby has consistently ranked among Kansas leaders in this category, holding the state's highest retention rate in five of the last seven years.

VETERINARY NURSING PROGRAMS EARN CONTINUED NATIONAL ACCREDITATION

CCC veterinary nursing programs received continued full accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities, reaffirming that the programs meet the profession's highest national standards.

The accreditation process includes a comprehensive self-study and on-site evaluation of curriculum, faculty qualifications, student outcomes, facilities, and resources. Graduation from an AVMA-accredited program is required by most state regulatory boards for eligibility to take the Veterinary Technician National Examination (VTNE).



Colby's on-campus Veterinary Nursing program has served students since 1969, while its distance-learning option, launched in 2012, expands access for working and place-bound students. The college is one of only six institutions nationwide to offer veterinary nursing education in both face-to-face and online formats.

Graduates continue to enter careers in private practice, specialty hospitals, research facilities, and animal care organizations across the country.

Renovations & Campus Updates

COLLEGE BREAKS GROUND ON NEW STUDENT HOUSING AND MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

The College broke ground on a new 80-bed student residence hall and maintenance facility on April 10, 2026. U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, R-KS, attended the ceremony.

The residence hall is being built north of the Steve Lampe Athletic Center on the east side of campus. The facility addresses growing enrollment and increased demand for single-occupancy housing. Over the previous five years, the College's full-time equivalency increased 16.2%. During the previous decade, Colby recorded a 12.3% increase, the highest among the 19 Kansas community colleges.

Designed with a pod-style layout, the residence hall includes four-bedroom units with shared living spaces, kitchen amenities, and bathrooms. Plans also featured laundry rooms, a computer lab, and storm shelters.

To make room for new housing, the existing maintenance building was razed and will be replaced with a 60-by-140-foot facility east of the Steve Lampe Athletic Center. The new building has offices, storage areas, service bays, and updated mechanical and electrical systems.

Construction on both buildings is scheduled for completion in May 2027. Grants and institutional funds supported the project.



To make room for the new dorm, the existing maintenance building was razed.

Sen. Jerry Moran, center, joined the Board of Trustees and others to break ground on the new student housing facility, set to open in the summer of 2027.



Renovations & Campus Updates

NEW AUTONOMOUS MOWERS GRAB ATTENTION

One of the most talked-about campus updates of the past year has been the deployment of fully autonomous mowers. The three all-electric, zero-emission units maintain campus lawns quietly and continuously, freeing facility personnel to focus on other needs.

Instead of mowing on a traditional weekly schedule, the mowers trim small amounts of grass using precision navigation technology. Depending on terrain and grass conditions, a mower operates for 60 to 150 minutes per charge before returning to the docking station. After approximately 50 to 60 minutes of charging, it resumes mowing.

Safety sensors allow each mower to detect people and other obstacles so it can stop and adjust its path. The blades also shut down immediately if a unit is lifted.

Weather-resistant construction allows the fleet to operate in rain, humidity and summer heat, but they are stored indoors during winter.



OTHER UPDATES AND RENOVATIONS

- Completed phase two of LED light and ceiling tile upgrades.
- Re-keyed 456 doors that include living centers East and North, Embree Hall front doors and bedroom doors, Bedker Memorial Complex, and Cultural Arts Center.
- Replaced approximately 12,900 square feet of sidewalk.
- Completely remodeled the cafeteria kitchen and added a new dishwasher system.
- Upgraded the Ceramics Building with improved kiln exhaust and ventilation systems, along with a new air-conditioning system.
- Purchased a cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) system to integrate College operations, streamline processes, and improve the student and employee experience.
- Resurfaced and laser-leveled Carl Adams Softball Field, added over 50 tons of new infield material, realigned the bases and pitching areas, and replaced the outer infield lip with new fescue sod.
- Added a 2026 44-passenger bus and two 2026 15-passenger vans.

ATHLETICS CONTINUE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Student-athletes continued to demonstrate classroom excellence during the 2025-26 academic year. A total of 79 Trojans earned NJCAA All-Academic honors, including 32 who achieved first-team recognition with a perfect 4.0 grade-point average. An additional 23 student-athletes received second-team honors with GPAs between 3.80 and 3.99, while 24 earned third-team honors with GPAs between 3.60 and 3.79.

Fourteen CCC athletic programs were recognized by the NJCAA for maintaining team GPAs of 3.0 or higher. Ten programs ranked among the top 10 nationally in their respective sports. Men's half marathon and women's wrestling each placed second nationally, while volleyball finished fourth. Men's indoor track and field ranked fifth; women's half marathon and men's outdoor track and field placed seventh; women's basketball, men's cross country and women's indoor track and field each finished eighth; and men's basketball ranked 10th.

Volleyball recorded the College's highest team GPA at 3.80, followed by women's basketball at 3.71.



CAPUTI TWO-TIME VOLLEYBALL ALL-AMERICAN

Sophomore setter Amanda Caputi earned national recognition from both the NJCAA and the American Volleyball Coaches Association following a standout 2025 season. The Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference Division I Player of the Year was named an NJCAA Division I Second Team All-American and an AVCA Two-Year College Third Team All-American after leading the NJCAA with 11.13 assists per set and recording 1,191 assists. Under her direction, Colby led the nation with 13.53 kills per set. Caputi also earned six conference Setter of the Week awards and contributed 71 kills, 71 blocks and 34 service aces. After receiving NJCAA First Team All-America honors as a freshman, she became the first volleyball player in Colby history to earn NJCAA All-America recognition twice.



BASEBALL'S THOMSON EARNS KJCCC GOLD GLOVE

First baseman Callum Thomson was named the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference Gold Glove Award winner at first base.

A defensive anchor for the Trojans, Thomson started all 53 games and committed just one error in 341 total chances. He recorded 315 putouts and 25 assists for an exceptional .997 fielding percentage.

Thomson's steady presence helped Colby turn 37 double plays during the season. His consistency on routine plays and composure in high-pressure situations established him as one of the conference's most reliable defenders.



2025-26 Women's Wrestling Team

WOMEN'S WRESTLING EXCELS IN INAUGURAL YEAR

Women's Wrestling made an immediate impact in its first season, earning a top-eight national ranking for much of the year. The Trojans qualified eight student-athletes for the NJCAA National Championships, produced one All-American and seven NJCAA Academic All-Americans, and achieved a 3.42 cumulative GPA during the spring semester. Two sophomore graduates continued their academic and athletic careers at NCAA Division II institutions after earning GPAs above 3.5. The team is led by Head Coach Michael Ruiz and Assistant Coach Anastasia Hardin.

RIDERS SHINE ON NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN STAGE

Equestrian riders Kairi Quinn and Sidney Morgan capped outstanding seasons by competing at the 2026 Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA) National Championship in North Carolina. Quinn qualified in two events, earning third place in AQHA Individual Level II Horsemanship and eighth in NRHA/AQHA Individual Ranch Riding after previously placing eighth at the IHSA Zone 8 Finals at Stanford University. Morgan also represented the Trojans at nationals, finishing seventh in AQHA Individual Level I Horsemanship. Their performances against many of the nation's top collegiate riders highlighted the strength of Colby's equestrian program. Head coach Kirsten Miessler praised both student-athletes for their dedication, work ethic and ability to excel on one of collegiate equestrian's biggest stages, underscoring the continued growth and national competitiveness of the Trojan program.

Postseason Honors

The following Trojan student-athletes were recognized by the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference and NJCAA.



All-Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference (KJCCC)

BASEBALL

- Charlie Langford
Second Team, second base
- Anthony Deblois
Second Team, outfield
- Callum Thomson
Honorable Mention, first base
- Matthew Kesting
Honorable Mention, outfield

SOFTBALL

- Briley Christensen
First Team, infield
- Cheyenne Cramer
First Team, pitcher
- Brooke Zinken
Second Team, outfield
- Kylan Sorenson
Honorable Mention, infield
- Katelyn Zukewich
Honorable Mention, two-way player

VOLLEYBALL

- Amanda Caputi
KJCCC Division I Player of the Year and First Team, setter
- Ella Dridi
First Team, outside hitter
- Isadora Carrareto
First Team, middle blocker
- Karlotta Kattai
First Team, outside hitter
- Chiara Binda
Second Team, middle blocker

MEN'S BASKETBALL

- D.J. Cason
Honorable Mention

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- Dessirae Ulmer
First Team
- Olivia Hultgren
Honorable Mention

NJCAA All-American

MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

- Kenan Delestre — third in the 3,000-meter steeplechase (outdoor)
- Javano Bridgewater — seventh in the 400 meters (outdoor)
- Tristan King (indoor) — eighth in the weight throw

WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

- Nadine McIntyre — sixth in the 10,000 meters (outdoor); eighth in the 5,000 meters (indoor)
- Faith Vine — fourth in the 4x100-meter relay (outdoor)
- Beatrice Boakye — fourth in the 4x100-meter relay (outdoor); fifth in the 400 meters (indoor)
- Randieunna Jeffery — fourth in the 4x100-meter relay (outdoor)
- Ashleah Hewitt — fourth in the 4x100-meter relay (outdoor)

MEN'S WRESTLING

Cah'mari Johnson — seventh at 165 pounds

WOMEN'S WRESTLING

Catherine Dutton — sixth at 207 pounds

VOLLEYBALL

Amanda Caputi — Second Team

Awards & Recognition



*Dr. Don Woodburn and
Gracemary Melvin*

THREE INDUCTED INTO CCC HALL OF FAME

Wesley Banguria Kiptoo, Gracemary Melvin and Dr. Don Woodburn were welcomed as members of its 2025 Hall of Fame class at a ceremony in November.

Kiptoo became one of CCC's most decorated student-athletes, winning the 2019 NJCAA Division I cross-country championship before earning seven All-America honors and an NCAA indoor national title at Iowa State University. He has continued his success as a professional distance runner.

Melvin served CCC for 35 years, beginning as a business instructor in 1970 and later serving as dean of instruction from 1991 until her retirement in 2005. She helped expand academic programs, healthcare education and online learning opportunities.

Woodburn joined CCC in 1972 as an agriculture instructor and livestock judging coach. His teams won 28 contests during his six-year tenure. He later held leadership positions in higher education and the livestock industry, including serving as president of two Kansas community colleges.



COLBY AN ASPEN PRIZE TOP 200 COLLEGE

Colby Community College was selected by the Aspen Institute as one of 200 community colleges nationwide eligible to compete for the 2027 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's premier recognition of achievement among two-year institutions.

Colby was chosen based on student success indicators, including retention, completion, transfer, and bachelor's degree attainment rates. The selection places the College among a distinguished group of institutions recognized for delivering strong outcomes and advancing student achievement.

Eligible colleges were invited to participate in a rigorous application and review process that will continue through spring 2027. The Aspen Institute evaluates colleges on student outcomes such as graduation, transfer, employment, and earnings, as well as the implementation of effective practices that improve student success at scale.



HONORING A LIFETIME OF SERVICE

Colby Community College awarded its 2026 Honorary Associate Degree to Tracy Rogers in recognition of his decades of leadership,

volunteerism, and service to education and the Northwest Kansas community.

A longtime advocate for students and community organizations, Rogers has served on numerous boards, including the Colby Community College Endowment Association, Colby School Board, Thomas County Community Foundation, and several youth and civic organizations. He is also widely known for volunteering at school activities and driving activity buses, helping students participate in educational and extracurricular opportunities.

Rogers attended Colby Community College before earning a degree from Kansas State University. After working in Arizona, he returned to Colby in 1996 and built a successful career with Co-Ag/Frontier Ag.

The honorary degree recognizes individuals whose contributions have enhanced both the College and the region.



SEKAVEC COMPLETES HARVARD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Biological sciences instructor and STEM Division Chair

Dr. Jeffrey Sekavec completed the Harvard Medical School Senior Life Sciences Leaders Program. He was among 26 professionals worldwide selected for the 32-week executive-level program.

The international cohort included leaders from universities, health systems, private industry and government agencies. Coursework focused on emerging life sciences technologies, organizational innovation and executive decision-making and concluded with an in-person residency at Harvard. Sekavec was also invited to participate in the Senior Life Sciences Leaders Summit in Fall 2026.

A CCC alumnus, Sekavec began co-teaching at the College in 2006 and became a full-time faculty member in 2017. He also serves as a consultant specializing in bioterrorism preparedness and biological event management. The U.S. Air Force veteran holds degrees in chemistry, microbiology and homeland security.



Dr. Joan Johnson, right, was presented the Tangeman Award by STEM division Chair Dr. Jeffrey Sekavec on May 15 during commencement.

JOHNSON NAMED 2026 TANGEMAN AWARD RECIPIENT

Human Anatomy and Physiology instructor Dr. Joan Johnson was honored with the 2026 Tangeman Award for Teaching Excellence during Colby Community College's 61st commencement ceremony on May 15.

Johnson joined the CCC faculty in the fall of 2024. Before entering higher education, she spent 30 years in chiropractic practice in Illinois and Kansas. She described teaching at Colby as "a surprising second act" and said the opportunity to work with students has been deeply rewarding.

Established in 1988, the award honors outstanding teaching and is named after the College's second president, Dr. James Tangeman.

Awards & Recognition



AMONG THE NATION'S BEST COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Colby Community College was ranked among the top two percent of public community and technical colleges in the United States by WalletHub, placing No. 15 overall in its annual Best and Worst Community Colleges report. The ranking also positioned Colby as the second-highest-ranked community college in Kansas.

WalletHub evaluated 650 institutions nationwide using measures of cost and financing, educational outcomes, and career outcomes. The recognition reflects Colby's longstanding commitment to student success, affordability, and workforce preparation.

The college has earned the highest graduation rate in Kansas seven times in the past 11 years and has led the state in student retention five times in the last seven years. Continued investments in student housing, campus facilities, and scholarship opportunities have further strengthened the student experience.

The WalletHub ranking adds to a growing list of national recognitions highlighting Colby Community College's value, quality, and impact on student achievement.



ZIEGELMEIER NAMED MTNA FELLOW

Music instructor Pat Ziegelmeier was recognized nationally after being named a Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) Foundation Fellow, one of the organization's highest honors. She received the recognition during the 2026 MTNA National Conference in Chicago for her outstanding contributions to music education and the profession. The MTNA Foundation Fellow designation is awarded through contributions made in a recipient's honor, recognizing a lifetime of service and leadership. Ziegelmeier has served Colby Community College since 1988, teaching piano, keyboard skills, harmony, and music fundamentals while accompanying the College's vocal ensembles. Beyond campus, she devoted decades of leadership to the Kansas Music Teachers Association and the Northwest Kansas Piano Teachers League. She has twice been named the Northwest Kansas Music Educators Association College Music Educator of the Year, in 2013 and 2017, and was honored with the Colby Community College Tangeman Award for Teaching Excellence in 2011.

TWO TROJANS EARN ALL-KANSAS ACADEMIC HONORS

Sophomores Christine Arjona and Bailey Jackson represented Colby Community College on the 2026 All-Kansas Academic Team. The Rho Iota Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) chapter members were honored April 2 at Garden City Community College for their academic achievement, leadership and service. Arjona, a nursing major from Dodge City, plans to pursue a bachelor's degree and specialize in pediatric oncology. Jackson, a history major from Pratt, plans to study public history and pursue a career as a museum curator. PTK is the national honor society for two-year colleges, promoting scholarship, leadership, service, and fellowship, and offers transfer scholarships and professional development opportunities. Eligibility requires a minimum 3.5 GPA.



Bailey Jackson, left, and Christine Arjona present their certificates after being recognized as All-Kansas Academic Team members in Garden City.



TOMMIE TROJAN CONNECTS STUDENTS WITH ANSWERS AND SUPPORT

Tommie Trojan, Colby Community College's AI-powered assistant, provides support through the College website and proactive text messaging.

Since debuting at colbycc.edu in December 2025, Tommie has provided visitors with immediate, around-the-clock answers to frequently asked questions. By March 2026, the chatbot had answered 257 questions, saved an estimated 21 hours of staff time, and collected contact information from 48 prospective students. Most questions involved academics, admissions and student services.

Tommie also checks in with current students by text message to identify challenges and connect them with resources they might not otherwise know how to access. During the 2025–26 academic year, 19 outreach campaigns reached 96 percent of students and generated 1,659 responses. The platform made 212 automatic resource connections and identified 84 students for staff follow-up involving academic, financial, wellness and social concerns.

Together, Tommie's two roles provide timely information, strengthen early intervention and improve the student experience.

| Students



CCC students visit with a representative from a local business during the annual Ag Career Day.

CONNECTING STUDENTS WITH CAREERS AND COMMUNITIES

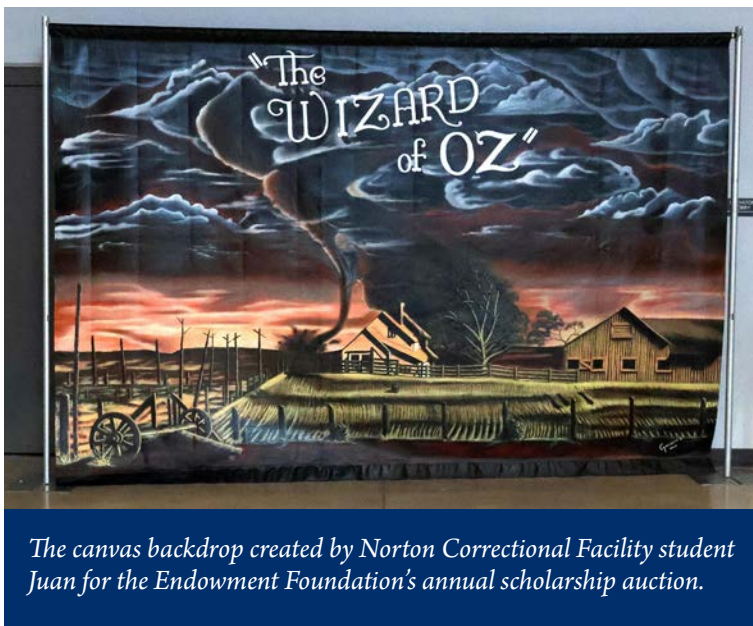
Students across campus had valuable opportunities to connect classroom learning with careers during three events held in spring 2026.

The third annual Ag Career and Transfer Fair connected students with businesses and colleges representing agriculture-related fields. Students pursuing degrees in agribusiness and agricultural economics, agricultural education, animal science, beef production, equine science, and veterinary nursing explored employment and transfer pathways.

The annual Criminal Justice Expo brought approximately 20 agencies and employers to campus. Students and community members met with industry professionals to learn about job openings, internships, and career options.

Business students also put their classroom knowledge into practice during the Small Business Trade Show. Serving as the culminating experience for the Management of Small Business course, the event allowed students to present their business ideas and demonstrate how they would operate in a competitive environment.

The activities are part of the College's overall mission to "connect" student learning with professional experiences.



The canvas backdrop created by Norton Correctional Facility student Juan for the Endowment Foundation's annual scholarship auction.

NCF STUDENTS USE THEIR TALENTS TO ENHANCE CAMPUS

Students at the Norton Correctional Facility worked throughout the year to provide aesthetic improvements to the Colby Community College campus. The welding classes created 16 benches, 16 trash cans and eight flowerpots, gaining hands-on experience while producing items that will benefit the College for years to come.

NCF residents also contributed to the Endowment Foundation's annual scholarship auction in March. The College asked residents to produce a large backdrop inspired by the Wizard of Oz theme.

Juan, a resident who also tutors students in the College's Alternative Energy program, accepted the challenge. After carefully creating a grid and mixing the colors, Juan spent approximately 25 days completing the painting, with occasional assistance from two other residents.



JASON DAVIS

Bringing more than 20 years of NCAA Division II and III coaching experience, Jason Davis became head coach of Colby Community College's track and field program in May 2026. His career includes head coaching positions at Earlham College, Marietta College and Lake Superior State University, along with several assistant coaching roles. Davis has extensive experience in athlete development, recruiting, program operations and student-athlete mentorship. His honors include Landmark Conference Coaching Staff of the Year recognition and the 2009 NCAA Southeast Region Division II Assistant Coach of the Year award.



MATT GLOVER

Colby Community College hired Matt Glover to lead the men's basketball program in April 2026 after two seasons at Fort Scott Community College. He led Fort Scott to its first region championship since 2014 and an NJCAA Division II National Tournament berth. His coaching experience also includes Colorado State University Pueblo and Regis University. Glover previously played at Sheridan College, Penn State, the University of San Francisco and professionally overseas. He holds a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's degree in sports administration.



KARSON HARRIS

Bringing more than 15 years of competitive and industry experience, Karson Harris was tabbed as Colby's head rodeo coach in March 2026. A roughstock specialist, Harris qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo, was named Fort Scott Community College's 2021 Rodeo Athlete of the Year and won the 2020 National Little Britches Rodeo bareback riding world championship. He also qualified for the 2025 Prairie Circuit Finals. Harris brings experience mentoring young competitors, managing horse facilities, developing bucking horses and operating a custom leatherworking business.



BRENNAN HARMER

Brennan Harmer joined Colby Community College in August 2026 as Coordinator of Athletics and Sports Information Director. Previously, he spent two years as a sports information graduate assistant at Clarkson University, supporting 18 NCAA Division III programs and overseeing digital media efforts. Harmer earned a master's degree in business administration from Clarkson and a bachelor's degree in sports management from SUNY Canton. A former soccer and basketball student-athlete, he was named SUNY Canton's 2024 Male Student-Athlete of the Year. The Madrid, New York, native also has experience as a basketball camp counselor and high school soccer official.



CHAYSE MCCULLOUGH

Chayse McCullough returned to Colby Community College in May 2026 as the first associate track and field/cross country coach in school history. A member of Colby's 2022 NJCAA national championship cross country team, he later competed at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Fort Hays State University, earning three MIAA Academic Honor Roll selections. The Plainville native assists with recruiting, athlete development, training and daily operations. He also brings experience mentoring children with special needs through the Solomon Valley ARC and educational settings.



PICKERILL LECTURE SERIES FEATURED FORMER NFL PLAYER

In September, Colby Community College welcomed former NFL player, educator, entrepreneur and sports agent Ron Freeman as the featured speaker for the 2026 Dr. Max Pickerill Lecture Series. Held in the H.F. Davis Memorial Library, the free community event explored themes from Freeman's book, *Rethinking Race: It's Better Than What We've Been Led to Believe*. His presentation examined American history, reflected on the nation's progress toward greater unity and offered an optimistic perspective on the future. Sponsored annually by anonymous donors, the Pickerill Lecture Series continued its tradition of bringing accomplished speakers to campus to encourage thoughtful dialogue and lifelong learning.



COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVES

Colby Community College partnered with the American Red Cross to host three community blood drives during the academic year, providing opportunities for students, employees, and area residents to help address critical blood shortages. Organized by the College's Leadership and Presidential Scholars, the drives were held in November, February, and April in the Robert Burnett Student Union. Overall, CCC collected 85 units of lifesaving blood and had seven first-time donors.



KANSAS COURT OF APPEALS HEARS ARGUMENTS IN COLBY

In April, CCC welcomed a three-judge panel from the Kansas Court of Appeals to hear oral arguments for two cases in the Frahm Theatre. The event provided students, employees, and community members with a firsthand look at the appellate process as attorneys presented arguments and responded to questions from the judges. Following the proceedings, the judges met with attendees to discuss the judicial system, appellate procedures, and careers in the legal profession. Presiding Judge Angela Coble was joined by Judge Jacy Hurst and Chief Judge Paula Hofaker of the 17th Judicial District, who served by special order. The visit was part of the Court of Appeals' effort to bring court proceedings into communities across Kansas.

Shoe Drive Supports Communities in Need

In the spring semester, students and staff participated in a regional shoe drive organized by employees of the Norton Correctional Facility. New and gently used shoes were collected at multiple locations, including the Robert Burnett Student Union on Colby's campus. Through the combined generosity of participants and communities, the initiative collected 2,038 pairs of shoes.

Enrollment

Fall 2025, Spring 2026 and Summer 2026

Total Credits: **33,311** (prior year: 30,983)

Online Credits: **16,151** (prior year: 15,414)

AGE BREAKDOWN

Range	Headcount	Percentage
High School - Under 18	642	28%
Traditional (18-24)	1,140	49%
Non-traditional (25 and older)	549	24%
Total	2,331	100%

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Countries
represented:

30

Headcount:

94



SERVING PETS, SUPPORTING STUDENTS

The Colby Community College Student Veterinary Nursing Association hosted four community pet washes during the academic year at the Stanley Carr Agricultural Center. Students gained valuable hands-on experience serving area pet owners, including scheduling, reviewing records, accepting payments, and bathing more than 100 dogs and cats. Proceeds supported educational travel opportunities, such as attendance at the AKC Garden City Kennel Club Dog Show, tours of the Finney County Zoo, Hill's Pet Nutrition in Topeka, and Tanganyika Wildlife Park in Goddard. Funds also helped provide meals and activities for club events, as well as the graduating students' End-of-the-Year Scholarship and Awards Banquet.

CARING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

In February, the Colby Community College Practical Nursing Program demonstrated its commitment to compassionate care by organizing a community clothing and laundry detergent drive to benefit residents at Valley Hope Rehabilitation Center in Norton. Students, employees, and community members donated a total of 30 boxes of gently used clothing, 14 gallons of laundry detergent, and other essential household items to support individuals on their recovery journey.



Colby Commitment Scholarship Continues to Provide Access

Colby Community College expanded access to affordable higher education by extending the Colby Commitment Scholarship through the Spring 2027 semester. Approved by the Board of Trustees in April 2026, the program provides eligible high school students across Northwest Kansas with tuition, fees, and books, while offering all other participating students a reduced cost of \$50 per credit hour, including tuition, fees, and books.

Since its launch in January 2024, the scholarship has benefited more than 935 students and covered more than \$1.14 million in college expenses.

| Endowment Foundation

INVESTING IN STUDENTS. STRENGTHENING THE FUTURE.

The Colby Community College Endowment Foundation continued its strong momentum during 2025-2026 by expanding scholarship opportunities, strengthening charitable funds, and investing in the long-term success of both current and future CCC students.

During the 2025-2026 academic year, the Foundation awarded \$235,826 in scholarships to 140 students, an increase of \$46,733 (24.7%) over the previous year. Since the launch of the 60 for 60 Campaign, 159 new endowed scholarships have been established or pledged, far surpassing the original goal of 60. As College enrollment continues to grow and workforce needs evolve, these permanent endowments represent a lasting investment in the future of Colby Community College and the students it serves.

Community support was once again evident at the 2026 Scholarship Benefit Auction. The event welcomed one of the largest crowds in recent years and raised a record \$158,000 in gross proceeds, providing additional scholarship support for future Trojan students.

Another significant accomplishment was the growth of the Pat Keiser Food Bank Fund. What began with occasional donations totaling approximately \$3,000 has grown into an endowed and expanding fund with more than \$25,600 at fiscal year-end. Supported entirely through charitable contributions, the fund continues to expand the essentials available to students, providing not only food, but also hygiene products and school supplies for those facing financial hardship. At the same time, continued endowment growth is building a sustainable source of support for years to come.

Overall, Foundation assets increased 18.2% during the year, driven largely by the continued generosity of donors and the establishment of new endowed scholarship funds. Each new endowment represents more than a gift for today's students; it is an investment in future generations of Trojans and in the continued success of Colby Community College.

FY2022	\$6,534,180
FY2023	\$7,415,607
FY2024	\$8,710,495
FY2025	\$9,466,846



The 2026 Scholarship Benefit Auction on March 28 at the Colby Event Center raised a record \$158,000 in gross proceeds.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Fall	\$122,868.00
Spring	\$112,958.00
TOTAL	\$235,826.00

Number of Students 140

FACULTY/STAFF SCHOLARSHIPS

Hinther Fund	\$7,550.00
Pete Henry Professorship	\$3,000.00
Garvey Fund	\$900.00
TOTAL	\$11,450.00

EMPLOYEE OPPORTUNITIES

Over the last year, allocations from the Hinther Fund, the Pete Henry Professorship, and the Garvey Fund provided \$11,450 to faculty and staff seeking to enhance their careers by pursuing advanced degrees and training.

Since 2015, more than \$126,000 has been disbursed from these funds to assist with professional development opportunities.

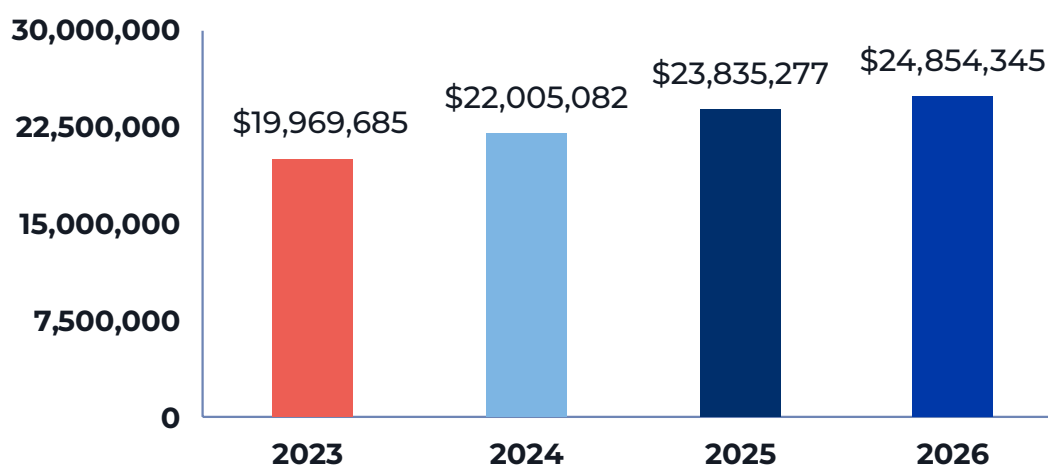
NET INVESTMENT IN ASSETS

2024	\$16,988,192
2025	\$18,169,216
2026	\$18,189,045

INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS

FY2024	\$14,220,434
FY2025	\$18,142,816
FY2026	\$24,469,175

CASH ON HAND



FISCAL PERFORMANCE

	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
Operating Revenues	\$10,606,202	\$8,352,605	\$8,791,566	\$10,552,688
Non-Operating Revenues	\$11,676,389	\$13,711,466	\$14,112,746	\$12,627,241
Operating Expenses	(\$17,243,314)	(\$18,208,646)	(\$19,821,065)	(\$20,400,039)
Change in Net Position	\$5,039,277	\$ 3,855,425	\$3,083,247	\$2,779,890

COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE MILL LEVY 2015-2026

Year	Mill Rate	Decrease/Increase		Year	Amount Levied	Decrease/Increase
2015	46.781	N/A		2015	\$5,333,232	N/A
2016	46.764	-0.017		2016	\$5,628,387	\$295,155
2017	46.819	0.055		2017	\$6,116,591	\$488,204
2018	45.123	-1.696		2018	\$6,255,727	\$139,136
2019	43.954	-1.169		2019	\$6,529,756	\$274,029
2020	41.776	-2.178		2020	\$6,229,203	-\$300,553
2021	41.150	-0.626		2021	\$6,074,782	-\$154,421
2022	40.675	-0.475		2022	\$6,213,889	\$139,107
2023	39.869	-0.806		2023	\$6,277,374	\$63,485
2024	39.446	-0.423		2024	\$6,289,206	\$11,832
2025	38.897	-0.549		2025	\$6,257,950	-\$31,256
2026	38.720	-0.177		2026	\$6,253,678*	-\$4,272

*Proposed Mill Decrease During this Period: (-8.061)

*Proposed amount, not finalized.

COMPOSITE FINANCIAL INDEX WITH UNRESTRICTED FUNDS (2018-2025)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Current Unrestricted Funds <i>(Regulatory Basis as of June 30)</i>	\$10,819,426	\$13,466,454	\$15,019,733	\$18,083,692	\$19,347,802	\$19,570,171	\$21,903,603	\$23,603,879
CFI	4.24	6.37	6.73	7.29	6.96	8.85	9.09	9.05
% Increase Unrestricted	28%	24%	11.5%	16.9%	6.5%	1.1%	11.9%	7.8%

The Composite Financial Index (CFI) is a numerical indicator that ranges from -4.0 to 10.0, signifying the financial well-being of an institution. The CFI is determined by the regional accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission.

“% Increase Unrestricted” reflects the increase in unrestricted funds on a year-to-year basis.

CCC Board of Trustees

MEET THE BOARD

Colby Community College is governed by a dedicated six-member Board of Trustees, all residents of Thomas County, who serve the college and the community without remuneration. The board members exhibit diligence, patience, and dependability in advancing the interests of the college and its many constituents in northwest Kansas.

Each trustee brings a unique perspective from their professional and civic backgrounds, ensuring that community voices are well represented in the college's leadership. The Board of Trustees plays a critical role in providing strategic direction and oversight, working closely with the college administration to set policies, ensure sound financial management, and uphold CCC's mission of student success.

Through monthly meetings, the trustees review progress, discuss future plans, and foster partnerships that benefit both the college and the community. Their leadership ensures that Colby Community College remains responsive to community needs, thriving as a regional hub for education and opportunity.



Patrick Toth
Chair
(2024-2028)



Jessica Vaughn
Vice Chair
(2026-2030)



Arlen Leiker
KACCT Representative
(2024-2028)



Audrey Hines
Treasurer
(2026-2030)



Donna Henry
Endowment Representative
(2022-2030)



Zack Odell
(2024-2028)

► **Mission**

CHALLENGE students to adapt to a diverse society.

CREATE opportunities for student growth.

CONNECT student learning with professional experiences.

► **Vision**

CCC will be a national leader in academics and student success to transform lives in the communities we serve.

Colby Community College is a two-year public institution of higher education. Located in Colby, Kansas, the college is situated in the northwest part of the state in Thomas County and is approximately 50 miles from the Nebraska and Colorado borders. Once known as the Golden Buckle on the Wheat Belt, Thomas County is now also a leader in sustainable agriculture. Although not the largest county in the state by acres, Thomas County has more farmable acres than any other county in Kansas.

From a humble beginning of 99 students in 1964, CCC now serves over 2,200 students annually. The institution provides a diversity of academic options and has highly qualified and caring faculty and staff. In addition to a 57-acre main campus, CCC has a 60-acre farm utilized as a hands-on laboratory and training facility.

The college also accommodates off-campus students nationwide through face-to-face, online, and hybrid courses. A number of studies (from SmartAsset, WalletHub, the Aspen Institute, and the Chronicle of Higher Education) conclude CCC is a solid educational investment, and it is consistently a peer leader in graduation and retention rates.

Colby Community College is governed by an elected, committed six-member Board of Trustees.

Thanks to Our Supporters

We are deeply grateful to the individuals, families, businesses, and organizations that support Colby Community College. Your generosity helps us enhance educational opportunities, empower students, and strengthen our community. Thank you for being an essential part of the Colby family and for making a lasting impact on the lives of our students.

Baalmann Mortuary
Bijan Esfandiari
BlueCross BlueShield of Kansas Foundation
Brent and Sherrie Wiedeman
Bruce and Leatte Bandy
Bruce Keiser
Colby Ag Center L.C.
Colby Convention & Visitor Bureau
Colby Glass Company, Inc.
Colby-Thomas County Chamber of Commerce Inc
Consolidated Management Co.
Daschle Family Fund at The Chicago
Community Foundation
Dr. Catherine S. McMulkin
Drake Rowh Farm Account
Drs. Randall and Judith Norton
Farmers & Merchants Bank of Colby
First National Bank & Trust
Foote Cattle Company
Frahm Farmland, Inc.
Gary Adrian
Gary Cooper
Greg and Corky Bellamy
Horlacher Jewelers, Inc
Jeff and Krysti Terrell
Jerry and Kathy Arensdorf

JL Farm Supply
Juanita Cooper
Kansas Farm Management Assn. N.W.
Layton and Jerry Kaiser
Lou and Audrey Hines
Lyle and Nancy Saddler
Marie Herbel
Mark and Wendy Weishaar
Marvin O Gaines Trust
McCarty Family Farms, LLC
Mitch and Jenna Gatz
Mollie Rall
Nutrien Ag Solutions of Colby
Office Works
OGE Energy Corp. Foundation, Inc
Paul M Steele
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Scott Boswell
Seth and Codi Carter
Sheila Krehbiel
Stuart Beckman
Triple R Insurance Agency, Inc.
Weigel Concrete

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COLBY
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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