What a great year 2017-18 was!

This edition of the Colorado Mountain College Impact annual review contains stories and photos that show how we’ve put our shoulders to the wheel alongside students, donors and community members – to make a difference that matters.

Together, we have strived to increase:

- **Success**: We did it! We were named Top Adventure College by Elevation Outdoors Magazine! Our students and graduates have found success in the mountains and forests, in the culinary kitchens, in the cities and small towns of the world.

- **Opportunities**: Our alumni like flying paramedic Reed Clawson, emergency room nurse Tim Putz, triumphant graduate Bill Brady, and current and past fire chiefs in Carbondale and Aspen prove that it’s possible to seize life’s opportunities with a CMC education under your belt.

- **Partnerships**: Through our innovative avalanche science program, we are working with best-in-class partners to make the backcountry safer.

- **Culture**: Whether onstage, backstage or in the audience at Sopris Theatre Company productions, or regardless on which side of the artist’s easel or camera they stand, our students and community members embrace culture.

We are also taking a pause in this Impact report to look into the future, one that is now more assured than ever. Our future has a strong parallel to our past.

In the recent midterm elections, Colorado Mountain College became the largest special district in the state’s history to successfully “de-Gallagherize” its revenue. By a margin of more than 2-to-1, every single community in CMC’s six-county taxing district voted to support measure 7D. In a noteworthy parallel to CMC’s founding, 53 years ago the citizens of our mountain communities voted to create Colorado Mountain College, also by a margin of 2-to-1.

To all of our residents and loyal supporters of Colorado Mountain College: thank you. Thank you for taking the time to understand the very serious but unintended impacts of the Gallagher Amendment on rural Colorado. Thank you for supporting the financial health and viability of a college that, for more than 50 years, has been the only provider of first responders, firefighters, teachers, nurses and other professionals in our mountain communities.

Most important, thank you for your confidence and faith in the college’s board of trustees, leadership team, employees, faculty and students. Together, we are truly humbled and honored by your overwhelming support – of the ballot initiative, of our fundraising initiatives – and, of course, our students.

Please enjoy this Impact report, knowing that through your support, our college will be able to share similar and even greater stories of success and results, well into the future.

Toward even greater heights,

Carrie Besnette Hauser, Ph.D.
President & CEO, Colorado Mountain College
Impact is a publication of Colorado Mountain College’s advancement department. Contributing writers include Carrie Click, Debra Crawford, Mike McKibbin and Seth Goddard. Proofreading by Debra Crawford. Design by Lisa Miller.
CMC chosen as top adventure college

We’re officially the best in the Rockies and Southwest!

It was a hard-fought battle against a host of tough competitors. In the final tally, though, Colorado Mountain College collected the most votes in Elevation Outdoors Magazine’s 2018 Top Adventure College contest.

The nine-year-old magazine features outdoor sports, health, fitness and adventure travel in Colorado and the Rocky Mountain West. At the start of the annual collegiate contest, the magazine chose as competitors 32 colleges and universities from seven Rocky Mountain states.

Through online voting, schools competed against each other, elimination-bracket style. After five rounds, the competition narrowed to Colorado Mountain College facing Boise State University. The CMC Eagles triumphed, earning bragging rights and a new moniker, top #AdventureCollege.
Colorado College students and staff are encouraged to post photos of themselves on social media with a CMC Adventure Flag when they are out on an adventure or seeing the world.

Since the flags were created by GarCo Sewing Works, they’ve been to all corners of the world – from Norway to Bhutan to Iceland to China and New Zealand. They’ve been taken to the summits of 14ers and have gone rafting through the Grand Canyon.

To see more of these adventurous images, visit www.instagram.com/explore/tags/CMCAdventureFlag
“I have achieved my dream — a career that allows me to work outside doing something I love. It makes work not feel so much like work.”

Christy Cleaver
plant pathologist
U.S. Forest Service

CMC’s natural resource management program

The natural resource management program at CMC Leadville connects students with field learning and paid internship opportunities. Students study in Rocky Mountain environments from ridgetops to rivers. Classes teach stewardship as they learn to evaluate, restore and care for land and water.

Through the on-campus Natural Resource Management Field Institute, students are offered paid internship opportunities. Selected students contribute to environmental projects while being mentored by field professionals. These internships provide networking opportunities at state and federal agencies, giving students a pathway toward employment. The degree program and the institute prepare students to transfer to a four-year program or go to work in areas such as hydrology, forestry, fishery and wildlife, rangeland management and geographic information systems.

Like many traditional high school graduates, Christy Cleaver enrolled in college fresh out of high school. She chose a major university, and quickly became overwhelmed and frustrated with large class sizes. A family member turned her onto Colorado Mountain College Leadville, where she discovered the natural resource management program.

Cleaver graduated in 2007 and transferred to Colorado State University to complete bachelor’s degrees in natural resource management and forest biology. At CSU, she became involved in forest health research which allowed her to travel to 11 different western National Parks to investigate forest pest movement on firewood.

“Before starting graduate school,” said Cleaver, “I took a year off and did a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail, backpacking from Georgia to Maine. What a life-changing experience!”

She started graduate school in 2011 and finished her master’s in ecology, with a focus on forest pathology, in 2014. During graduate school, she spent a summer working for a U.S. Forest Service plant pathologist in Alaska and knew this was what she wanted to dedicate her life’s work to.

These days Cleaver is a plant pathologist with the U.S. Forest Service and spends her summers in the field, traveling throughout Idaho and Montana. “CMC’s NRM program gave me great perspective for working with multiple government and nongovernmental agencies,” she said. “The hands-on classes and the NRM field internship gave me a solid foundation and knowledge of applied natural resource management of varying disciplines. Specifically, the GIS skills that I began learning at CMC have been invaluable.

“I have achieved my dream,” said Cleaver, “a career that allows me to work outside doing something I love. It makes work not feel so much like work. Now my goal is to continue to learn and grow in my current position.”
A new culinary institute program endowment was created at the 2018 Keystone Culinary Dinner held in February at Keystone Ranch. The evening also welcomed back an esteemed group of celebrated alumni chefs who attended the CMC Culinary Institute, where they had earned their chops and honed their skills.

These successful alums jumped in to cook alongside each other and current culinary institute apprentices, preparing a six-course dinner complete with beverage pairings for a lucky dining room of CMC supporters.

The evening celebrated the institute’s 25th anniversary and CMC’s partnership with Keystone and Vail Resorts that has long trained apprentice chefs in the college’s culinary classroom and at a number of the company’s top resort restaurants.

“Colorado Mountain College and Chef Kevin Clarke instilled in me the importance of foundation. There is no better foundation that I could have built my career upon than the one I received and experienced at Colorado Mountain College.”

- Charles MacDonald, Executive Chef / The Plimoth Restaurant, Denver and CMC Culinary Institute Alumnus

“My education at CMC has helped me in my career because of the three years of true kitchen experience. Not only was I introduced to all of the elements of classic cuisine, but I also was able to apply my classroom education in kitchens around the resort on a daily basis. When I graduated I was ready to step into any kitchen I wanted to. The chefs at Keystone helped mold me into the professional I am today.”

- Matt Vawter, Chef de Cuisine & Proprietor / Mercantile Dining & Provision, Denver and CMC Culinary Institute Alumnus

Kevin Clarke, Colorado Mountain College director of culinary education and a graduate of the first CMC Culinary Institute class in 1993, has been leading the program since 2000. He is a strong believer in apprenticeships and models the institute’s curriculum around those opportunities.
Alumnus Reed Clawson: the flying paramedic

Emergency medical career launched at Colorado Mountain College

Reed Clawson had his mind set on being a professional ski patroller. He never expected to be working as a flight paramedic with a helicopter team.

“I wanted to make ski patrolling as viable a career as I could. But all these doors opened because of the training and schooling, and led me in the direction I went,” said Clawson, 34, of New Castle, a 2012 graduate of CMC.

Since April 2016, Clawson has served aboard Classic Air Medical’s Bell 407 helicopter, based at Valley View Hospital in Glenwood Springs. In 17 months, he has worked more than 150 medical flights.

“I like taking care of people. I also love that it’s not normal, not mundane. Every day, every flight is different,” he said.

The flight team includes a pilot, a nurse and a paramedic. Classic Air's Glenwood Springs crew members — four pilots, four nurses and three paramedics — work rotating shifts.

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“Our primary job is to care for and transport critically sick or injured patients,” Clawson said. Some flights transfer patients to or from Valley View Hospital; others are backcountry rescues where the flight team is often the first responder.

“Our goal is to get the person to definitive care as fast as possible,” he said. “You can really see the benefit of the helicopter. We can get to Denver in one hour, or to Grand Junction in about 35 minutes.”

The Glenwood Springs team also supports Classic Air’s helicopter and airplane teams in Steamboat Springs, Craig and Moab. The company serves Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, Wyoming and Idaho.

Clawson arrived at this vital position, responsible for people’s lives and futures every day, after making a pivot as a CMC student. He was wrapping up his associate degree in ski area operations at CMC Leadville, which included emergency medical technician training, and had started an internship on the Copper Mountain ski patrol.

“Reed was spurred on by the role of emergency medical provider. That lit a fire in him,” said Roger Coit, one of Clawson’s CMC Leadville instructors. After graduation, Clawson took an accelerated paramedic training program at Denver Health.

The training led him to paramedic work in Grand County, along with ski patrolling at Powderhorn and Aspen Mountain, until the Classic Air opportunity arrived. When Clawson started his ski area operations studies at CMC in 2010, he had just returned to Colorado, out of money, after living abroad. “I was very determined to get into the workforce,” he recalled.

“I definitely got a return on my investment,” he said, citing CMC’s affordability and the high quality of instruction. “I was impressed with the knowledge and skill sets of my instructors. They set me up to be a professional in both of those fields. I was prepped to succeed either way.”

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Frisco ER nurse ‘confident, caring’

“They’re here because they want to be here and they know how to live in the mountains. They are committed to being part of our local communities compared to someone from another state.”

Betty Bembenek
interim dean of the CMC School of Nursing, Health Sciences and Public Safety

When someone is seriously injured and brought to the emergency room at Centura Health’s St. Anthony Summit Medical Center in Frisco, ER nurse Tim Putz is often one of the first to offer care. Putz, 48, earned his associate degree in nursing and was one of the college’s first graduates to earn a Bachelor of Science in nursing in 2016 at CMC Breckenridge.

His first nursing job was in a Denver hospital, where he worked for about two years before joining St. Anthony’s, a Level III trauma center that includes the Flight For Life® Colorado emergency helicopter service.

“CMC gave me a good grasp of what it means to be a nurse, but there’s not much that can truly prepare you for the weight and responsibility you have on your shoulders in the ER,” Putz said. “That’s the whole ballgame, how you provide the right care and when.”

Betty Bembenek, interim dean of the college’s School of Nursing, Health Sciences and Public Safety, said nearly 100 percent of the college’s nursing graduates are immediately hired after obtaining their professional nurse’s license, and the majority get their first jobs at medical facilities in the mountain communities CMC serves.

Having graduates land local jobs also helps to create a stable local workforce in the health care field, which is essential for the health of our local community residents, she said.

Fire chiefs learned their trade at CMC

The summer of 2018 was one of the worst-ever fire seasons in the history of the Roaring Fork Valley – and Carbondale Fire, headed by a CMC alumnus, was in there fighting, front and center.

In 2018, alumnus Ron Leach handed the chief’s hat to a fellow CMC grad, Rob Goodwin (pictured at left). The two shared a similar path to service with many of their counterparts throughout the mountain region. Leach took one of the first CMC emergency medical services courses in 1976; Goodwin took his first EMT class in 1987.

“Those classes are vital, helping produce new EMTs and making sure we have enough qualified people,” Goodwin said. “From a fire chief’s standpoint, CMC has been and remains an integral part of providing these services.”

Both Goodwin and Leach still return to EMT classrooms, only now they are the instructors. Leach was named the campus and collegewide Adjunct Faculty of the Year in 2010-11 and received the campus honor again in 2017-18.
Bill Brady will be the first to tell you that as a 19-year-old in 1979, he was making a lot of bad choices.

Over the years, Brady’s bad choices magnified, landing him in prison in Cañon City for cocaine possession and credit card fraud. After repeated incidents of breaking rules, by the mid-1990s he was a convicted felon.

Somewhere in Brady’s brain and heart, though, he knew he could do better. So when he heard he could earn a college degree while in prison, through Colorado Mountain College and the Rifle Correctional Center, he applied for the program.

In 1996, early one morning in Canon City – 3 a.m. to be exact – Brady was told to wake up and pack it up. He’d been accepted into the collegiate program and was being transferred to Rifle – and to CMC. There, a second chance was waiting.

A group of inmates was shuttled to and from the correctional center about 15 miles north of Rifle to attend classes at Colorado Mountain College.

“CMC opened my life to better career choices,” he said. “Education changed my life and my understanding of commitment.”

Mike Samson, who is now a Garfield County commissioner, was teaching speech and communication at CMC at that time. A seasoned educator, he taught for 25 years at Rifle High School as well.

“He was my favorite teacher,” said Brady. “He helped me learn communication skills and how to study, which then helped me learn how to work hard.”

Brady earned an Associate of Arts degree in 1998. He graduated with a 3.75 GPA, but didn’t attend his graduation ceremony since he was still incarcerated. He was released from prison later that year.

Before traveling through Rifle on the way to his 40th high school reunion, he contacted the CMC Rifle campus and told them that Colorado Mountain College, and specifically Samson, had dramatically changed his life.

Would it be possible, he asked Carole Boughton, then campus dean, to bring his diploma to Rifle to have his picture taken in a cap and gown in front of CMC?

On June 20, Brady showed up at the campus, expecting to borrow a cap and gown to take a quick picture. What he didn’t expect was graduation marching music blasting from the auditorium, a half-dozen CMC faculty and administrators standing on stage in graduation regalia, and his favorite teacher, Mike Samson, there to congratulate him.

“You took that knowledge and you took that wisdom because you had the opportunity to become a wiser person, a better person,” Samson said to Brady. “Thank you. Encourage others to do the same.”

“This is very special,” Brady said quietly, tears welling in his eyes. “I had no idea you were going to make such a big deal out of this. I never forgot this place. And I’ll never, ever forget this.”
Clough Fellowship has impact

It is hard to imagine western Garfield County without a decade of Clough Fellowship scholars. More than $3.8 million has been awarded, 510 students supported and countless lives impacted. In 2008 Genevieve Clough turned oil and gas revenue from her Rifle land into a promise for future generations. “This is for those middle bunch of kids that make good grades but won’t get scholarships,” she said when the fellowship was established in conjunction with the Western Colorado Community Foundation and the CMC Foundation. “I just don’t think you can grow if you’re not educated.” And grow they have. In 2018 two students received support from the newly established Clough Fellows Alumni Association thanks to class of 2014 grads Luis Pena (left) and Trenten Hagerty (right) pictured with awardee Garett Magee. “These kids are the backbone of our society,” said Mrs. Clough, who passed away in 2010. They have each other’s backs, too.

X Games Aspen brings breakthroughs

When one of the world’s premier winter sports events comes to town, CMC students make the most of it.

This year’s X Games Aspen saw two students ride their previous internships to paid staff positions, and another student – local Olympian Alex Ferreira – ride his skis to gold in the superpipe during the January 2019 games.

While Isaacson School students Audrey Dominguez and Ben Hunter used CMC’s cutting-edge curriculum to prepare for their roles in the control booth and behind the camera, respectively, Ferreira found that the college’s flexibility and online courses allowed him to further both his athletic and academic goals.

The 2018 Olympic silver medalist knows he won’t be flying above halfpipes forever. “Being an athlete, you’re living in the limelight for a little bit ... but what happens when the light is shut off?” he said. “I don’t even consider education a plan B. I consider it plan A with athletics and competing.”

Already halfway to earning his bachelor’s in business with a psychology minor, Ferreira has his eyes set beyond medals and podiums: walking across the stage in a cap and gown.

In related news, to honor the more than 60 Olympic athletes who have attended Colorado Mountain College over the years, the college’s board of trustees agreed to offer in-state tuition for those training for Team USA, beginning in 2019-20. “It’ll be a huge incentive for Team USA athletes to enroll in college,” said Ferreira. “I’m glad to be a part of it. I’m glad to be a part of CMC.”
Innovative partnership leads to the only avalanche tech program in the U.S.

Having earned an adventure guide diploma in British Columbia, Chris Peterson wanted to expand his education in snow science and avalanche forecasting and found the avalanche science program at Colorado Mountain College Leadville.

The two-year certificate program is focused on snow-safety fields such as mechanized or human-powered guiding, ski patrol and ski area snow safety, forecasting, avalanche safety education and other professions that operate in and around avalanche terrain.

“I have gained a community of classmates and instructors who all share a similar interest in snow and avalanches,” Peterson said. “Not only are we a community within the college but we’re a community within the snow and avalanche industry. The entire faculty currently works in the snow and avalanche industry in various job types. This gives students an insight into different positions and opportunities to learn from them in their workplace.”
Three sessions per year involve intensive fieldwork and hands-on learning indoors at the Leadville campus and on the snow in the Sawatch Mountains. Students also learn through live webinars and independently online, with classes in meteorology, snow and avalanches, weather observations, forecasting and safety operations, along with a required field internship and a portfolio seminar.

The curriculum was designed by avalanche professionals from the Colorado Avalanche Information Center, CMC and the U.S. Forest Service. Instructors include Dr. Ethan Greene, one of the program’s developers and CAIC director; Dr. Kelly Elder, Forest Service research hydrologist; and Roger Coit, assistant professor and faculty lead for the program.

Coit noted the CMC program is unique in its depth of information.

"Most of these courses do a good job, but they are only for a short duration," he said. "We think avalanche safety workers need further training given the importance of the work, so we're trying to provide that."

The program has taught 21 students in its first two years and Coit noted he would "love to have some scholarships from the industry" to enroll more students. Enrollment is capped at 12 students per year, with entry requirements focused on current and aspiring avalanche professionals.

Coit also hoped the program can add new specialized courses, such as remote weather station construction and operation.

"It’s been going wonderfully," he said. "We work like heck to stay on top of the issues and try to make it a very desirous program. Our first-year students are in demand by the industry for internships and many of them have been hired."

Paul “Bear” Rauschke has a succinct way of describing ski area operations.

“We sell people tickets to go uphill,” he said. “Everything spins off from that.”

For Rauschke, now-retired ski area operations associate professor at Colorado Mountain College Leadville (and a CMC alum), “everything else” includes ski area design, slope and trail maintenance, mountain operations, lift management and more.

Those and other aspects of the ski industry are what Rauschke taught hundreds of students after joining the college’s faculty in 1987. He retired in May 2018.
“Before this law passed, I was stressed, I wondered how I was going to do it all. Now, a burden has been lifted.”

Leanne Richel
CMC teacher education student

Gov. Hickenlooper signs education bill at CMC

A bill, initiated by CMC, that Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper signed at the college’s Morgridge Commons in Glenwood Springs in 2018 is part of the “Rural Colorado Grow Your Own Educator Act.” It supports high-quality student teachers and transitions them into teaching jobs in rural school districts and charter schools in certain areas of the state that are experiencing teacher shortages.

The bill provides a $10,000 stipend to fourth-year teachers in designated rural school districts, to help cover the high cost of living while they student teach. The stipend provides a way for student teachers to focus on their education classes as well as their classroom preparations and teaching experiences.

New student housing in Breckenridge

In 2018, Colorado Mountain College closed a deal with the Town of Breckenridge to purchase three apartment buildings adjacent to the CMC Breckenridge campus. The apartments will be used to provide CMC students and staff access to affordable housing close to campus.

“For many of our students, housing is the most significant barrier to earning a college degree,” said CMC President & CEO Carrie Besnette Hauser. “These new apartments will greatly assist our students and staff and represent tremendous good-faith efforts between the college and the town. We are truly grateful for the partnership with the Town of Breckenridge that resulted in this transformative arrangement.”
Some Colorado Mountain College students have a little extra support in making their way through the college maze. Students in Summit County can be paired with mentors—helpful people in the community who have solid experience working in the students’ field of study. These mentor-student relationships can offer valuable guidance and direction to students who may be the first in the family to attend college, or who may just appreciate additional information from an expert in an academic area.

Flor Cruz Valdez graduated from Summit High School in 2012 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science in business administration at CMC in 2018. As a first-generation college student, she was able to consult with her mentor, Sharon Koblinsky, a former IBM employee.

CMC’s president, Dr. Carrie Besnette Hauser, has a goal to visit with all fifth-grade students in the college’s nine-county service area—with CMC mascot Swoop at her side.

Dr. Hauser is educating these young students about the importance of staying in school, finishing high school strong and going to college. She provides time for the kids to ask questions—many of which are quite insightful—and to share what their goals are in life.

According to the Georgetown Center on Education and the Workforce, by 2020 74 percent of Colorado’s population will need postsecondary credentials to get a job. Out of 100 ninth-graders in Colorado, only 24 will earn a bachelor’s degree within six years or an associate degree within three.

Anywhere from 50 to 70 percent of students who enter CMC are not ready for college. Nationally, this number is as high as 60 percent. “We have an imperative to change that,” said Hauser. “And the College Is for Me tour plays a big part.

“We want every student who graduates from a local high school to be ready for college, without needing to take any remedial courses when they walk in the door,” Hauser said.
Creating healthy ecosystems

For a group of sustainability studies students taking permaculture courses at Colorado Mountain College, the effects of climate change and a passion for the environment are motivating them to discover ways to help solve real ecological challenges.

Two dozen students, faculty and staff from CMC Spring Valley at Glenwood Springs and CMC Steamboat Springs gathered at The Farm Collaborative at Cozy Point Ranch near Aspen to study, collaborate and work at the organization’s 14 acres.

According to Dr. Tina Evans, CMC Steamboat Springs professor of sustainability studies, permaculture is “a vision, a set of ethical and practical principles. It is sustainability in action with a special focus on creating food systems that mimic the dynamic stability of healthy ecosystems.”

Eden Vardy is The Farm Collaborative’s founder and executive director. He’s also an adjunct faculty member at CMC. Vardy and The Farm Collaborative provide a working example of what a healthy food ecosystem can look like.

“The way I see it, food is really the basis of culture,” he said. “It’s our third fundamental need next to air and water. We don’t have a tremendous amount of creativity around air and water. But when it comes to food, it’s where we can deliver a little bit of creativity.”

That creativity extends from The Farm Collaborative’s site to CMC students, who are working on permaculture projects at the Spring Valley campus and at the collaborative’s site. One CMC student, for example, is designing a U-Pick orchard, while other students are pitching in at a variety of small farms and ranches throughout the Roaring Fork Valley.
CULTURE

CMC welcomes ‘No Barriers’ author

Adventurer Weihenmayer shares his story

Erik Weihenmayer has explored Colorado Mountain College country countless times. Trekking from his home in Golden, he’s come west to rock climb Mount Royal in Summit County, skin up Breckenridge Ski Resort, kayak through Glenwood Canyon, ski Beaver Creek and hike the Tenmile Range. (He’s also an honorary CMC alumnus in outdoor recreation leadership and was the 50th anniversary commencement speaker at CMC Leadville.)

In many ways Weihenmayer is just another of Colorado’s accomplished outdoor athletes. What sets him apart is that he’s totally blind. In 2001, he became the first blind climber to summit Mount Everest. In 2008, he completed climbing the Seven Summits — the highest peaks on each of the seven continents. And turning from mountains to rivers, he solo kayaked 277 miles of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon in 2014.

Weihenmayer’s bestseller, “No Barriers: A Blind Man’s Journey to Kayak the Grand Canyon,” was CMC’s 2018 Common Reader selection.

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Each year, the college’s students and employees vote on a book to read together. All community members are invited to participate in this group read, too, and attend author talks at several CMC campuses.

Although Weihenmayer received worldwide attention for summiting Everest—he made the cover of Time magazine, and Oprah Winfrey and Jay Leno were among many who interviewed him—he said that kayaking the Grand Canyon was harder. “The mountain isn’t moving—well, hopefully,” he said. “I can gauge where things are. I can stop. With boating, you can’t control the movement. With kayaking, I can get so turned around. I have to use my ears to hear the noises of rocks and holes. It’s game on.”

Harlan Taney, a river guide and kayaker with hundreds of Grand Canyon descents, communicated with Weihenmayer using specialized radio headsets in their helmets, with Taney kayaking as close to Weihenmayer’s boat as possible. “Harlan was my secret weapon,” Weihenmayer said. “He knows how to read the river so well. His eyes, brain and knowledge gave me the support I needed.”

The book is about kayaking, though that’s only part of it. Weihenmayer writes about his family and what it was like to go blind at age 14. He shares stories of friends who have confronted major hurdles in order to live purposeful lives.

“It’s alchemy,” said Weihenmayer. “It’s turning adversity into strength.”

Mark Wellman, a paraplegic climber, and Hugh Herr, a double amputee climber and biophysicist, founded No Barriers USA with Weihenmayer. The Fort Collins-based nonprofit organization is for youth, veterans, people with disabilities and everyone who has a barrier they want to overcome.

“All of us in a way are climbing blind” is a phrase Weihenmayer uses.

“Sometimes it’s physical, like Hugh, Mark and myself,” he said. “Sometimes it’s invisible. It’s PTSD, or you were destroyed as a young person. You’re damaged and stuck, and you can’t figure it out. In that way, we all are part of No Barriers. You have to find your map.”

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CMC Aspen art gallery, creating community through the arts

“Open Book: The Book as Object and Image,” an exhibit held at the CMC Aspen Art Gallery featured diverse selections of multimedia artwork by 37 Colorado artists (35 from the Roaring Fork Valley!). Artists were encouraged to explore the book as a metaphor and to present their own narrative.

Through thoughtful, well-planned exhibits like this, CMC Aspen has been and continues to be a learning space and showcase for regional artists and members of Colorado’s creative community.
CMC joins international alliance of mountain communities

In 2018 CMC became a member of the international Mountain Partnership organization. Under the aegis of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, it is dedicated to preserving mountain communities through sustainable practices.

There is a strong synergy between the visions of both Colorado Mountain College and the Mountain Partnership. “We use nearly identical words in terms of our commitment to our mountain communities,” said Dr. Kathryn Regjo, vice president and campus dean of Colorado Mountain College Vail Valley in Edwards. Those words and phrases include thoughtful and sustainable development, and economic and social vitality, she said.

Sustainability is a core value of Colorado Mountain College. The college is one of only nine postsecondary institutions in the nation and the only institution in the state to receive the 2017 U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools Postsecondary Sustainability award. In addition to offering a bachelor’s degree in sustainability studies, CMC is a 2009 signatory of the American College & University Presidents’ Climate Commitment, and through its sustainability action plan has set a goal to be carbon-neutral by 2050.

The new relationship with the U.N. partnership is set to cast the college onto an even broader stage. Through a connection with the Bhutan Trust for Environmental Conservation, its relationship with Aspen International Mountain Foundation and its membership in the Mountain Partnership, CMC is working to develop an exchange program with Bhutan that will advance education for forest rangers in that country in mountain and wilderness medical response, high-altitude rescue and backcountry navigation.

For more information about the Mountain Partnership, go to www.mountainpartnership.org.

CMC faculty members Lorraine Miller, second from left, and Dr. Mercedes Quesada-Embid traveled to Bhutan, precipitating an invitation from Mountain Partnership to join the international organization, which preserves mountain communities. At left, Michael Philipp, World Wildlife Fund; at right, Bhutan Minister of Agriculture and Forests Yeshey Dorji.
Q&A with Swoop

Get to know the newest member of our CMC family!

Q: How did you become the mascot for CMC?
A: Since I was a little eaglet, I knew I was going to be a mascot. I studied, trained hard and kept a protein-rich diet, and when I heard CMC was looking for a new mascot, I knew I was ready. I had tough competition, though. There’s a talented marmot from Leadville who really gave me a run for my money!

Q: Is Swoop your real name?
A: I wish!!! I was hatched Archibald Eagle. When I started working for CMC, students, faculty and staff took a vote and gave me a cool, new nickname! It makes me sound fast (I’m really not), and it fits better on my jersey. Plus, having one name is where it’s at! Just ask Beyoncé and Bono.

Q: What’s the best part of your job as the CMC mascot?
A: I love meeting students! Both at CMC and at the elementary schools I visit throughout the year. Town parades are fun and I also had the honor of appearing on Denver’s 9News with the other Colorado mascots. How cool is that? I have the best job, ever.

Q: Is there anything else you’d like to say?
A: GO EAGLES!

#AdventureCollege
Colorado Mountain College at a glance

CMC aspires to be the most **INCLUSIVE** and **INNOVATIVE** student-centered college in the nation, elevating the economic, social, cultural, and environmental vitality of our beautiful Rocky Mountain communities.

**Founded**
1965

**Classes started**
1967

**College type**
Public bachelor’s and associate degree-granting institution

**Serving**
Eleven campus locations, nine counties and 12,000 square miles

**Offering**
Five bachelor’s degrees, 54 associate degrees and 77 certificate programs

**Governance**
Local-district college governed by a seven-member elected board of trustees

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37% **In-State Tuition**
(Compared to the average 4 year public college in Colorado)

NEARLY **80%**
of FACULTY hold advanced degrees in their field.

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“CMC is an excellent place to start your college career. Small class sizes, dedicated professors, and in the heart of an amazing town... what more could you ask for?”
-Danica M.
CMC breaks ground on $35 million expansion at its Spring Valley campus

On a rainy fall day at Colorado Mountain College Spring Valley at Glenwood Springs, supporters gathered for the groundbreaking of two new buildings and previewed another extensive remodel of the existing student center, planned for 2019. The $35 million project, which includes a $5 million goal to be raised philanthropically and through shared-use partnerships, will include construction of a 33,000-square-foot Fitness and Recreation Center adjacent to Gates Soccer Park and a 16,000-square-foot Ascent Center that will serve as the campus’s new student success hub.

“It has been a long time since we’ve been able to invest in and upgrade the ‘West Campus,’ as the Spring Valley campus was originally called when CMC first offered classes in 1967,” said Dr. Carrie Besnette Hauser, president & CEO, at the fall 2018 groundbreaking. “We have come so far in our first 50 years – and these new buildings will launch us into our next 50 years.”

(continued on next page)
Responding to the needs of the 21st century student, Colorado Mountain College is undergoing a transformation of the campus infrastructure while staying true to our vision: to be the most inclusive and innovative student-centered college in the nation, elevating the economic, social, cultural and environmental vitality of our beautiful Roaring Fork Valley,” said Kristin Heath Colon, CEO of the CMC Foundation.

“To be able to do so on 800 acres of donated land, on what is now one of the most beautiful college campuses in the nation, and to have some of those original land donors here with us today five decades later, still caring about this campus and college, is even more inspiring,” Colon said. The fitness and recreation center will connect wellness and recreation opportunities for both students and community members. The center will include a large gymnasium, cardio balcony, indoor track, weights, multipurpose fitness room, bouldering and climbing walls, outdoor equipment rental, physical activity classrooms, and catering and concessions. Currently some of these features are in the existing Summit Student Center.

The Ascent Center will also absorb some of the functions now in the Summit Student Center, such as admissions, student services, study rooms, campus store and the Eagle’s Nest Café, as well as classrooms and a student living room and lounge. The expanded facilities will support year-round conferencing, with the goal to further connect the campus with residents of the Roaring Fork Valley.

These first two buildings constitute the first phase of construction, with completion scheduled by early in the fall of 2019. The second phase of construction will consist of a major remodel of the existing student center, including improved food service and dining areas, student club spaces, and classroom and lab for the law enforcement training academy.
An ambitious new philanthropic initiative at CMC will provide access to higher education financing for undocumented students and others not eligible to receive federal financial aid. Known as Fund Sueños (the Dream Fund), the program is designed to help eliminate the up-front cost of tuition for students such as those eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, who often struggle to finance postsecondary education.

Fund Sueños will enable students to pay for college through income-share agreements, or ISAs, in which students pay no up-front tuition in exchange for a fixed percentage of their income after graduation over a set period of time.

“Our educational and social mission extends to all Coloradans,” said Dr. Carrie Besnette Hauser, president & CEO of Colorado Mountain College. “Fund Sueños is designed to break down persistent financial barriers for DREAMers and other students to ensure we are inclusive and accessible to everyone, modeling the democratic promise of higher education.”

coloradomtn.edu/sueños

Colorado trains for state’s $62 billion outdoor industry

To refresh and reinvigorate CMC’s important role in training and educating the outdoor industry’s workforce, cohosts CMC, the Governor’s Office of Outdoor Recreation, the Outdoor Industry Association and Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado met with leaders from Colorado outdoor businesses, gear makers and agencies at the Outdoor Industry Workforce Summit on Oct. 18. The summit was held at the college’s Morgridge Commons collaborative meeting facility in Glenwood Springs.

Outdoor-oriented educational programs such as ski area operations, wilderness emergency medical technician training, ski and snowboard business, sustainability studies, natural resource management and outdoor education are just a few of the college’s relevant offerings.
Dear Friend of Colorado Mountain College,

Your support of CMC students is life-changing in ways it can be hard to imagine. The impact of our support hit home for me this fall when I heard scholarship recipient Flor Cruz Valdez (see page 18) tell her story at a reception. She said:

“I hope all donors understand the meaning behind your donations. When you donate, you provide hope to many students who often feel lost or defeated. Scholarships were not only important financial support, but also important emotional support.

“I often remember going to school after very hard days of work. I would remind myself that there were people who knew it would be worth it. People who believed that I could do it, who were able to see the potential in me – and who were willing to invest in my education.

“Your demonstration of support pushed me forward semester after semester.”

Semester after semester Colorado Mountain College remains committed to being the most inclusive, innovative and student-centered college in the nation. Your support makes that happen.

On behalf of students like Flor, whose potential we absolutely see and support – thank you for being part of the CMC family of donors and champions. Enjoy this year’s edition of Impact and know your support as a donor does just that: impact lives.

With sincere appreciation,

CMC Foundation CEO &
Vice President for Advancement

A letter from
Kristin Heath Colon,
CMC Foundation CEO
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CMC Team Fund

Employees of Colorado Mountain College supporting students and programs!

CMC Team Fund is the internal employee giving campaign for Colorado Mountain College, supporting students and programs through gifts to the CMC Foundation. Including Alpine Bank’s generous $25,000 matching gift, the 2017 CMC Team Fund raised over $67,000 in support for CMC students and programs, with 62 percent participation by full-time employees.

The new CMC alumni program exists for YOU!

Our goal is to foster a lifelong relationship among alumni, students and CMC by offering:

- Professional development and networking
- Meaningful volunteer opportunities
- Exciting study abroad experiences
- Engaging social events
- and more!!!

Explore COLORADOMTN.EDU/ALUMNI to connect and learn more about your alumni program. BE AN INSPIRED AND ACTIVE ALUMNUS!
The first president of Colorado Mountain College, Dr. Joe U. Davenport, guided construction of the Spring Valley and Leadville campuses, developed the early curriculum and established relationships with faculty, staff, students and community members. The Davenport Legacy Society, named in honor of Dr. Davenport’s vital contributions, recognizes those alumni and friends who have made future provisions for the Colorado Mountain College Foundation in their estate plans, in any form or amount.

As you contemplate your personal legacy, thank you for considering CMC’s students and programs. Many of you may already qualify for membership but have simply never informed the college of your plans; if so, the CMC Foundation invites you to consider joining the Davenport Legacy Society. Contact the foundation at (970) 384-8506 for more information about providing this enduring legacy for future generations.

For Connie and Jon Warnick, including CMC in their estate plan was a natural fit with life in the Rockies. As members of community boards and organizations, including Jon’s service on the CMC Foundation Board as both treasurer and chairman, the Warnicks are clear about the critical role CMC plays in our communities. As lifelong learners, they have seen for themselves the quality of instructors and students that come together in CMC classrooms. By letting the CMC Foundation know their wishes, Jon and Connie became members of the Davenport Legacy Society, and their gift will help keep CMC accessible for generations to come. “We are comfortable with CMC meeting the needs of our students and communities in the short term,” said Jon. “In our view, a legacy gift is like an insurance policy to make sure resources are available to meet CMC’s long-term needs.”
Jim Calaway, noted philanthropist and businessman, passed away Dec. 12, 2018, in Carbondale.

“It will be hard to imagine a world without Jim Calaway in it,” said Dr. Carrie Besnette Hauser, president & CEO of CMC. “Jim was such a force for generosity. He not only gave constantly of himself, he nudged and encouraged many other leaders within our community to live a philanthropic life.”

At CMC alone, Jim and Connie Calaway have impacted the lives of more than 100 students who’ve received the Calaway Scholarship. Both Jim and Connie Calaway have served on the CMC Foundation Board. He founded and has been chairman emeritus of the CMC Board of Overseers, a volunteer advisory board. He was instrumental in the formation of the college’s Isaacson School for Communication, Arts & Media.

In an article that Walter Isaacson and Hauser wrote for Philanthropy magazine in 2015, they noted that the sharecropper’s son fashioned himself into an oil tycoon, and then into a philanthropist for everyone. At about the age of 40, the trappings of success – fancy penthouses, private planes, sailboats, fast cars – lost their appeal to him. He realized that the more he gave away, the happier he was.

"Jim's success in business allowed him to help many in the communities where he lived throughout his life," said former President Jimmy Carter of his longtime friend. "His work with Colorado Mountain College, many other Glenwood Springs institutions, and across the country will serve as an inspiration for generations to come....

"Jim's commitment to education, the arts, and the health of humans and animals alike are all evidenced in the legacy of generosity he leaves behind."
The 14'er Society

The 14'er Society celebrates the generosity of CMC’s alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends at varying support levels named after the 14,000-foot peaks in the college’s service area. Annual gifts received throughout the fiscal year in the form of current cash commitments and gifts of stock are included in the determination of giving levels. To all contributors, the CMC Foundation expresses sincere thanks and deep appreciation.

The CMC Foundation has made every effort to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please notify us of any inaccuracies or omissions by email at cmcfoundation@coloradomtn.edu. We sincerely regret any errors.
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Jean and Richard Leety
Mark Luttrell
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Susan Maisch
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Andrew Nardecchia
Nora Nuckols
Janice Nuckols and Philip Ruprecht
Marianne O’Carroll
Julie Olson and Michael Blair
Luana Olson
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Katie Reinisch
Kendra Rhodes
Katherine R. Rich
Cynthia Ryman
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Sherrie and James Setterberg
Jeanne and Dave Sheriff
Jean Minami Schibuya and Gary Schibuya
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Kim Stacey
Leslie and Nikolaus Stoupas
Charlotte Strahn
Udelle Stuckey
Sue and Garrol Tackett
Edward Tiernan
Sheri Toonozzi and Carl Tharp
Chris Toonozzi
Patricia Trauger
Brian West
Carla and Al Westerman
Kathy Westley
Mindy White
Anne White
Tari Williams
Consuelo and Alfred Williams

In memory of Carole Onderdonk
Carole’s Book Club
Debra Davis
Wendy Griffith
Pat and Bill Hammon
Susie Keysor
Alene Murphy-Pettee
Linda Osterberg
Ellen and Stanley Pollan
Cynthia Reynolds
Valerie and Darell Wegert

In memory of Sammy
Karen Sedillo

In memory of William Swentzell IV
Jean and Robert Youngquist

In memory of Matthew Wells
Diane and Lester Wells Partnership

With the belief of “paying it forward” Maureen Nuckols established the Maureen Nuckols and Friends Nursing Scholarship to support non-traditional students pursuing a nursing degree at CMC.

Maureen retired as a professor of nursing at CMC in 2011 and continued to teach until 2014 in spite of having been diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2010.

Maureen passed on Oct. 30, 2017, and memorial donations to her scholarship fund totaled more than $17,000.
The Colorado Mountain College Board of Overseers is a group of voluntary advisors with distinguished and diverse backgrounds. While the board of overseers has and seeks no formal authority, each member is nominated and selected based on his and her ability to offer counsel, generate ideas, and extend influence, connections, strategic thinking, resources and passion to support the college and its president.

Former Colorado Mountain College Foundation Board Member and Carbondale philanthropist Jim Calaway founded the CMC Board of Overseers in 2012. His vision was to launch and sustain a selective group of advisors who care about and support CMC’s mission, and to establish a thought-provoking, dynamic forum to help guide the college to further excellence. Jim passed away in December 2018 and is greatly missed. Read more about his legacy on page 33.

COLORADO MOUNTAIN COLLEGE Board of Overseers

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Jon Warnick, Chairman
Retired Vice President, Nortel Networks

Enis Alldredge Jr.
Retired Senior Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

Amy Margerum Berg
President, The Better Angels Society

Kitty Boone
Vice President of Public Programs, Aspen Institute

Doe Browning
Philanthropist and Artist

Paul Bushong
Retired Petroleum Engineer

David Chase
Businessman / Private Equity Investor

Bob Ferguson
Founder and CEO, Jaywalker Lodge

John Fielder
Nationally Renowned Photographer

Russell George
Former Colorado Speaker of the House of Representatives

Scott Gilbert
President, Habitat for Humanity Roaring Fork

Rich Glasier
Retired CFO, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line

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Former Associate Director, National Library of Medicine

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Carole Segal
Co-Founder, Crate & Barrel

Marian Smith
Former Glenwood Springs Mayor and Garfield County Commissioner

J. Robert Young
Founder and Chairman, Alpine Bank
The CMC Board of Trustees sets policies to help the college serve the communities of six counties in the Colorado Rockies and the Western Slope. One resident from each of the following counties is elected to the board: Eagle, Lake, Pitkin, Routt and Summit. An east Garfield and a west Garfield county resident are also selected by voters to serve. Those elected serve four-year terms.

Board responsibilities include employing and evaluating the president, approving the college budget, certifying the mill levy, working with the college president to develop a strategic plan, monitoring the progress of the institution and acting in the best interests of the college as required by statute.

**CMC trustees keep tuition affordable**

The CMC Board of Trustees took an unheard-of step at their January 2018 board meeting by voting to lower in-district tuition for bachelor’s-level courses by $19 per credit hour. The trustees also voted to increase tuition for in-district associate-level courses by $15 per credit hour in the 2018-19 year, bringing together rates for upper- and lower-level classes. Any increase was largely offset by drastically cutting textbook costs for students through a new book rental program.

“We are unaware of any public college that has ever chosen to voluntarily reduce tuition,” said Matt Gianneschi, the college’s chief operating officer.

Subsequently, trustees voted in January 2019 to keep all tuition rates flat for the 2019-20 academic year.
Make an IMPACT

You’ve read the inspiring stories about our students, partnerships, opportunities and cultural outreach. If you want to be part of the momentum as we continue to impact lives in a positive way at Colorado Mountain College, please consider making a gift to the CMC Foundation using the envelope enclosed in this publication. Donations to the CMC Foundation are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. All gifts, regardless of size, are important and appreciated.

Please visit: cmcfoundation.org/make-my-gift/