

# Linda Crook Helps Groom Youth Riders

“Some of us just do that. We raise our hands and say, ‘I’ll do it.’”

That’s what Red Rocks Community College Director of Financial Aid, Advising & Recruitment Linda Crook told



*Linda Crook of Red Rocks Community College in Colorado*

us in an interview. Yes, her title does include both recruitment and financial aid — that’s because she recently “raised her hand” and took on the promotion and extra responsibility.

While those dual responsibilities might sound daunting to some, for Linda they represent an exciting opportunity to combine recruitment and financial aid activities. “My goal is

to have the departments collaborate,” she says. “I really believe financial aid professionals should be involved in recruitment, and if they can find time for it, recruitment can bring a whole new level of interest to their jobs. I really believe in outreach.”

Linda has been at Red Rocks, part of the Colorado community college system, for seven of her 16 years

in financial aid. She’s the former president of the New Mexico Association of Financial Aid Administrators and the Colorado Association of Financial Aid Administrators. She remains active in CAFAA, and presented a session on professional ethics at last month’s Annual Conference.

In her other spare time, she volunteers for Westernaires, a non-profit organization that teaches horsemanship to kids ages 9-19. “It’s like being a soccer mom times 20,” Linda says.

Linda estimates her time spent with Westernaires at about 20+ hours every week. She breezes over the question, “When do you sleep?” with a passionate discourse on the benefits of Westernaires: Kids learn to ride through practice at a fraction of the cost of private lessons, and the sense of community that comes through team performances and the volunteer commitment of adults like her offers a completely unique experience to more than 1,000 kids in Jefferson County. Linda and her husband first got involved with the organization when their daughter started horseback riding. Now 19, their daughter Allison has moved on, but the parental Crooks remain dedicated. “For now, anyway,” says Linda.

Helping kids as they venture into learning trick riding, jumping and dressage. Helping students as they venture into college. Helping financial aid colleagues with professional development. Thanks for raising your hand, Linda!

## outlook

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