

Hands-On Leadership for Community Colleges



Audrey Osswald, Director of Financial Aid, Colorado Community College System

When Audrey Osswald first started talking to her new bosses about her new job, she was careful to tell them, “I hope you’re not looking for someone who’s going to sit behind their desk all day.”

The 18-year veteran of student financial aid plans to do just the opposite as director of financial aid for Colorado’s entire

community college system – she’s looking forward to a lot of face time at the 13 campuses’ financial aid offices.

“I’d much rather be out amongst the colleges,” said Audrey. “I expect to be able to do some hands-on helping when they’re having issues. I’m also hoping I’ll find their various strengths and can help them to share with each other.”

Having someone to oversee its multi-campus financial aid operations is a new direction for the community college system as well as for Audrey, who began the job in May. It is, however, familiar territory: for the last 14 years, she was the director of financial aid at Pueblo Community College.

As a system-wide representative of all of the campuses, Audrey’s responsibilities will include keeping track of changes in federal regulations, identifying training opportunities and providing training, representing financial aid interests among the system’s leadership, and helping to coordinate technology initiatives.

“We just came up on the Banner System last year, so there are still some challenges out there to make it work for all of us,” said Audrey. “The community colleges all share a common policy now, so once we get some procedures in place we’ll be in good shape.”

She’s an experienced hand when it comes to financial aid technology. As an active member of the national financial aid community, Audrey served for three years on NASFAA’s Technology Initiative Committee. She even chaired the committee for one year, and it was awarded “Committee of the Year” honors by the association.

Audrey is well known throughout Colorado financial aid, as well. She has been both president and secretary of the Colorado Association of Financial Aid Administrators, and has presented at a variety of CAFAA-sponsored workshops.

In her new position, Audrey Osswald can be reached at audrey.osswald@cccs.edu.

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