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Sen. Rachel Zenzinger Named ‘Legislator of the Year’

Colorado Community College System bases accolade on her ongoing support of education

ARVADA, Colo. (Aug. 6, 2014) – Extra efforts to understand and champion educational efforts in Colorado have earned [State Senator Rachel Zenzinger](#) distinction as a 2014 [Colorado Community College System’s](#) “Legislator of the Year.”

Zenzinger received confirmation of the honor via a letter from Dr. Nancy McCallin, president of the CCCS, in which McCallin commended Zenzinger for her support of community colleges during the 2014 legislative session.

“Your work to secure the \$10 million in funding for Red Rocks Community College’s building renovation is deeply appreciated and merits this distinction,” said McCallin.

During state budget discussions, last minute cuts threatened to torpedo the Red Rocks CC project, even though Red Rocks had already raised half the funds itself with the understanding that the state would match. Zenzinger led discussions to remind other legislators of the state’s previous commitment and the worthiness of the Red Rocks project.

“Colorado’s entire economy depends upon our willingness to support our young citizens in their efforts to make themselves as productive and as job-ready as they can be,” Zenzinger said. “It’s especially important to maintain that commitment when educators demonstrate such a deep investment of their own.”

Zenzinger is a former teacher, and she is a member of the Senate Education Committee. She is also a Senate advisor to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. She has a bachelor of arts degree with an emphasis on education; and a master of arts degree in adult learning, training and development. Education was one of her “Three E’s” that she stressed during her most recent work in the legislative session (along with economy and elders). Before taking her position as State Senator in December 2013, she was coordinator of the Master of Arts in Education Program at Regis University.

“I want to thank Dr. McCallin and the entire Colorado Community College System for choosing me as a Legislator of the Year,” Zenzinger said. “I understand the critical role that the community colleges play in offering a focused, cost-effective education for people in our state who otherwise might not reach their full potential.”

The Colorado Community College System comprises the state's largest system of higher education. Its career and academic programs in the 13 state community colleges serve 163,000 students annually.

Zenzinger will receive her award during a luncheon Oct. 16 at Red Rocks Community College.

About Sen. Rachel Zenzinger

Sen. Rachel Zenzinger serves Colorado Senate District 19, which spans most of Arvada and the Jefferson County portion of Westminster. She was appointed to her seat and sworn into office on Dec. 13, 2013. She serves on the Senate Education Committee and Senate Local Government Committee, and she is a Senate advisor to the Colorado Commission on Higher Education. Her professional background is in education, and she was coordinator of the Regis University Master of Arts in Education program. She spent four years working for Catholic Charities of Denver. For more information about Sen. Zenzinger, please go to www.RachelForColorado.com or call her at 303-748-0880.