



College of Arts & Media

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **DENVER**

February 14, 2020

Deans' Message to CAM Faculty & Staff,

This message is to share information about CAM scholarships, and CU Denver's thrust to provide students with *UNPARALLELED* First Year Shared Practices for First Year Advising.

- 1) Here is some official CU Denver information about the rationale for this initiative: *"The University of Colorado Denver has had uneven progress in achieving sustainable improvements in reaching our retention goals. Since 2014, our first-year student retention rate fluctuated from 67-72%. **At CU Denver**, we know that our students experience 1) inconsistent advising, 2) difficulty navigating our institution, and 3) lack of identity, sense of belonging, and community. Strong academic advising is a large contributor to better outcomes for students and higher retention and completion rates for institutions. Other universities across the country with similar retention challenges have made significant changes to their advising models to provide consistent and proactive advising that mitigate student confusion and lack of connectedness."* Because of a new *UNPARALLELED* First Year Shared Practices for First Year Advising, central advising will continue to see first-year CAM students. Thus, there is no change to CAM's current practices.
- 2) To provide outstanding support for our CAM Academic Advisors and the CAM student experience, two members of a team from the **National Academic Advising Association** (NACADA) came and visited CAM. "Recognizing that effective academic advising is at the core of student success, NACADA aspires to be the premier global association for the development and dissemination of innovative theory, research, and practice of academic advising in higher education." These visitors have spent time with all our CAM Academic Advising Team, Department Chairs, several students from the CAM Dean's Student Advisory Council, members of the CU Denver Student Success Team, and Dr. Linda Bowman. This initiative underscores the support of CAM's Academic Advising Team, and a steadfast desire to assure CAM students have every advantage in academic/creative success, they are future-ready, and are prepared for degree completion—to then enter careers in the creative industries.
- 3) Improving the CAM Dean's Suite—the physical space for advising. Amy Foss tracks the traffic in the Dean's Suite, and the visitors to the Dean's Office are over 90% for advising. It is important that the students who come to the office have an optimal experience. Remodeling (painted walls, better lighting, and new flooring) is being completed to enhance the student experience. Each of the Academic Advisors Offices have had a make-over. The conditions of the space students were triaged, waited, and then advised were shabby, and frankly, embarrassing. Before December, the students in the waiting area only had random periodicals to peruse while they were waiting. Instead of random materials--there is now a curated collection of books about music industry, visual arts, film & television, and the creative industries. Those books were selected and placed there for student use with intention
- 4) Scholarship Report: CAM gave out \$68,999 in scholarships from gifts—and only had \$643 that was not dispersed. Assigning these scholarships take precision—so that the donor's wishes are followed. A big thank you to Kelli Rapplean for taking on a leadership role in our internal scholarship awarding process. We also awarded \$50,000 in scholarships from CAM operating funds to help yield incoming students—half to incoming freshman and half to incoming WUE students (out-of-state students from the Western U.S.). This is an increase from \$25,000 last year. And finally, LYNX Camps awarded \$65,000 in scholarships from donations and partnerships.
- 5) Please forward this link to your professional networks. It's a publication that we can all be proud of.
https://issuu.com/cudenvercam/docs/studio_2020

¡Onward!

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Dean