

August—September 2023

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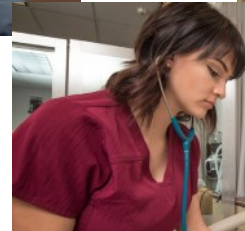
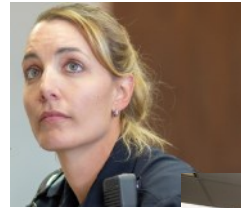
Work-study for 2023-2024

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Work-study 2023-2024

Students—earn money, make connections, and build skills in a work-study position!

If you are a student and your financial aid offer includes work-study, now is the time to review job opportunities and apply for the one that fits you best.

1. Go to <https://coloradomtn.edu/financial-aid/workstudy/> and scroll down to the list of positions. Find the position that interests you the most.
2. Contact the supervisor to learn whether the position is still available and request an interview.
3. Email workstudy@coloradomtn.edu to indicate interest in the position. Include your full name, CMC student ID number, the title of the position, and the campus.

How can faculty or staff members hire a student worker?

E-mail workstudy@coloradomtn.edu to learn more about the process and create a job description.

Get Ready to Resume Your Student Loan Repayments

Know your options and your responsibilities.

For many borrowers, repayment for federal student loans, such as Direct Loans and Direct PLUS loans, will resume in October 2023. Interest will be charged on those loans starting on September 1, 2023. Also, those students who recently graduated or dropped below half-time enrollment will soon be required to start student loan repayment.

It's important to act early and be ready. Be especially proactive if you anticipate encountering any troubles as repayment begins. There can be consequences for not being prepared. Here's how to prepare for successful student loan repayment.

Log in to studentaid.gov with your FSA ID. Your FSA ID, the same one you used to complete your FAFSA, will include a username and a password. Once logged in, update your personal information and confirm your student loan servicer.

Log in to your servicer account and update your contact information. Reauthorize or select auto debit for monthly payments. If you use auto-debit, check your banking information.

Be aware that loan servicers may be overwhelmed with a high volume of inquiries. While you may reach your servicer by phone, you might find the information you seek on their website, by emailing, or by using live chat.

SAVE Repayment Plan Offers Lower Monthly Loan Payments

The SAVE Plan, offered by Federal Student Aid, is an income-driven repayment (IDR) plan that calculates your monthly payment amount based on your income and family size. The SAVE Plan provides the lowest monthly payments of any IDR plan available to nearly all student borrowers. For details on the plan, how your income amount might lower your payments, and how to apply, visit <https://studentaid.gov/announcements-events/save-plan>.



Review your payment due date and amount. Review your personal budget to ensure that you will be able to make your monthly payments. Contact your loan servicer for assistance if you need to consider options for deferment or forbearance. You can find resources to help you create, manage, and maintain your budget on studentaid.gov.

Stay alert to avoid scams. Your student loan servicer assists you for free. You should never pay an outside entity to help with your student loans. You can confirm who your servicer is on the “My Loan Servicers” section of your dashboard on studentaid.gov. While you may call your loan servicer, they will always initiate communications with you via email. Unless you initiate the contact, never share personal information over the phone.



For a guide that lists action items, options, instructions, and useful links, visit <https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/repayment/prepare-payments-restart>.

New Ways to Fund your Career-Focused Education

State-funded initiatives cover the cost of qualifying programs.

In May of 2023, Governor Polis signed House Bill 23-1246, which dedicates \$38.6 million to fully cover tuition, fees, and course materials costs for training programs in select fields that are experiencing significant workforce shortages. The new program, called *Career Advance Colorado*, begins in Fall 2023. Students who enroll in qualifying programs will have tuition, fees, course materials, and other costs



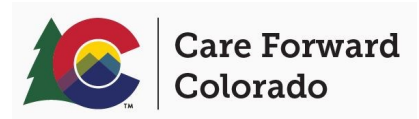
completely covered while funding is available. CMC degree programs that qualify are in the fields of Education, Early Childhood Education, Firefighting, Law Enforcement, and Nursing.

To learn which programs qualify, visit coloradomtn.edu/scholarships/tuition-discounts/career-advance-colorado/. Then, to get started, contact the Office of Financial Aid.

Please note: as of this publication, CMC is still waiting to learn the amount of Career Advance funding available for our students, and whether there will be additional requirements for students to meet.

Another initiative, called *Care Forward Colorado*, provides zero-cost short-term healthcare training at CMC for most students. Eligible certificate programs are Emergency Medical Technician, Medical Assistant, Medical Billing & Coding, Nurse Aide, Paramedic, Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomy, Wilderness Emergency Medical Services, and Wilderness Medical Professional.

For more information, see <https://coloradomtn.edu/scholarships/tuition-discounts/care-forward-colorado/>.



Both programs require students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or Colorado Application for State Financial Aid (CASFA) and Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative (COSI) application, if eligible.

Do You Qualify for Affordable Home Internet?

You may be eligible for a \$30 per month discount off your internet bill. Get ACP helps you to find out if you qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), what documents you need, and how to connect to plans that are free with the ACP. Visit getacp.org/Colorado.



Employee Spotlight — Melessa Mekis



Melessa Mekis’s journey with CMC began in high school when she enrolled in a CEPA English class. Taught by Carmen McCracken, the class helped Melessa to prepare for college-level academics.

Melessa arrived for her first year at CSU Fort Collins glowing with excitement for her new adventure. As a first-generation college student, though, she had a lot to learn about the world of higher education and the logistics of student financial aid. It was not until her second year that she better understood the financial aid application process and the opportunities available to her. Melessa earned a bachelor’s degree in Health and Exercise Science with a concentration in Sports Medicine. After college, she wanted to give back to her community and support the next generation of students. So she was set on a path of service to others, which she continues to follow today. Her first positions as a CMC employee were Administrative Assistant, then

TRIO Upward Bound Coordinator. In August of 2022, Melessa joined the Financial Aid team as a Financial Aid Specialist.

What do you like best about your job?

“I am passionate about serving students and families and helping them to access financial aid. Every time I meet with a student, my goal is not just to answer their questions, but to also give them knowledge and provide holistic support. Learning should be their main challenge, not the access or navigation of the system. I have a deep sense of responsibility to empower students and to help them understand what resources are available to them.”

Outside of CMC, Melessa also works at Arms of Love International, a nonprofit organization that operates children’s homes in Nicaragua and the Philippines. She travels there as often as possible. She also loves spending time with her friends and family, being at home or in nature, learning, crafting, and watching sports.



**Consult with a Financial Aid Specialist—
virtually, by phone, or in person.**

Visit <https://coloradomtn.edu/financial-aid/contact/> to book an appointment with a Financial Aid Specialist.

