

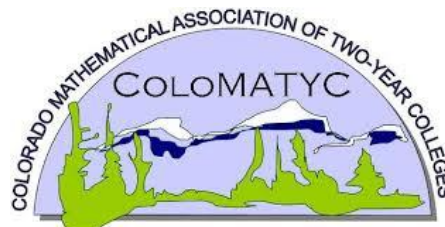
2026 ColoMATYC Conference

Aims Community College

260 College Ave, Fort Lupton, CO 80621

April 10, 2026

9am-4pm



Meet the Panelists

Jen Maxwell - CCD



Craig Weathers - CCCS

Dr. Craig Weathers is the Director of Accessibility Services at CCCS. A dedicated advocate for barrier-free educational environments, centering divergent perspectives, and learning otherwise. Craig leads initiatives to enhance accessibility and implement technological solutions to improve student success.



Johanna Debrecht - RRCC

Johanna Debrecht (she, her) has taught at Tarrant County College, Texas, and Northern Virginia CC, where she was 2014 Faculty of the Year and 2017 Honors Faculty of the Year. She is now Professor of Mathematics at Red Rocks, serving as Department Chair and Colorado Community College System State Math Discipline Co-Chair. She is passionate about equity and belonging efforts in STEM fields, both face-to-face and online course structure and design, and enhancing pedagogy in calculus. Production Manager for the *MathAMATYC Educator* from 2015 – 2017, Editor from 2017 – 2025, she now serves as the Central Region Vice President for the American Mathematical Association of Two-Year Colleges.



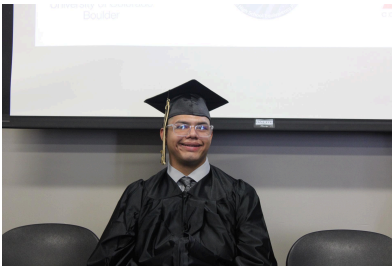
Katey Ellis - Aims CC

Katey Ellis is a Professor of Mathematics at Aims Community College. She has been a full-time instructor for eight years, five of which have been at Aims. Her journey with accessibility started seven years ago at her first full-time job. Since then, she has committed to making her classroom materials more accessible while preserving the activities that best support student learning. Katey is passionate about making math approachable and believes that thoughtful accessibility improves the learning experience for all students.



Jacqueline Kerrigan - Aims CC

Hello! My name is Jacqueline and I am 19 years old. I have been homeschooled for most of my grade school and all of my high school. I have been diagnosed with several learning diagnoses and have struggled with Math my whole life because I get the numbers switched or the decimal is in the wrong place ect... I am excited to share my insight with y'all and hope to answer some questions that will help you understand what it is like doing math with a brain like mine. A fun fact about me is, I have 20 goats (14 babies), 2 sheep, 3 ducks, 13 chickens and 2 dogs.



Angel Carrillo - Aims CC

I am 20 years old and the oldest of seven siblings. When I was a child, I spent some time in the foster care system. School was always really hard for me, especially back then, because I moved a lot. At the age of 15, I returned to my family and attended school until the 10th grade. Around that time, I felt like I needed to help my family financially, so I got a job and left school. I thought I had to be the man of the house. Later, I realized that the best way to support my family was to focus on my own growth first. I decided to get my GED at CU of Colorado, with help from two amazing people in my life who showed me I could be more than just a kid who was lost. After that, I started college at Aims Community College, becoming the first in my family to go to college. Because I moved so much as a child, I missed out on a lot of early education, and still I have trouble with reading and writing today. It is also hard because I am dyslexic. But as I started in college, I got help from Read&Write (RW). This tool helped me get my schoolwork done and gave me much less anxiety about not knowing words. It also helps me learn new words. In the last couple of months, RW has made a big difference for me as a student and as a person. Thank you for reading my introduction. I hope you have a wonderful day.

Registration and breakfast

8:00 am - 9:00 am

Room FLPL (Platte) 111-113

Morning Sessions

Room	Room FLPR (Prairie) 109	Room FLPR (Prairie) 113
9:00 am - 9:50 am	Accessibility in MyOpenMath	Algebra the Gathering
10:00 am -11:30 am	Welcome from Julie Luekenga, Executive Director, Aims Fort Lupton Campus “Equal Access, Infinite Possibilities” panel Room FLPL (Platte) 111-113	

Lunch and Business Meeting (Elections)

11:30 am - 12:50pm

FLPL (Platte) 111-113

Afternoon Sessions

Room	Room FLPR (Prairie) 109	Room FLPR (Prairie) 113
1:00 pm - 1:50 pm	Building an Inclusive Classroom Online and F2F: Addressing Math Anxiety and Using Computing Tools	How to fix it?
2:00 pm - 2:50 pm	Colorado Math Pathways Taskforce: Updates for CCCS	An Activity of a Different Sort
3:00 pm - 3:50 pm	The AfterMATH: Undefined and Unbothered	Are the Documents Really Accessible?

Breakout Sessions

9-9:50am

Room FLPR 109: Accessibility in MyOpenMath (MOM)

MyOpenMath has the ability to generate accessibility reports which tell you which questions might have problems with accessibility. In this workshop, participants will learn how to generate the reports, identify common issues and fixes, and contact the owner of the question to request they be revised. Having a MyOpenMath instructor account, computer, and sample course will allow you to fully participate.

Presenter: Matthew Watts, RRCC

Room FLPR 113: Algebra the Gathering

I present an invented game that allows for students to practice algebra skills via a game that emulates the popular game "Magic the Gathering". Students play the game by solving algebra problems submitted by their opponent, and can only solve such problems using the cards in their deck, and students begin with only a single card, which enables them to do arithmetic. As students begin the game by solving basic introductory problems, students collect points that can be used to "purchase" additional cards, which represent additional capabilities such as fraction multiplication, the distributive property, and combining like terms. In fact, algebraic solution steps are described by players as "playing" the associated card. The total number of collected cards is 95, which takes students from the very basics all the way through the end of a MAT1340 College Algebra course. Participants in the talk will learn the game by playing it in pairs.

Presenter: John Withrow, Aims CC

10 am - 11:30 am - "Equal Access, Infinite Possibilities" panel

11:30 am - 12:50 pm - Lunch and Business Meeting (Elections)

1:00 pm - 1:50 pm - Breakout Sessions

Room FLPR 109: Building an Inclusive Classroom Online and F2F: Addressing Math

Anxiety and Using Computing Tools

Discuss math anxiety, its causes and some tools to help deal with anxiety (and specifically math anxiety). Bring your computer and work and learn a little bit about Python and [Number-Q](#).

Presenter: Melvin Cacayorin, RRCC

Room FLPR 113: How to Fix it?

Have you ever felt frustrated on how to make a graphic accessible with alt text? Do you want a way to describe them without giving away the question that you are asking? If so, join me while I share my knowledge on what I have learned so far about how to use alt text on images for your notes versus alt text on a test or worksheet that you are using to check a student's understanding. This presentation will look at graphs from different disciplines as well as provide an opportunity for you to try one of your own. So please come with a graphic you want to look at and the purpose you would be using it for.

Presenter: Katey Ellis, Aims CC

2:00 pm - 2:50 pm

Room FLPR 109: Colorado Math Pathways Task Force: Updates for CCCS

Members of the task force will update CCCS faculty on their work from the past year, including recommended marketing materials to school districts as they implement pathways at the secondary level and revisions to the high school math standards.

Presenters: Lisa Rogers of Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8, Kim Smith - Mesa County and Rachel Sefton-CCD

Room FLPR 113: An Activity of a Different Sort

Card sorts provide an opportunity for the learning to pass from the instructor to the students. In the classroom (physical/digital) these allow students to explore concepts from class in interactive groups. Also, this gives the instructor a moment to catch any misconceptions that are occurring in the students' understanding.

Presenter: Katey Ellis, Aims CC

3:00 pm - 3:50 pm

Room FLPR 109: The AfterMATH: Undefined and Unbothered

You've survived the conference thus far, outlasted the Accessibility Panel, and carped the diem. Now, it's time to enter the Undefined and Unbothered Zone. In this final block of the day, we leave the rigid constraints of the classroom behind and lean into play, puzzles, and games—a final wrap-up to celebrate the day's wins (and laugh at the epic fails).

Presenter: Meha Darooka, Aims CC

Room FLPR 113: Are the Documents Really Accessible

Despite using all the provided guidance on making Word documents accessible for mathematics, there are a few more things that got left out. We'll talk about the user's actual experience and how to make it better. We will also explore software to convert handwritten mathematics into accessible digital content.

Presenter: Johanna Debrecht, RRCC

5:00 pm - ?

Dinner at [Wholly Stromboli](#) - 410 Denver Ave, Fort Lupton, CO 80621

2026 Election Candidates

President

Libby Watts - CCD



Hi, I have been teaching for about 20 years now and involved in AMATYC for almost that entire time. I also served on the board of VMATYC and I've been your ColoMATYC president for 4 years now. I am happy to continue to do so. I enjoy organizing the yearly conferences and sharing math teaching news with you from within the state and across our nation.

Treasurer

Matty Watts - RRCC



Matthew Watts has been an associate professor at Red Rocks community college for the past five years. Before that they were teaching at a community college in Virginia and participated with VMATYC. They are currently the treasurer for ColoMATYC and the International Academy of Process Educators, another non-profit.



Membership Secretary

Melvin Cacayorin

Melvin grew up in the great state of Hawaii (central Oahu) and went to school in South Carolina. He moved to Colorado after graduate school and started teaching secondary math over 25 years ago. He started as an adjunct at Red Rocks Community College (Lakewood, Colorado) in 2016. He just completed work as an AMATYC ACCCESS Fellow focusing on math anxiety. Melvin loves calculus, cooking, and the Los Angeles Dodgers.



Web Editor

Mat Olkowski

I would be happy to continue serving as the Web Editor for ColoMATYC. I am about to complete my fourth year as a full-time Professor of Mathematics at the Community College of Denver.

As a first-generation college student and a transfer student, I completed my BA (Math and Spanish) and MS (Math Education and ESL) at University of Wisconsin-Madison, focusing on the design of activities that help multilingual learners engage with grade 6-12 mathematics. I taught middle school and high school for a short time, then shifted to tutoring for grades 2-12 and college.

I moved to Denver in 2018, tutoring and teaching for K12, GED, developmental math, and eventually college-level math. One of my proudest accomplishments was serving as CCD's Math Tutoring Coordinator through the COVID-19 pandemic, where I maintained a sense of consistency and community even as all tutoring services shifted to online.

Currently, I am a faculty advisor for CCD's Math Club. I also serve on the committee that is preparing the MAT 2562 (Differential Equations with Linear Algebra) course for Colorado Online. I always tell my students I have found my dream job (and they can too!), since I get to help others overcome challenges and gain new insights about math and science. I love the challenge and excitement that math can bring, and I still learn new things every day!

I have presented on accessible math documents at ColoMATYC and AHEAD (Association on Higher Education And Disability). I have maintained the ColoMATYC website for almost two years. If I continue in this role, I hope to make some critical improvements such as switching to a secure (https) server.

Aims Community College Fort Lupton - Campus Maps

PLATTE BUILDING
FORT LUPTON

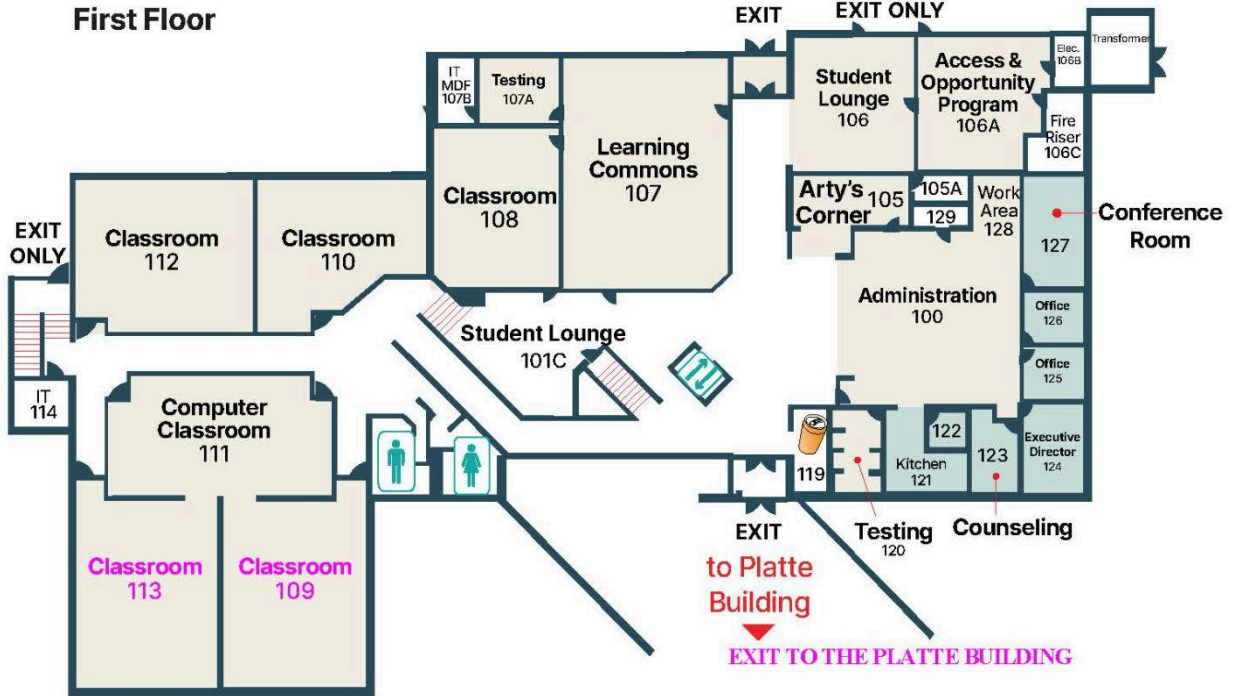


PRAIRIE BUILDING

FORT LUPTON

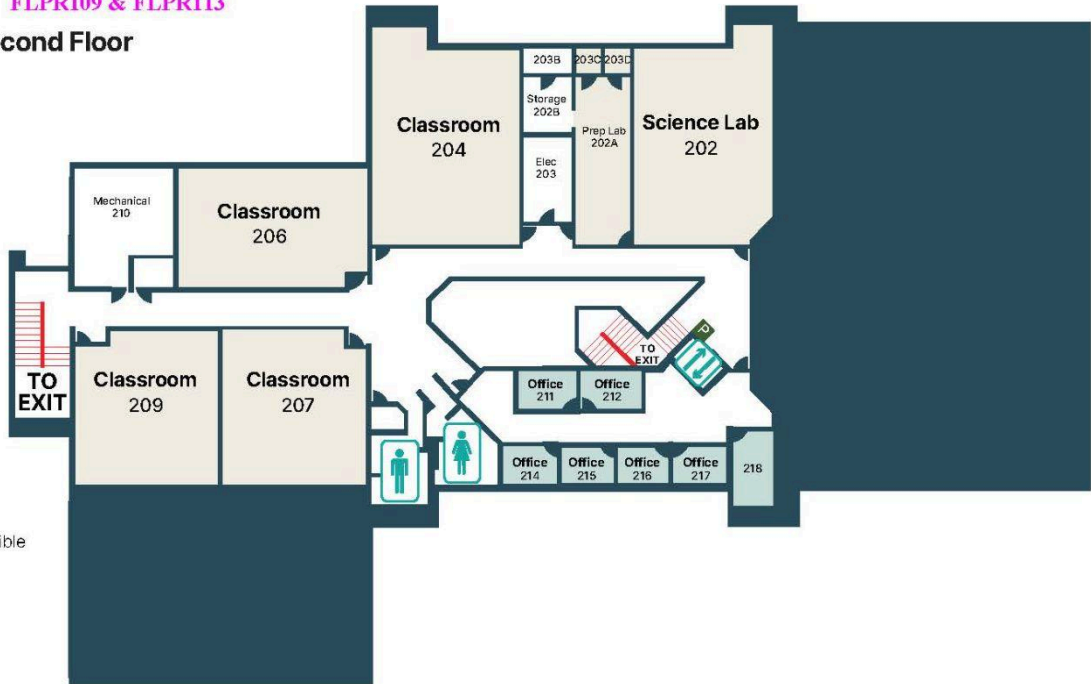
to East
Parking Lots

First Floor



**BREAKOUT ROOMS
FLPR109 & FLPR113**

Second Floor



KEY

- vending
- wheelchair accessible
- men's restroom
- women's restroom
- elevator

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:
Fire, Police or Medical Emergency dial 911
Campus Security dial 303-591-3164





Driving Directions and Parking:

From US-85 get off on CO-52. Go east on CO-52 and the campus is about 2 miles on the left.

Wi-Fi Information

- Network is "Aims Guest" with no password

Thank You!

ColoMATYC would like to thank:

- Johanna Debrecht for her years of service as our AMATYC Affiliate and congrats to Johann for becoming our Central Region VP!
- All of our presenters. Without you, we wouldn't have a conference.
- All of our attendees for taking the time to join and participate.
- Meha Derooka and Aims CC for hosting. Thank you Meha for volunteering to have the conference at your college and for all your help with the logistics.

ColoMATYC Executive Board 2025-26

President: Libby Watts (CCD)

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Treasurer: Matty Watts (RRCC)

Matthew.Watts@rrcc.edu

Membership Secretary: Ally Daubenspeck (CCD)

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AMATYC Affiliate Delegate: Johanna Debrecht (RRCC)

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Web Editor: Mat Olkowski (CCD)

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52nd AMATYC Annual Conference



Philadelphia Marriott Downtown

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

November 19–22, 2026

Join Us in Philadelphia