Fall 2026 Planning Forum: What We Heard

September 11, 2026

Purpose and organizing framework

Participants considered how three continuing priorities—Completion Culture, Community Engagement, and Support for Men of Color—could be carried forward through three 2026–27 projects: Dual Enrollment, Adult Learner Initiative, and Baccalaureate Readiness. Following a review of institutional KPIs and the Student Climate Survey, tables revisited and refined their ideas. This summary draws on 15 submitted table responses and organizes the feedback by project, highlighting connections to the continuing priorities.

Dual Enrollment

Participants called for a clearer transition from high-school dual enrollment into Grossmont, including early orientation, academic and financial-aid guidance, major exploration, mentoring, and closer collaboration with high schools and families. They also requested tracking of CCAP participation, course success, and post-high-school destinations.

- **Completion Culture:** Create coherent pathways and early advising that support persistence and completion.
- **Community Engagement:** Deepen partnerships with high schools, families, and feeder communities.
- **Support for Men of Color:** Intentionally extend CCAP access to marginalized students, use multilingual outreach, and disaggregate participation and outcomes to identify gaps.

Adult Learner Initiative

Participants identified targeted outreach, success coaching, career-centered pathways, financial-aid information, translation, flexible scheduling, and caregiver or child-care support as important. They also recommended stronger use of labor-market information and more data about adult learners' experiences and outcomes.

- **Completion Culture:** Reduce practical barriers and strengthen navigation, advising, and academic support for returning students.
- **Community Engagement:** Connect outreach and programs with employers, families, and community partners.
- **Support for Men of Color:** Apply culturally responsive approaches and examine disaggregated outcomes, while recognizing that most adult-learner suggestions were not specific to men of color.

Baccalaureate Readiness

The submitted responses did not identify many recommendations explicitly about the proposed baccalaureate degrees or their operational requirements. However, ideas about degree-audit access, counseling, clear pathways, workforce alignment, and implementation check-ins may be useful as the college prepares for expanded degree offerings. These are potential applications of broader feedback, not direct baccalaureate-specific recommendations.

- **Completion Culture:** Consider advising, degree planning, and student-facing information as new pathways are developed.
- **Community Engagement:** Consider employer and community input when connecting programs with regional workforce needs.
- **Support for Men of Color:** Build equity review and disaggregated monitoring into pathway planning; this is a planning implication rather than a specific table recommendation.

Cross-cutting messages from the forum

Across projects, tables repeatedly emphasized clearer and multilingual communication about existing services; belonging and connection through student activities and welcoming spaces; affordable food, functional facilities, and nighttime safety; inclusive teaching and culturally responsive professional learning; and more disaggregated data and regular checks on implementation. These themes also respond to the Student Climate Survey's findings about uneven awareness of resources and opportunities to improve the student experience.

Implications for next steps

The forum generated the most project-specific direction for Dual Enrollment and the Adult Learner Initiative. For Baccalaureate Readiness, the college may need a more focused discussion to identify project-specific needs. Across all three projects, the continuing priorities offer a useful lens for implementation: strengthen completion pathways, deepen community relationships, and intentionally examine equity and outcomes for men of color.