

Our Stories

Rachael Cassidy

Class year: 2004

Major: L.A.S. Native American History and Law

Current Profession: Business Owner

This story celebrates a staff member who made an enormous difference to students over the years. Roberto Garcia is the reason I attended CC, hands down. I met him several times before I applied at programs designed to help Native American students go on to college. He made me excited about the possibilities at CC and sold me on my major before I ever arrived. As a Native student, I wanted to major in Native American studies, a major not offered by most schools. I created my own major (a unique and wonderful CC opportunity) in Liberal Arts and Science with an emphasis on Native American History and Law. This degree led to a job with the City of Colorado Springs and later, a position with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. Not only did Roberto recruit me, he helped me stay at the college during some financial turbulence that could have easily ended my college career. Thank you, Roberto. My story isn't unusual. He helped so many students during my time at CC. Unfortunately Roberto Garcia is no longer with Colorado College. What breaks my heart the most is the fact that other students like me won't have someone in their corner when the going gets tough. Many people aren't fortunate enough to have the financial and family resources that ensure a good education. At CC, I was one of these exceptions. Roberto was always there for guidance, to talk with me through tough times as a friend and as a mentor. I didn't feel alone even though I was far from home. After attending my 10-year class reunion, many of the classmates told me how grateful they were to have known me at CC. They said it made a big difference in the way they see the world today. Roberto changed my life and in turn broadened the perspectives of many of my classmates. He was part of a great ripple effect that made the college great. You will be deeply missed along with Suzi Nishida. These two people helped me consistently over the years. I want to extend my deepest gratitude. Without your support I would not be where I am today.

The college, in partnership with the Colorado College Alumni and Students of Color Association (CCASCA), recently completed a series of events during Homecoming Weekend, Oct. 9-12, 2014. The collection of "Our Stories" from alumni of color was part of that event.