

Dear CEC Family,

I hope this letter finds you and your family healthy as we navigate remote learning and weather this pandemic. For those I have not yet met, I wish we were doing so in person. My name is Roland Shaw. I'm a relationship-driven, impact-oriented school leader, and I hope to be your next principal.

I lead to support students and staff in the identification and actualization of their goals and dreams. For the last year, it has been an honor to serve CEC Early College as your Principal Resident. When I came to CEC, I expected a year of intense learning and impact. What I didn't expect was to fall head-over-heels for the CEC community: students, staff, and families. Being CEC's principal has become my dream job.

I believe that CEC Early College is uniquely positioned to be one of the best schools in Colorado. By design, CEC provides students the authentic opportunity to shine in areas of *their* interest, as they pursue *their* dreams. With CTE classes that mirror students' career interests, rigorous core classes, and robust concurrent enrollment options, CEC is set up to help students excel. My values, instructional expertise, and relationship-driven leadership make me uniquely suited to help CEC become even stronger.

Equity & Community. In middle school, I was not a very good student. I couldn't read. Luckily, my teachers saw through my misbehavior, identified my obstacle (a learning disability), and helped me gain the tools I needed to find success. Now, I lead to help each student overcome their personal challenges, and identify and realize their dreams. This is especially true for our students facing systemic oppression: our students learning English as a second language, our minority students, and our students overcoming disabilities. Each student (full-time or part-time, wealthy or homeless) encounters unique obstacles. In order to ensure the success of our students we have to listen to them. Our students and their families are experts on their lived experience. When we ask the right questions, and listen, we can align the right supports. This year, after hearing concerns from our parents, I have been working to improve CEC's two-way communication systems. As your principal, listening to the voices and wisdom of students, family, and staff will be my priority. By listening to ideas and concerns, and responding with action, we build trust and strengthen our community.

Loyalty & Success. I promise to be the champion your child and CEC Early College deserve. I know about success because I have experience with failure. As a student I struggled. As a new teacher I struggled. I aspired to be great, but it wasn't until my fourth year in the classroom that I started to really meet the needs of *each* of my students. I know first hand the stomach pain that comes from not being able to read as a secondary student, and the ache teachers feel when they have not yet reached that student. This is why the limited planning and professional learning time teachers have is an essential resource and must be focused, collaborative, sustained, and differentiated. As your principal I look forward to working collaboratively as a staff to meet the needs of each student.

Love & Relationships. We don't talk enough about love in education. Love and care for one another is the foundation of successful schools. You can't leave anyone behind when you care for everyone. As a leader, I seek to cultivate a community rooted in strong relationships and dedicated to the success of each student. I hope to bring my love of people and learning to the position of principal at CEC.

With Gratitude,

Roland Shaw
Principal Resident, CEC Early College