

UCCS RIDES FREE: THE MOUNTAIN METRO MEASURE

By Celene Lovato & Kimberly Reeves

If you were able to ride Mountain Metro for free, where would you go and how would you utilize the service? UCCS Office of Parking and Transportation Services wanted to find out. From February 23rd through March 1st, all UCCS students, faculty and staff with a university I.D. were able to ride Mountain Metropolitan buses free of charge.

With over twenty routes connecting UCCS to the rest of Colorado Springs, the numbers proved students took advantage of UCCS Rides Free Week. "Many of our students rely on public transportation to travel to and from campus, as well as throughout the community-at-large," says Matthew Driftmier, the sustainable transportation assistant student employee of the UCCS Office of Parking and Transportation Services. "UCCS Rides Free Week shows the need for exploring more options and finding innovative ways to further enhance transit options for everyone here at UCCS."

THE FACTS:

During UCCS Rides Free week, drivers documented a total of 723 UCCS riders. Calculating a 5% margin of error, it was estimated that a total of 759 trips were taken by UCCS students and staff. All together this totals \$1,328.25 in waived fees. Adjusting this figure to account for two semesters of use (10 months), the total of fares reaches \$53,130.

These numbers came from a week that faced winter weather conditions, including closing the campus on the 23rd, which possibly deterred students from traveling throughout the rest of the week. But even so, with these promising numbers, UCCS Office of Parking and Transportation will continue their conversation with Mountain Metropolitan Transit in hopes to increase the ridership, efficiency and ease of using public transportation throughout Colorado Springs.