



University of Colorado

Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

A Message from the President

February 2017

Dear Friends and Alumni:



On Tuesday we hosted our annual [CU Advocacy Day at the Capitol](#), and this year's event was perhaps the best we've done, drawing a record turnout. Nearly 200 members of our CU Advocates program and other friends converged on the state Capitol in Denver to engage with lawmakers, learn about CU's state budget and hear presentations from leaders of a couple of our stellar community outreach programs, the [Colorado Center for Community Development at CU Denver](#), which has served some 2 million people, and the [CU School of Medicine's Rural Track](#), which increases the number of physicians in rural Colorado. I presented several issues related to our state funding.

Having advocates and friends mobilize at the Capitol sent a clear message to legislators – people care about CU and care about higher education in our state. Legislators took notice, including the lieutenant governor, who was a speaker. The day is the signature event for [CU Advocates](#), our 3,400-person worldwide network of alumni and friends who promote the university by educating, engaging and influencing.

There is power in advocacy, and that power rests with you. I would invite all of you to join the program at [this site](#).

CU is a large, complex institution and we have many communicators on our four campuses, yet we often still hear that we need to better tell our story. We do paid marketing, but our work with advocates

greatly augments those efforts. What better way to engage people than with grassroots volunteers who are passionate about the university and eager to help?

We started CU Advocates in 2011. Members learn about CU's successes and challenges and share the information with others, helping to elevate public perception and opinion about the university.

The program also hosts more than 30 events annually, many featuring our top faculty and researchers, people such as our state historian Patty Limerick, professor and director of the Center of the American West on our Boulder campus. And Dr. Huntington Potter from the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, who is doing pioneering research into Alzheimer's disease, including human clinical trials. CU Advocates' programs offer a range of topics as diverse as the university – our Nobel laureates, cybersecurity, explorations in space, personalized medicine and much more.

CU Advocates also partners with alumni associations on our four campuses to leverage their activities. We've enlisted support of CU Advocates in Pueblo, Colorado Springs and Grand Junction to host CU Celebrations, where we welcome new students from the area who will attend one of our four campuses. The annual events, which we will expand to Fort Morgan next summer, have been quite successful and are a great way to welcome students and families into our CU family.

Getting out and around Colorado is important for us. That's one reason why we established CU for Colorado, a searchable website that details the nearly 300 outreach programs we have around the state. Our faculty and students are active in every corner of Colorado, providing resources and expertise in communities large and small.

We help towns across Colorado assess water quality. Our physicians visit more than 400 health centers around the state to serve patients and share medical expertise. CU Boulder's Colorado Shakespeare Festival takes the bard on the road to K-12 schools.

A big part of our mission as a public university is to serve our state, and [CU for Colorado](#) exemplifies our commitment to that ideal. It is imperative that we extend beyond the boundaries of our four campuses to share our expertise and resources, making Colorado a better place.

I've often said that CU's greatest asset is its people. And whether they are serving Colorado through myriad outreach programs or helping to tell our story and make our case through the CU Advocates program, we are fortunate indeed that you and thousands like you are part of our family. Thank you.

For feedback, contact officeofthepresident@cu.edu

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Benson", with a stylized, flowing script.

Bruce Benson

IN THE NEWS



[CU leaders sign letter of support for DACA students](#)

Last month, the four campus chancellors and I joined hundreds of education leaders across the country in signing a letter of support for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students. We feel it is important to sign on to this letter, which reflects CU's commitment to access and success for all students.



[Trump's pick for Supreme Court, a visiting professor at Colorado Law](#)

Neil Gorsuch, whom President Trump announced as his nominee for the Supreme Court of the United States, is a visiting professor at the University of Colorado Law School in addition to being a judge for the 10th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

ALL FOUR:COLORADO



[Pushing Boundaries: Saving the Arapaho language from the brink of extinction](#)

The Arapaho language, native to the Great Plains, is at risk of disappearing. Fewer children are learning the linguistic traditions from their elders, making an invaluable oral archive of traditional knowledge vulnerable to being lost. Professor Andrew Cowell and doctoral student Irina Wagner are part of an effort to save the language with the Arapaho Language Project.

ALL FOUR:VIDEO



[Ensuring bright futures at CU](#)

ALL FOUR: Prevention

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus researchers are pioneering ways to treat and prevent concussions, ensuring bright futures for young athletes.

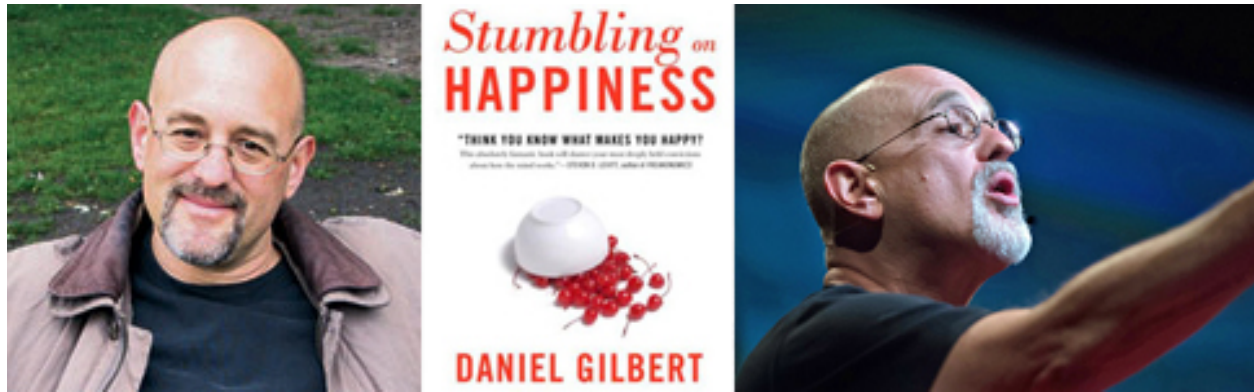


[CU prepares students to make a difference](#)

ALL FOUR: Progress

The University of Colorado offers hundreds of programs throughout Colorado, including pre-collegiate programs that inspire students to pursue college degrees and careers in STEM fields.

SPOTLIGHT ON **ALUMNI**



[CU Denver alumnus an expert on joy](#)

Harvard Professor Daniel Gilbert —the author of the bestselling book [Stumbling into Happiness](#) as well as the affable star of TV spots for Prudential — sustained a whopper of a stumble into CU Denver that led him into his life’s path and passion.

BECOME A **CU ADVOCATE**

Colorado needs healthy research universities that produce a highly educated workforce, grow our economy, attract business and industry, and engage in research that generates jobs, creates companies and improves lives. With your help we can keep CU - and Colorado - strong.

[Become an advocate for CU](#)



NEWS FROM OUR **CAMPUSES**

CU Boulder: [Accelerating aerospace research, education at CU Boulder](#): Antonella Albuja's doctoral degree in aerospace engineering from CU Boulder just became more valuable, as did the educational, research and career prospects of those who follow her in the Smead Program.

CU Denver: [A letter of thanks from a Reisher Scholar](#): "While my education at CU Denver prepared me for many things, including graduate school and a career, I was caught off guard by how moved I was as I stood in that crowd of thousands."

UCCS: [Gold medal gymnast Gabby Douglas to headline 2017 Significant Speaker panel](#): Gabby Douglas, three-time Olympic gold medalist, will headline an all-female panel at 7 p.m. April 25 at the Gallogly Events Center.

CU Anschutz: [What is the best way to treat older HIV-infected patients?](#) A year ago, HIV patient Louis Zimmerman considered himself sedentary. But thanks to his participation in a CU Anschutz exercise study, he now is able to walk his 1-year-old poodle.