



University of Colorado

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A Message from the President

October 2016

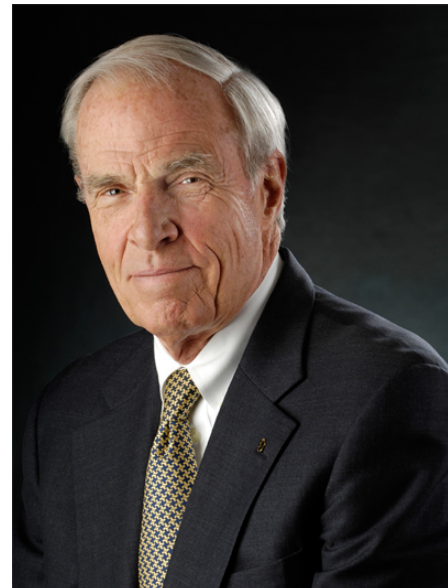
Dear Alumni and Friends:

We shared an abundance of good news in a recent three-week span. We shattered records for fiscal year 2015-16 (which ended June 30) in [enrollment](#), [donations](#) and [research funding](#), demonstrating the confidence that students, parents, alumni, donors and research funding entities have in CU and our four campuses.

I'm heartened that as I attend university or community events, people go out of their way to tell me how proud they are of CU and how good they feel about the university and its direction. I feel the same way.

While it's important to note that donations and research funding are directed by funders to specific areas and cannot be diverted to our other expenses, the net effect for CU is extremely positive. The funding adds value to our fundamental activities in teaching and learning, as well as research.

Our enrollment gains show students and parents believe in CU's educational



President Bruce Benson

offerings. At a time when enrollment is down at many institutions in Colorado and across the nation, we showed increases at each of our four campuses. Some 63,000 students are enrolled in degree programs across the CU system, and another 9,000 are taking courses for credit. Also, our online platform, University of Colorado Connect, has 48,665 enrollments in its 41 degree programs and 52 certificates. Additionally, enrollment in CU's 28 massive open online courses (MOOCs) reached more than 1 million. While those numbers don't count toward enrollment, they demonstrate the power of CU's brand in this fast-emerging market. We intend to add six MOOCs soon in the critical area of cybersecurity. All the enrollment gains show people recognize the value of a quality CU education.

As I reported last month, our donors contributed a record \$384.5 million to people, programs and places across our campuses. The amount is significant not only because it's a record, but because the \$40 million gift of the Wildlife Experience (now CU South Denver) bolstered the 2014 total in ways that don't happen every year. Record donations this year show our contributors believe in the university and have confidence in what we are doing. It also shows they believe we're good stewards of the funds they entrust in us.

A large chunk of the donations go to support scholarships, but we are also doing our part. CU's internally generated financial aid is also at record levels. We provided some \$165 million across our campuses last year, nearly double the \$84 million we generated in 2008.

The research success is testament to the hard work and excellence of our faculty and staff, particularly research faculty. Preliminary totals (final figures, which typically increase, are available later in the fall) show they brought in some \$924 million from more than 4,300 research awards, mostly from federal entities such as NASA, the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. There were also some significant awards from local entities such as the Colorado Health Foundation

and the Boettcher Foundation.

The total is a 5.2 percent increase over last year's \$878.3 million. It also eclipses the previous record of \$884.1 million in fiscal year 2009-10, a total fueled by one-time federal stimulus dollars.

Research funding has substantial impacts and many ripple effects. It allows our faculty researchers to further important research in everything from Alzheimer's disease to space science to cybersecurity. They not only improve lives with their innovations, but also advance knowledge, a fundamental part of our mission. Their work enhances the educational experience of all our students, many of whom (including many undergraduates) work alongside faculty on their research. Additionally, the \$924 million has a large impact on Colorado's economy.

All these gains have a tremendous effect on education and research at CU. However, that doesn't mean we can be complacent about our work to keep costs in check and find efficiencies. We work on those daily and will continue to place a sharp focus on our efforts.

We have great momentum at CU. It shows in big things like the records we set and in myriad other things such as our growing number of CU Advocates (3,300-plus) – our network of alumni and friends. [I encourage you to join](#) if you haven't already. The momentum has even spilled over to the CU Buffaloes football team, which was ranked 21st nationally this week, the first appearance in the Top 25 in more than a decade.

We have worked hard on promoting and protecting our reputation in the past eight-plus years that I've been here, and that work is paying off. We are also investing in marketing so we can further spread the word about the good work happening at CU. Those investments are paying off.

I feel good about where we are at CU and appreciate the efforts of the thousands of people who have us well-positioned to serve our students and state. I also appreciate all of you who take the time to let me know how you feel about the university.

For feedback, contact officeofthepresident@cu.edu

Sincerely,



Bruce Benson
President



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IN THE NEWS



Fall brings record number of students to CU campuses

Students enrolled at the four University of Colorado campuses total 63,152, according to preliminary figures for fall 2016, setting a new record across the CU system. The increase of 2,136 students represents a 3.5 percent jump in enrollment from a year ago.

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University of Colorado campuses maintain prominence nationally

The latest edition of *U.S. News & World Report's* annual Best Colleges remains a showcase for University of Colorado campuses and their undergraduate programs, which maintain their long-standing marks of excellence.

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CU Advocates honored

Celebrating its fifth anniversary, the [CU Advocates](#) program on Oct. 4 honored six of its members with awards during a reception at the Denver Country Club. The awards were capped by Advocate of the Year honors going to Kimbirly Orr of Centennial.

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ALL FOUR: COLORADO



Kempe Foundation partners with salons to ensure children look and feel beautiful

For three years, [Donna Parrish](#) and a group of volunteers have made sure that children in foster, adoptive or kinship placement get the opportunity to look and feel beautiful through the annual Roots of Change Hair-A-thon.

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ALL FOUR:VIDEO



CU research tackles challenges before they become problems **ALL FOUR: Research**

The University of Colorado provides opportunities for students and faculty to research and act on challenges before they become problems.



Celebrating our differences at CU **ALL FOUR: Community**

Nadeen Ibrahim grew up in Wiggins, Colorado, where she worked at her family's gas station and fell in love with the diversity the world has to offer. At the University of Colorado Denver, she has turned that passion for helping others into a promising pursuit of public health.

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI



Alumna leads battle for child product safety

The landmark “Danny’s Law” marked the end of a decade-long battle waged by [CU Denver](#) alumna Linda Ginzel, Ph.D., after the second of her four sons, Danny Keysar, died at age 16

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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](#)

CU REGENT **AT-LARGE** **CANDIDATES FORUM**

Heidi Ganahl, Republican

Alice Madden, Democrat

Sunday, October 16 | 3 p.m. – 4 p.m.

TELEPHONE TOWN HALL

REGISTER TODAY



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CU Advocates
Educate. Engage. Influence.

NEWS FROM OUR **CAMPUSES**

CU Boulder



[NASA'S MAVEN spacecraft celebrates one Mars year of science](#): The mission, led by the University of Colorado Boulder, completed one Mars year of science observations. One Mars year is just under two Earth years.

CU Colorado Springs



[Governor and mayor headline 20th annual UCCS Economic Forum](#): The dignitaries are scheduled to speak at the 20th annual UCCS Economic Forum Oct. 14 at the Broadmoor Hotel in Colorado Springs.

CU Denver



[Telling a story through sound](#): Recent CU Denver graduate Matt Telsey was awarded a paid internship from the Television Academy Foundation, which sent him to NBCUniversal.

CU Anschutz



[Assistive Technology Partners finds new space](#): Lauren Beck, who has cerebral palsy, will receive the software from Assistive Technology Partners in its new location.



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