



University of Colorado

Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

A Message from the President

March 2017

Dear Alumni and Friends:

We often promote the University of Colorado and its four campuses as engines of innovation that help drive our economy. Some people ask me just what that means, and I'm happy to elaborate.

Our stock-in-trade is ideas. Many of those ideas are discussed and debated in our classrooms and across our campuses, but others emerge from our research laboratories and entrepreneurship centers. In the research setting in particular, ideas often become inventions or foster discoveries, and inventions and discoveries often lead to the creation of new companies.

We've had a remarkable track record at CU. In just over 20 years, more than 150 startup companies have formed based on our research. Almost two-thirds are in the biotech sector, but we also have strong showings in the physical sciences and engineering, software, and energy and clean technology. Some 80 percent of those startups are still operating and more than 100 have operations in Colorado. Nearly 10 have gone public and another 20 have been acquired by public companies.

All this activity has tremendous ripple effects in terms of ancillary companies, tax revenue and corporate headquarters relocating to Colorado.

CU has deep roots in creating companies, some of which are among the top in the

world. For example, CU faculty had an important hand in starting biosciences powerhouse Amgen and Ball Aerospace.

My vision for CU is for it to be one of the top universities in the world. A lot goes into that, but the most important factor is first-rate faculty. Everything flows from great faculty: They help attract top students, conduct research that improves lives and advances knowledge, and display a can-do mindset and a spirit of innovation. One of the things that attracts top faculty is the kind of culture we have here where they are encouraged, supported, rewarded and where there is a track record of success. Our faculty today demonstrate that we are well on our way to achieving our vision.

For example, CU Boulder professor Dr. Larry Gold founded SomaLogic in 2000. The company, still headquartered in Boulder, aims to improve quality of life and wellness by revolutionizing how diseases are detected and diagnosed. It does so by advancing what SomaLogic calls personalized wellness, measuring and then acting on “the complex and ever-changing array of proteins that circulate through our bodies in ways personalized to each of us.”

Dr. Mike Bristow of the CU Anschutz Medical Campus founded Myogen, a clinical stage biotechnology company developing novel products for the treatment of major cardiovascular diseases, including hypertension. It was acquired by Gilead Sciences for \$2.5 billion.

Our prowess in space has led to several companies and technologies. CU alumnus Jack Elston founded Black Swift Technologies, which designs and operates unmanned aircraft systems, some of which are used in extreme environments ranging from tornadoes to the Arctic.

Technology developed in part at CU led to the creation of Orbital Micro Systems, which develops a fleet of weather cube satellites for collecting more accurate and faster weather data.

Dr. Michael Holers of the CU Anschutz Medical Campus founded Taligen, a clinical

stage biotechnology company developing technologies including antibodies and protein regulators targeting complement inflammatory pathways. It was acquired by Alexion Pharmaceuticals for \$111 million.

There are hundreds more examples of CU faculty and technologies leading to companies. Those companies improve the lives of individuals and advance society. They also create high-quality jobs and have a substantial economic impact on Colorado and beyond.

We're proud of our successful track record in starting companies, licensing technology and moving discoveries from our research laboratories to the marketplace. Our success is testament to our great faculty, which has us well on the way to being one of the top universities in the world.

For feedback, contact officeofthepresident@cu.edu

Sincerely,



Bruce Benson
President

IN THE NEWS



[CU Denver's Bianco named Timmerhaus Teaching Ambassador](#)



[New RTD R Line and campus shuttle](#)

Congratulations to Margarita Bianco, associate professor at CU Denver, who has been named CU's Timmerhaus Teaching Ambassador. Bianco works to pave the way for students of color to become future teachers.



[University community celebrates CU in the City](#)

A new era for the [University of Colorado Denver](#) has begun as about 750 attendees filled the Tivoli Student Union's Turnhalle to kick off the new [CU in the City marketing campaign](#). CU in the City celebrates the high-quality education CU Denver offers students in the heart of Colorado's capital at the state's only public urban research university.



[CU hosts global Coursera Conference at CU Boulder](#)

The University of Colorado is honored to have been chosen by online learning provider [Coursera](#) to host its fifth annual [Coursera Partners Conference](#), March 29-31 at CU Boulder. The prestigious

Light rail has arrived at CU Anschutz Medical Campus at long last. As of Feb. 24, the RTD R Line has made it possible to get from campus to the airport, downtown Denver and all around the metro area on convenient public transportation.



[CU Colorado Springs seeks to raise \\$1.5 million to honor former chancellor](#)

Faculty, staff, students, alumni and friends of UCCS launched a \$1.5 million effort Feb. 22 to name a theater in honor of Chancellor Emerita Pam Shockley-Zalabak, who retired Feb. 15 after 15 years as chancellor and 40 years at CU Colorado Springs.



[Sustainable Excellence initiative hits \\$100 million mark](#)

Thank you to all who have supported the CU Boulder Athletic Department's Sustainable Excellence Initiative, which last month passed the \$100 million milestone on the way to its \$105 million goal. Because of the hard work of many,

conference attracts more than 450 education leaders from across the globe, including China, India, the U.K. and Russia.

what has occurred around the CU Buffs' Athletics program in the past three years is nothing short of amazing.

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI



[CU gave Modern Market founder a new view](#)

“CU changed my entire perspective on how my life could go,” said Anthony Pigliacampo, founder and co-CEO of Modern Market, a healthy eating and lifestyle restaurant founded in 2009 in Boulder, Colorado. Pigliacampo earned his B.S. in mechanical engineering from CU Boulder in 2002.

ALL FOUR:COLORADO



[WWII vet receives hero's welcome at clinic](#)

Charles Walters doesn't consider himself a hero, but the moment he enters the University of Colorado [School of Dental Medicine](#) the retired Naval Captain and World War II veteran receives a hero's welcome from the clinicians who will repair his chipped tooth.

ALL FOUR:VIDEO



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.



Learning how to think at CU ALL FOUR: Opportunity

When Allen Lim applied to CU, he did not get in--at first. The founder of Skratch Labs, one of America's fastest growing food and beverage companies, reflects on the value of learning how to learn while pursuing his master's and Ph.D. at CU.

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 Advocates

Educate. Engage. Influence.

FOREVERBUFFS
DENVER METRO



LUNCH AND LEARN **MARCH 23**

SPEAKERS:

Cliff Young, Assoc. Dean of Faculty and Professor of Marketing

Mary Jane Rogers, Managing Director, J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.

[LEARN MORE](#)

SCOOP **MARCH 28**

SPEAKER:

Phil Weiser, Faculty director, Innovation and entrepreneurship Initiative; founder and director of Silicon Flatirons Center for Law, Technology and Entrepreneurship, and former dean of the CU Law School

[LEARN MORE](#)

NEWS FROM OUR **CAMPUSES**

CU BOULDER

[Humans have increased extent, duration of wildfire season:](#) After analyzing two decades' worth of records, researchers found that human-ignited wildfires accounted for 84 percent of all wildfires.

CU COLORADO SPRINGS

[Student cyber team wins inaugural 'capture the flag' competition:](#) Competitions use challenges assigned to teams with points awarded when the team, for example, breaks into a website.

CU DENVER

[A first novel examines memory and murder:](#) Assistant professor's depiction of Idaho's dark beauty garners national praise.

CU ANSCHUTZ

[Type 2 diabetes in youth leads to increased complications:](#) Youth with Type 2 experience more than double the health complications of Type 1.
