

From: [System Staff Council](#)
To:
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Date:

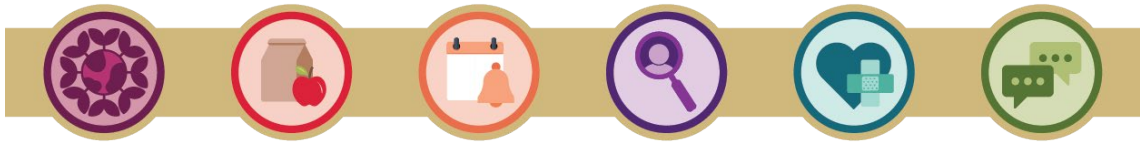
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SYSTEM STAFF COUNCIL



Stay on top of CU System happenings! This month features a self-care talk, remote work handbook help and more.



ASK THE PRESIDENT

with President Mark Kennedy

Have a question for President Kennedy?

President Kennedy welcomes questions from our staff members. Each month, we will randomly draw two questions to highlight. Please submit your question to ssc-communications@cu.edu. The name of the questioner will be kept confidential.

Q: With a VP of IT coming, what are your plans for this side of CU's operations?

A: I think everyone knows by now that strengthening CU's technological infrastructure,

expanding our online portfolio and advancing diversity, equity and inclusion have been my top three priorities since becoming president. I've long been a believer in the power of technology. When I was in business, I experienced firsthand the success of being an early adopter of various technologies, and conversely, I saw what happens when you resist the digital wave. The companies that did are no longer with us. Similarly, when I served in Congress, the use of social media and other digital platforms in campaigning was starting to emerge to powerful effect.

We have an obligation to keep a CU education accessible and meeting people where they are in their lives and their learning. Fully achieving these goals will require harnessing the power of technology to greater effect. This is best accomplished through greater coordination among the four campuses. Therefore, a key role this new position will play is to serve as a shuttle diplomat seeking alignment toward shared goals. I look forward to working with this individual to strengthen the university further and serving our students and the state of Colorado even better than we already are.

Q: Who is your favorite U.S. president? Why?

A: I've had the honor of working for two presidents – George W. Bush and Barack Obama. I've also met George H.W. Bush on numerous occasions and have met or been in the same room with every president since Gerald Ford. That said, my two favorite presidents are John F. Kennedy and Theodore Roosevelt. Both had their flaws, as we all do, but having read the biographies of many of our national leaders, they stand out to me for several reasons. First, they both charted courses that at times varied from their party's norm. As a Democrat, Kennedy was strong on defense and cut taxes. As a Republican, Roosevelt, though strong on defense, was also diplomatic. He won the Nobel Prize for negotiating peace between Japan and Russia, he was a "trust buster" and was tough on monopolies, and he was a strong conservationist. Both were affiliated with the U.S. Navy (we're a Navy family). Both believed America should play a leading role in the world. I've brought my family to nearly every historic location related to these two presidents and I had a habit of quizzing my children and their friends about them. During one of my pop quizzes, my daughter astutely told her friend, "It's easy. The answer is always John F. Kennedy, Theodore Roosevelt or Winston Churchill."



Health & Wellness

Take time for yourself at our May 19 Lunch & Learn

Join Alex Yannacone from the CU Anschutz Depression Center to learn about the concept and

importance of self-care. You will walk away with techniques and information on how to develop a well-balanced lifestyle.

Save the date



Diversity, Inclusion & Outreach

How can you expand your diversity & inclusion knowledge?

SSC's Diversity, Inclusion & Outreach committee has compiled online workshops, campus webinars and ongoing CU efforts to help:

- CU Boulder: Center for Teaching and Learning [Upcoming events](#)
- CU Boulder: Office of Diversity, Equity & Community Engagement [News & Events](#)
- CU Boulder Department of Ethnic Studies, Drs. Shawn O'Neal and Jennifer Ho's [Anti-racism 101](#) (CU on Coursera - 3-week program/11 hours)
- CU Denver's Department of Communication, Dr. Brenda J. Allen's Inclusive Leadership: [The Power of Workplace Diversity](#) (CU on Coursera - 4 weeks/21 hours)

See more

The month of May recognizes...

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, Mental Health Awareness Month and Older Americans Month are just a few of this month's holidays. Learn more about May's special days in our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion calendar.

Discover more

Spring cleaning is just around the corner

Consider donating any gently used items to a charity:

1. [The Doe Fund](#) - Accepting business attire and personal technology
2. [Ronald McDonald House](#) - Accepting office supplies, kitchen items, laundry room items, snacks and gift cards
3. [Denver Rescue Mission](#) - Accepting small furniture, clothing, household items, kitchen items and non-perishable foods.

4. [Clothes to Kids Denver](#) - Donate new or gently used clothes



System HR

Did you miss the Remote Work Handbook overview session?

Here are some highlights from the sessions you may have missed.

[Check it out](#)

Leave Sweep Reminder

Take advantage of CU's paid leave benefits! Employees who have more than 352 hours of vacation as of June 30 will lose their excess hours July 1. Employees with excess vacation hours are encouraged to use vacation time prior to the annual leave sweep. System HR will notify department heads in coming weeks of employees who are expected to be over 352 vacation hours so that they can work with employees who anticipate using vacation time before this year's leave sweep.

[Learn more](#)

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[Suggestions?](#)

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