Dear eComm:

Building 500 at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus is the most visible reminder of the campus’s previous incarnation as the Fitzsimons Army Medical Garrison. The U.S. Army opened the site nearly a century ago to treat veterans of World War I, while
Building 500 opened just days before the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

This summer, CU Anschutz’s past will connect with its future when we open the Marcus Institute for Brain Health, a unique center to treat military veterans who suffer from traumatic brain injuries and related psychological health conditions.

The institute, which will anchor a national network using innovative and intensive treatment for military veterans, is possible because of the generosity of retired Home Depot co-founder Bernard Marcus and his foundation, which provided $38 million for the project.

I had the chance to visit privately with Mr. Marcus before our announcement in May and was struck by his passion and focus. He firmly believes that those who served our country and were injured deserve the best of the best in care, and that’s precisely what we intend to deliver. For a campus with a long and proud tradition of serving veterans, we’re honored and humbled by the opportunity, and for Marcus’ vision and confidence in us to realize it.

The institute’s executive director will be Dr. James Kelly, a neurologist and leader in customized diagnostic and treatment plans for veterans. He had considerable success treating veterans while leading the National Intrepid Center of Excellence at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

The Marcus Institute will be complemented by another innovative effort housed at CU Anschutz, the Cohen Veterans Network. In a $9.8 million partnership with philanthropist Stephen Cohen, the campus will establish a mental health clinic to
serve veterans and military families in greater Denver with free or low-cost care. The network is creating 25 clinics across the U.S. over five years.

With the planned 2018 opening of the VA Hospital adjacent to the campus, the CU Anschutz Medical Campus will be a magnet for the treatment of veterans and research into related health issues. These efforts not only build on a century of treatment for veterans, but also are critical to our intensive focus on mental health issues.

The Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Depression Center at CU Anschutz has made great progress in its mission to treat those with depression, bipolar disorder and co-occurring anxiety disorders. It is also a leader in research. Created through the vision and generosity of George Wiegers, it opened in 2008 and has been making its mark ever since.

The National Behavioral Health Innovation Center, founded with a gift from the Anschutz Foundation, is a “virtual center” to serve Coloradans and those across the nation by identifying and implementing behavioral health solutions, making connections to national experts and building connections among community leaders across the state.
Standing on the second floor of the CU Anschutz Health and Wellness Center, where the Marcus Institute for Brain Health will be located, are, from left, retired Navy SEAL Lt. Cmdr. Pete Scobell, U.S. Rep. Mike Coffman, philanthropist Bernard Marcus, Dr. James P. Kelly, and CU Anschutz Chancellor Don Elliman.

One of the first efforts on the campus to address mental health was the Center for Dependency, Addiction and Recovery (CeDAR), also funded by the Anschutz Foundation, which specializes in treatment of individuals who are diagnosed with both psychiatric and substance abuse problems.

And in the recently concluded Colorado legislative session, lawmakers appropriated $1 million to CU Anschutz to establish a national center for substance abuse treatment, research and education, which will have a particular emphasis on opioid addiction.

The collective impact of these efforts will be vast. Our society is seeing more mental health issues, more addiction, and more veterans with traumatic brain injuries and related psychological conditions. CU Anschutz will be a national hub for treatment, research and education across the wide spectrum of mental health issues. Our three other campuses also have initiatives and partnerships that will complement efforts.

We are committed to addressing the challenges of mental health. And we are fortunate to have visionaries and partners such as Bernard Marcus, Stephen Cohen,
George Wiegers, the Colorado Legislature, the Anschutz Foundation and the Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Foundation. Together, we will make a difference.

For feedback, contact officeofthepresident@cu.edu

Sincerely,

Bruce Benson
President

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**IN THE NEWS**

We are grateful to Gov. John Hickenlooper and the Colorado Legislature for a $16.7 million statewide increase for higher education operations, including $7.8 million in additional funding for CU through the higher education allocation model. Also of note is a $3.9 million statewide increase for financial aid, including $2.5 million in anticipated additional funding for eligible CU students.

[Legislature: Funding increase, hospital provider fee benefit higher ed](#)
Galvanize and CU Denver partnership will help students earn college credit

Galvanize and CU Denver announced the Pathways Program, a strategic partnership that allows eligible Colorado high school and current CU Denver students to earn academic college credit at CU Denver for completing the Web Development Immersive (WDI) program at Galvanize.

CU Boulder professor receives Chase Faculty Community Service Award

An exceptional educator whose teaching, research and community outreach are improving the lives of young people in Colorado and beyond, the University of Colorado’s Ben Kirshner, Ph.D., is the recipient of the 2016-17 Chase Faculty Community Service Award.

CU bonds given significant rating upgrade

Moody’s Investors Service has upgraded the University of Colorado’s bond rating to Aa1. The upgrade not only demonstrates confidence in how we operate the university, but also will allow us to realize millions of dollars in interest cost savings in the coming years.

CU Boulder students awarded Fulbright grants

Congratulations to 10 CU Boulder graduate students or alumni who received Fulbright grant offers to pursue teaching, research and graduate studies abroad. About 209 CU Boulder students have received Fulbright grant notifications since 1978, including this year’s.
Pharmacy, nursing students team up to offer home visits to the elderly

The Interprofessional Practice in Education (IPE) Student Home Visit Project sends a School of Pharmacy student and College of Nursing student to conduct screenings, provide myriad assessments and educate patients on health topics ranging from proper nutrition to drug management, all in the comfort of their home.

CU launches into space

As the only research university that has designed and built instruments that have traveled to every planet in our solar system, the University of Colorado offers students experiences that are simply out of this world.

CU architecture students get real world experience

The University of Colorado provides hands-on learning experiences so students can make a difference while in school. Students with the University of Colorado Denver College of Architecture and Planning collaborated with Outward Bound’s Leadville camp to create low-impact, green, micro-cabins.
CU Denver alumna opens Colorado's only dedicated gluten-free brewery

Something that wreaks havoc with many a beer lover’s gut – gluten – is a non-factor at Holidaily Brewing. The brewpub, which was opened by CU Denver Business School alumna Karen Hertz just over a year ago, is one of only five gluten-free breweries in the nation, and it’s Colorado’s only brewery filling that niche.

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
High-altitude balloon experiments could enable hypersonic flight: Future unmanned hypersonic aircraft might ultimately owe part of their success to CU Boulder atmospheric research.

UCCS awarded $1.2 million scholarship grant to support STEM education: Undergraduate students and professionals working in STEM who want to teach in high-need school districts can apply to receive a scholarship of up to $15,000.

Jerry Wartgow receives Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree: At spring commencement, the University of Colorado honored the former CU Denver chancellor and lifelong advocate for education.

Being a good neighbor: As the community practice specialist for the Center for Public Health Practice at the Colorado School of Public Health, Virginia Visconti identified an important collaboration to engage CU students and faculty.
Make a difference. Support CU today!

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