

It's wonderful to be able to share commencement with our CU graduates, their families and friends.

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University of Colorado

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## A Message from the President

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May 2017

Dear eComm:



Later this week we begin one of my favorite times of year at the university – commencement season. I have attended about 65 CU graduation ceremonies (not counting my own, in 1964) on our four campuses since becoming president more than nine years ago, and I never tire of it.

Commencement is the culmination of years of hard work for our graduates. It's wonderful to be able to share the joyous day with them, their families and friends. It's also a beginning, when graduates embark on new chapters in their lives and put their CU educations to work.

I received a great letter recently from a mother of a young woman who will graduate Friday. The subject line on her email was "CU, The Experience of a Lifetime." She detailed her daughter's journey, from her nervousness about considering an out-of-state school to the significant transition of her freshman year and all the way up through her pending graduation. One line in particular stuck out at me: "The experience has been extraordinary; the personal and academic growth that has taken place has been astonishing." Those lines are true for many graduates.

Before we attend the ceremonies on each of our four campuses, I try to learn more about individual stories from some of our graduates. There are thousands, as you can imagine, but I offer some snapshots.

There's Katy Hartshorn, who will earn a bachelor's degree in communication from our Colorado Springs campus after a long and winding journey. She started at UCCS in 1996, but juggling motherhood, work and school became overwhelming and she had to withdraw. She returned in 2000, only to have work demands once again sidetrack her.

She returned in 2002, but needed to leave again in 2004. When her son started college in 2015, she returned again and the fourth time proved a charm. She'll graduate with a 3.8 grade-point-average and her son, now a UCCS sophomore, will be there Friday to cheer her on.

[Adam McHenry](#) isn't waiting until after the graduation ceremony to get started on his career. He will graduate next week from the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Throughout his academic career, he successfully competed in national competitions relating to a process that produces personalized medications for patients, known as compounding. McHenry is launching a compounding company and has already broken ground on a facility in Parker.

[Nadeen Ibrahim](#) will receive her bachelor's degree in public health next week from CU Denver, and her accomplishments are substantial. The daughter of immigrants, she grew up in the small Colorado town of Wiggins, Colorado, but has thrived in the urban setting of the Denver campus. She has become a powerful advocate for helping people overcome differences and managing diversity. Gov. John Hickenlooper appointed her to the board that oversees the state Department of Public Health and Environment, and she is its youngest member. Nadeen, who we [featured in a video](#), is heading to the University of Oxford in England to pursue a master's in public policy.

[Michael Persinger](#) will graduate from CU Boulder with a degree in integrative physiology. He credits his father, an orphan who spent some difficult years in foster care but went on to a successful military career, with instilling in him a strong work ethic and the ability to persevere. Those traits allowed Michael to juggle a challenging course load and several part-time jobs on his way to a degree. He also found time to volunteer at Longmont United Hospital and the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless. After graduation, he is considering medical school connected with the nation's armed services.

There are thousands more CU success stories that we will learn about at commencement ceremonies in the coming weeks. The ceremonies are rightfully about our graduates and their families and friends, but they also provide those of us who work at CU with a shining reminder of why we are here.

For feedback, contact [officeofthepresident@cu.edu](mailto:officeofthepresident@cu.edu)

Sincerely,



Bruce Benson  
President

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[Reddy for the next chancellor of UCCS](#)

I am pleased to let you know that after a national search, today I selected Dr. Venkat Reddy to serve as chancellor of our Colorado Springs campus. He has the skills, experience and vision to build on the considerable progress UCCS has made in recent years, and to take the campus to the next level. Venkat has served UCCS for more than 25 years in capacities ranging from professor of finance to dean of the College of Business and associate vice chancellor for online education and initiatives to interim chancellor. He has earned the respect of the campus and community for his thoughtful, collaborative style.

Venkat has a deep knowledge and understanding of the campus and community, as well as a thorough grasp of the challenges and opportunities ahead of UCCS. He has strong leadership abilities and will work with students, faculty, staff, alumni and business and community leaders to make UCCS an even greater part of the educational landscape in Colorado and beyond. I have every confidence he will successfully lead the campus and ensure the success of our students, and will continue the contributions to the state and to the CU system.



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## IN THE NEWS



### [CU provides 'blueprint for reform' in higher education efficiency](#)

The University of Colorado system is featured as a model of academic quality and innovation in a new guide created by



### [CU's Saliman honored by DBJ as a top CFO](#)

Please join me in congratulating Todd Saliman, CU's chief financial officer, for being honored as a finalist for the Denver

the American Council of Trustees and Alumni. The report highlights creative problem-solving and innovative approaches used by CU and other universities and systems to cut costs and deliver high-quality college education for all students.

Business Journal's top CFO. The DBJ was spot on, saying of Todd: "Since the 1980s, he has been a staunch advocate for education. In addition to his role today at the University of Colorado helping keep tuition rates low, Saliman has supported early intervention and prevention for children at risk of abuse and neglect." And, as we see in Todd day in and day out, he does so much more.



#### [Faculty member, students among President's Diversity Award recipients](#)

The CU President's Diversity Award committee has announced four awards and three commendations for 2017. The President's Diversity Award recognizes significant achievements of faculty, staff, students and academic or administrative units in developing a culturally diverse university community reflective of inclusive excellence. Award recipients receive \$2,000.

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## SPOTLIGHT ON **ALUMNI**



#### [Alumna goes from corporate world to art sensation](#)

[Sandra Yagi](#), a [CU Denver](#) alumna, felt the tug of opposing impulses for much of her life.



She grew up hearing a singular message from her parents, who endured the Japanese-American internment camps during World War II: You should pursue a career in science or business, they said. But in her heart, she felt a different call.

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## ALL FOUR:COLORADO



### [Collaboration gives children 'seat at table' in city planning](#)

Students at Whittier International Elementary School have decided what's important to them when riding the bus: having a place to sit while they wait and enjoying fun and interesting experiences. The children were involved in the city of Boulder's [HOP Transit Study](#) through Growing Up Boulder, a youth-friendly initiative involving design education and research at CU Boulder's Community Engagement, Design and Research Center.

## ALL FOUR:VIDEO



### [The Aging Center at UCCS](#) [ALL FOUR: Caring](#)

The Aging Center at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs is committed to ensuring that growing older means just that: growing.



### [CU prepares students for life in the music industry](#) [ALL FOUR: Creativity](#)

The University of Colorado offers more than 320 degree programs across its four campuses. CU Denver's College of Arts & Media offers specialty programs -- including Music Business and Recording

Arts -- that prepare students for a range of careers in the music industry, enabling them to live their dreams.

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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 Advocates** Educate. Engage. Influence.

**UPCOMING EVENTS** [SEE ALL EVENTS](#)

**MAY 18**  
CU Scoop: CU Boulder's Architecture "Body and Soul" and walking tour with Campus Architect Bill Haverly

**MAY 24**  
CU Lunch and Learn: Impact of Personalized Medicine with Dr. Kathleen Barnes, Director of CU's Center for Personalized Medicine, CU Anschutz Medical Campus

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## NEWS FROM OUR **CAMPUSES**

### CU BOULDER

[CU Boulder assists state's creative districts:](#) A Colorado government program that encourages economic growth through the arts has tapped CU Boulder experts to help analyze the program's impact.

### CU DENVER

### CU COLORADO SPRINGS

[UCCS scholarship program names Barbara Swaby an 'Unstoppable Woman':](#) Professor Emerita Barbara Swaby will be honored during a May 16 special ceremony.

### CU ANSCHUTZ

[Students' web series wins awards at L.A. Web Series Festival:](#) CU Denver College of Arts and Media students win national award for outstanding writing and editing.

[When 'biological soldiers' cast shadow over medical ethics:](#) One of history's darkest periods – Germany in the 1930s and 1940s – took root during a propaganda-fueled march toward what were deemed imperative public health measures.



Make a difference. Support CU today!

[GIVE TO CU](#)

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