

From: [System Staff Council](#)
To:
Subject: May SSC Newsletter
Date:

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University of Colorado

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SYSTEM STAFF COUNCIL



Stay on top of CU System happenings! This month features a brown bag centered on inclusivity, Pride month resources 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 questions to ssc-communications@cu.edu. The name of the questioner will be kept confidential.

Q: Given your upcoming transition, what's the plan for your key initiatives? Are the Regents committed to continuing with the Transformation and Innovation Program and the investment in Online Digital Education or will this decision fall to a new president?

A: It's no secret that since I arrived at CU, DEI, bolstering our technological infrastructure and capabilities, and expanding our online offerings have been among my top priorities. I firmly believe these are critical endeavors that work together to strengthen the university and enable us to better deliver on our mission. Technology and a more robust online portfolio will allow us to make a CU education more accessible, more affordable and more attractive to greater numbers of people, including students from underrepresented communities. This is vital to remaining successful and competitive as an organization, and closing the equity gap in attracting, retaining, graduating – and delivering education to – underrepresented students. Over the course of my career in business, government and academia, I have experienced firsthand what happens when organizations don't adapt to the increasingly digital landscape. These organizations no longer exist.

Given that DEI and technology are major components of the strategic plan that we will finalize at the June Board of Regents meeting prior to my departure, I am confident that work will continue on key initiatives after I leave the university. From the start, the development of CU's strategic plan has been a highly inclusive and collaborative process that involved nearly every shared governance group university-wide, faculty, staff, students and the regents. Even though not explicitly part of the plan, our efforts to ensure a coordinated acceleration of our online offerings are closing aligned with the plan's goals. While I can't say what will happen following my transition, the power of the strategic plan lies in its alignment. As a university system, we have collectively identified the areas that are most important to us. They are bigger than any one person.

CU is positioned well for the future and for the future president. I'm honored to have had the opportunity to serve this great university. It has been a privilege working with the exceptional people – including all of you – who are part of the CU community. I'm inspired by your hard work, dedication and commitment to our students and to our mission. As I told the regents recently, Debbie and I look forward to continuing to support CU in the years ahead.

Q: Do you grow any fruits or vegetables in the summer? If so, which ones?

A: During my youth, I grew vegetables for 4-H. While my county fair exhibit of an assortment of the vegetables I grew did not win me a trip to the state fair, my demonstration on compost piles called, "Whet Your Garden's Appetite" did. To this day, I stick to composting.



Events

Thanks for digging down deep and lifting others up!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to System Staff Council's 2020 Colorado Combined Campaign effort. With your help, we raised \$13,215. State employees raised more than \$715,000 for 432 Colorado charities. In such a difficult year, we continued to show generosity.

See a message of thanks from the CCC:

Watch video



Brown Bag

Build your inclusive playbook at June 10 Brown Bag

Join Dr. Regina Richards, Vice Chancellor of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community Engagement at CU Anschutz from noon - 1 p.m. to learn how to create and foster an inclusive environment.

Register today



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

June is Pride Month

This month honors the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan with celebrations of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual (LGTBQIA) community. Discover how CU is honoring this important month with personal stories, themed Zoom backgrounds, resources and more.

[Explore today](#)

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

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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