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University of Colorado

Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

A Message from the President

October 2017

Dear eComm:

CU is often named in rankings of universities, but a recent one is particularly notable. The four campuses that comprise the CU system were 29th (up from 45th last year) in [Reuters' annual ranking](#) of the world's most innovative universities.

It's really no surprise when you consider the staggering number and significance of innovations that emerge from our university. It's sometimes difficult for me to keep up with their pace, and I have been continually amazed in my time here to learn about the exceptional work of our faculty and students and its impact on improving society and advancing knowledge.

It's also notable that all four of our campuses contributed to the recognition. We're a diverse university with unique programs and research expertise. Yet the common thread is that innovation is a mindset at CU and it pervades our campuses. Some examples illustrate.

Dr. Naresh Mandava and his team at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus implanted a microchip in the eye of a woman who had lost her sight in her 20s, allowing her to see (and see her son) for the first time in 15 years. She was the first person in the Mountain West to receive [the bionic eye](#). Special eyeglasses with a small camera on the nose

piece transmit what she sees to a video processing unit, which routes a signal back to the glasses and then to the implant in her eye.

Our Colorado Springs campus was the first in the country to offer a [Bachelor of Innovation degree](#), an interdisciplinary program originally between the colleges of Engineering and Business and now expanded to include the colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Education. It uses a common core of innovation-focused courses and steeps students in cross-disciplinary teamwork and experiences working with companies on real problems. The program stresses the innovation process that transforms ideas into ways to address a variety of societal issues.

At CU Boulder, third-year mechanical engineering student Peter “Max” Armstrong developed and patented a low-cost [system for fitting prosthetics](#) that dramatically lowers the price and improves fit. His system uses pre-manufactured shells that are customized with form-fitting foam. It will be a particular boon in developing countries, where prosthetics are often cost-prohibitive.

Our [Charles C. Gates Center at CU Anschutz](#) explores how adult stem-cell therapy can be used for a variety of applications, from cancer treatment to regenerative tissue. Its remarkable success on a variety of fronts exemplifies innovation at CU.

[CU Denver’s Comcast Media and Technology Center](#) is a multidisciplinary center focused on the intersection of creativity, media and technology. It enables students from the College of Arts and Media and the College of Engineering and Applied Science to apply what they are learning in the classroom to solve real-world challenges.

CU Innovations brings together industry partners, entrepreneurs and investors to help our researchers improve the quality of life for patients and the world at large. Last fall they fostered a unique partnership among CU Anschutz, Children’s Hospital Colorado

and UCHHealth to explore new ways to transform patient experiences, the delivery of care and clinical outcomes.

CU Boulder researchers have developed an advanced [drone “swarming” technology](#) that allows a single operator to control multiple unmanned aircraft for a variety of tasks, which could include searching for lost hikers or studying wildlife.

I could go on, but suffice to say our university meets its promise as one of the world’s most innovative universities. Our staff participate as well. Each year we have an innovations contest in which departments bring forward ideas to help the university run more efficiently. Ideas included a better, more cost effective way to clean sensitive research laboratories and an idea for distributing drinking water at campus events that results in eliminating the use of thousands of plastic water bottles annually.

Good things happen when innovation is part of the institutional culture. We have great minds at our university – among faculty, students and staff – so when they are turned loose to innovate, they rise to the challenge. The results include better health care, improved technology, more patents and companies, and a stellar learning and working environment.

It’s good that a prestigious international organization like Reuters publicly recognizes what we have known all along – CU is a university of innovation.

For feedback, contact officeofthepresident@cu.edu

Sincerely,



Bruce Benson
President



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IN THE NEWS



Four top CU Advocates honored at sixth anniversary celebration

A special group of CU supporters comes together tonight at the Denver Country Club for the sixth anniversary of the CU Advocates program, which now counts more than 3,500 members in Colorado and around the world.

Christina Beck, executive assistant to the athletics director at CU Boulder was named the 2017 CU Advocate of the Year.



University of Colorado undergraduate programs make the grade nationally

The University of Colorado continues to be recognized for its high level of excellence in the new edition of U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges rankings, which focus on the academic quality of undergraduate programs across the country.

ALL FOUR: COLORADO



[Paper robots teach kids basic engineering principles](#)

Late afternoon each Tuesday, about 30 University of Colorado student volunteers and their faculty mentors gear up for just about anything when they enter the free clinic at 1445 Dayton St., Aurora – a student-run initiative that serves uninsured and underserved neighborhoods.

SPOTLIGHT ON **ALUMNI**



[Film Buff: Alumnus founded Crested Butte festival](#)

While scoping out Crested Butte, population 1,500 or so, as a prospective place to live, Michael Brody (IndSt'85) and soon-to-be wife Jennifer learned that the little town's short-film festival, Reel Fest, had been discontinued five years ago. The couple saw their opportunity and seized it.



[Colorful CU: \(True\) tales from the Old West to today](#)



From a small building standing in a field in Boulder – complete with cows – to the highly advanced and expansive medical facilities in Aurora, CU has a picturesque past and present reaching far beyond most history books. CU Denver history professor [Tom Noel](#), also known as Dr. Colorado, chats with a pupil from decades gone by – CU On the Air host [Ken McConnellogue](#), vice president for university communication.



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](#)

NEWS FROM OUR **CAMPUSES**

CU BOULDER

[Can gardening prevent cancer? CU study seeks to find out:](#) The three-year trial, funded with an American Cancer Society Research Scholars grant, will include 312 participants.

CU COLORADO SPRINGS

[UCCS certificate educates individuals who care for elderly:](#) As the boomers head toward senior status, Gerontology Center is ready to help the helpers.

CU DENVER

[State of the campus:](#) 'Because of you, CU Denver is on the rise.'

CU ANSCHUTZ

[Thinking about the unthinkable:](#) Research studies end-of-life care for blood cancer patients.



Make a difference. Support CU today!

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