

April 2020

Dear friends:

Our world today is different, with many once-familiar things turned upside down. Between now and when we return to normal, or a slightly altered version of normal, we are facing the difficulties and opportunities that lie ahead for our society and our university with resolution and purpose.

We are ensuring the University of Colorado's four campuses continue to deliver on our mission in teaching and learning, research, service and health care. Our approach is three-pronged: triage, stabilization and transformation. Our goal is to ensure CU serves its students and remains a leader in our state, nation and beyond. As you can appreciate, there are thousands of issues and details to consider.

Our triage began March 11, when we were the first public university in the state to announce a move to remote teaching and working, limiting events and generally reducing the presence on our campuses. Our imperative was to protect the health and safety of our campus communities. We shifted commencement ceremonies to virtual formats and are planning special events for our 2020 graduates down the road.

We provided some flexibility for students by beefing up pass/fail options, increased support for remote learning and enhanced our capacity for virtual mental health appointments to help students who are particularly stressed or scared.

We also helped with the state's early response, making experts from the CU Anschutz Medical Campus and Colorado School of Public Health available as resources to the governor and his team. Faculty are helping supply and test

personal protective equipment. Our medical researchers are also testing antibodies and therapies for COVID-19.

As the extent of the crisis has become clearer, we are moving to stabilize operations. We brought together all the leaders of Colorado colleges and universities, both public and private, to engage our Congressional delegation, sending them a [joint letter](#) that detailed vital areas of need for higher education in stimulus and relief packages. I have followed up and spoken with most of Colorado's delegation, and they are extremely supportive.

We proceeded with the hiring of a [new chancellor](#) for CU Denver (below), Dr. Michelle Marks. She is a visionary leader who will provide much-needed continuity to the campus at a critical time. At the same time, we are engaged in a hiring chill, suspending some key searches and ensuring that only essential hires are made.

We also deferred decisions (until May or June) on tuition, fees and compensation until we have better information about the financial impact of COVID-19 on state funding, research funding and enrollment. The CU Foundation, which manages the university's \$1.2 billion endowment, is carefully tracking the stock market for risks and opportunities. While the recent downturn has hurt everyone, our diversified portfolio is holding up relatively well, ensuring continued scholarships and other critical endeavors.

Helping the state remains a focus in the stabilization phase. We are exploring the possibility of making some campus facilities available if needed for patients who are asymptomatic or in quarantine to alleviate the load on hospitals. The CU Anschutz Medical Campus has also substantially increased testing capacity and is providing the data infrastructure to track the virus.

We have an eye on transformation for when we emerge from the worst of the crisis. We took a pause on work on our [strategic plan, online education project and information technology initiative](#) to allow our faculty and staff to deal with important matters at hand. But we have not stopped those projects. If anything,

the crisis highlights the need for more focused planning, more robust online education and a better IT infrastructure.

The silver lining to the crisis is an increased urgency for online education expansion. Last week we established the CU Online Accelerator Committee to build on the strong work we did in the area in the several months before the crisis.

Our three-pronged approach to dealing with COVID-19 has one sharply defined goal – to continue to deliver on our mission to educate students and serve our state and beyond. COVID-19 has disrupted life, but institutions like CU will be crucial to a future where education, research, service and health care will be more important than ever. We intend to be as vital to that future as we have been for the past 144 years.

All the best,



Mark Kennedy President

For feedback, contact president.newsletter@cu.edu



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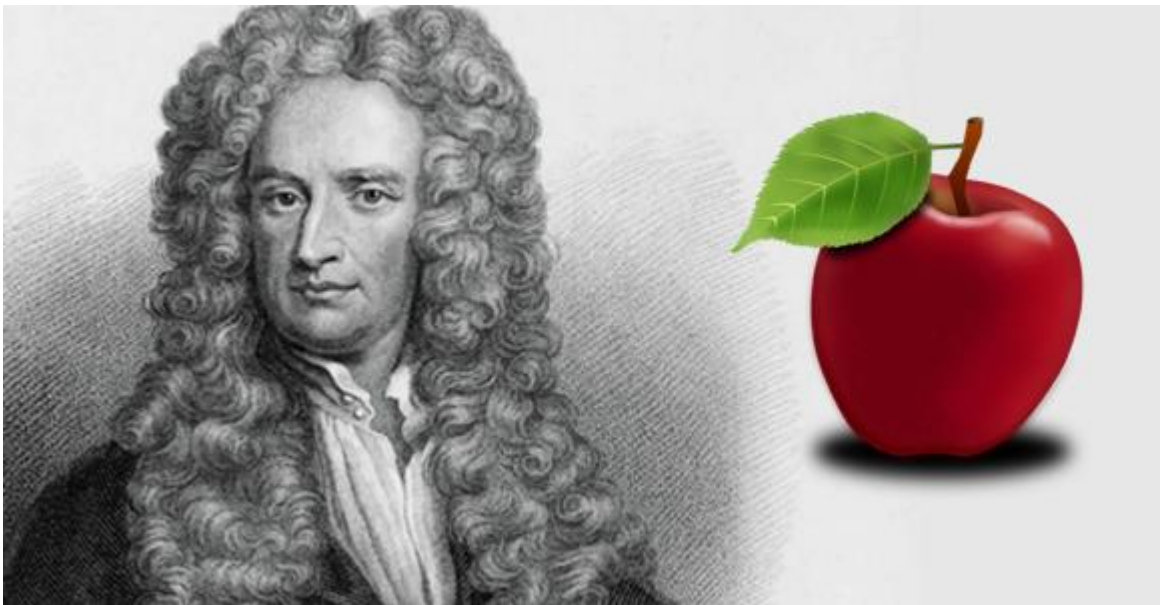
[The Cure is US](#)

It's up to every individual to do what's right to keep ourselves, our kids, our neighbors and communities healthy and safe. I was honored to do a public service announcement for #thecureisus. Join us at thecureis.us.



CU selects Marks as next chancellor of Denver campus

I am proud to announce the selection of Michelle Marks as chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver. Marks is a proven, visionary leader with an excellent track record of fostering student success. She has an innovative mindset that will help the campus make strides serving its students, the community and state.



Outbreak uptake: Amazing positives from pandemic history

You may have rolled your eyes when a well-meaning parent or friend reminded you that every cloud has a silver lining, but that seemingly easy advice is not without merit—even in the history of the world's greatest pandemics. Here we offer a list of surprising positives that resulted from global outbreaks.



CU Denver prof examines white-collar criminals, investigations, trends and tech

A recent trend suggests that if you're a white-collar criminal, who cares? It's not so bad. But Mary Dodge, criminology and law professor, sets the record straight: "When you consider the victims and the number of victims, then it's quite serious." Dodge researches women in the criminal justice system, white-collar crime, policing, prostitution and courts.

NEWS FROM THE CAMPUSES

CU BOULDER

[New mission would provide a road map in the search for alien atmospheres](#)

A spacecraft proposed by scientists could soon be sniffing out the environments beyond Earth's solar system that might host planets with thick atmospheres.

CU COLORADO SPRINGS

[Eight UCCS students and alumni build a bright future for Colorado Springs](#)

This spring, six current students and two recent graduates are participating in the Quad Innovation Partnership's semester-length program.

CU DENVER

[U.S. News & World Report ranks CU Denver's grad programs](#)

Graduate programs earned over a dozen rankings in the newly released 2021 Best Graduate Programs compiled by U.S. News and World.

CU ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS

[CU Anschutz is the new epicenter of Down syndrome research in the nation](#)

The strategic and coordinated effort brings \$16.5 million in grant funding to CU over the next five years for Down syndrome research as part of the NIH INCLUDE project.



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