



University of Colorado

Boulder | Colorado Springs | Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

A Message from the President

March 2018

Dear Cathy:



Ten years ago this month, I had the honor and privilege to assume the presidency of our great university. When I earned my degree from CU in 1964, I would have questioned the sanity of anyone who suggested I would one day lead the institution.

But after a decade on the job, I believe even more strongly in what my CU experience taught me – this place changes and improves lives. It certainly changed mine, providing the foundation for a successful career and fulfilling life. There are tens of thousands of stories like mine, and a big part of my job is ensuring that everyone who attends CU has the same opportunities I did to take advantage of education as a ticket to a better life.



When people ask what I'm most proud of, I say it's how we have changed the university's culture, that blend of things that contribute to the dynamic environment at CU. It's everything from our focus on efficiencies to innovation in our business practices, from how we embody diversity to how we promote and protect our reputation. It's also ensuring our campuses are places where free speech, open inquiry and robust debate and discussion are hallmarks. It's how our four campuses cooperate – rather than compete – with one another, leverage our collective interests and meet common goals.

A few examples illustrate: we continually look to control costs. We have secured at least 16 pieces of legislation over the decade that allow us to operate more efficiently, saving millions. We [eliminated course fees](#) at the Boulder campus, and also instituted a four-year [tuition guarantee](#) for resident students (mirrored on the same program we have had for nonresidents) that ensures certainty in financial planning for students and families.

We have made steady gains in improving diversity and also have expanded its definition to encompass intellectual diversity. We have promoted the great things happening here with earned, owned and paid marketing. Our reputation is always at the forefront of what we do. A decade ago, it was not in the best shape,

but a continual focus has restored it to its rightful place. That doesn't mean we don't have problems – in a large organization like ours, you always have them. The key is addressing them immediately.



People often ask me what has surprised me most about serving as CU president, and my answer has been consistent. The quality of the people at our university is second to none. It starts with our stellar faculty. We have Nobel Prize winners, MacArthur “Genius” Award-winners and National Science Foundation

fellows, and many other faculty who are equally accomplished. Interacting with them, I walk away deeply impressed by their expertise, dedication and passion.

Staff and administrators make our far-flung, complex enterprise run efficiently and effectively. It's notable that CU's administrative overhead is more than 20 percent below national peer averages.

CU alumni also make us proud in myriad ways. They are leaders in the sciences, arts, business, education, health care and dozens of other fields. They are also leaders in their communities.



CU has thrived in the past decade, making substantial gains in [key performance measures](#). We have seen significant increases in the number of students we graduate annually, the financial aid we generate, research funding, fundraising, patents by faculty and the number of companies created from CU research, among others. We've also placed a sharp focus on efficiencies, particularly those we gain through legislation at the state Capitol. In the past three years alone, efficiencies have led to \$112 million in savings and cost avoidance, in addition to the millions in savings from previous years.



One area that has remained stagnant over 10 years is state funding. In 2008, our state funding was \$227 million. This year it's \$194 million (and it dipped to \$143 million in 2011), despite considerable increases in enrollment and inflation. Colorado ranks 48th nationally in state funding for higher education, and while

we have worked hard to increase funding, lawmakers' hands are tied by competing mandates in the state constitution and budget.

We'll continue our work to make sure CU meets its mission and fulfills the promise of higher education. It has been an honor serving as CU president for the past 10 years and leading this exceptional community of people who contribute so much to our state, nation and world. CU will continue to improve and change lives. And who knows, perhaps a future university president is among those pursuing a degree today.



For feedback, contact officeofthepresident@cu.edu

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Benson".

Bruce Benson
President



PHOTO ALBUM:

See snapshots of President Benson's decade at CU.

VIEW PHOTO ALBUM



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IN THE NEWS



Barry selected for Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2018

Congratulations to former University of Colorado women's basketball head coach [Ceal Barry](#), who has been selected to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame Class of 2018. Barry was CU's head coach for 22 seasons, leading the Buffs to four regular-season Big Eight championships, four Big Eight Tournament championships and one Big 12 Tournament championship. She is the winningest head coach in CU athletics history across all sports with 427 wins.



President's Diversity Award recipients honored

Please join me in celebrating the outstanding 2018 President's Diversity Award recipients. The awards recognize significant achievements of faculty, staff, students and academic or administrative units in developing a culturally and intellectually diverse community reflective of inclusive excellence. This year's honorees are Violeta Chapin, professor, CU Boulder; Jasmine



University students earn two bronze medals

A hearty congratulations to two University of Colorado students who won bronze medals at the Winter Olympics. CU Colorado Springs international business student [Mirai Nagasu](#) executed the [first triple axel by an American woman at the Olympics](#) and helped the United States to the bronze medal in the figure skating team event. [Arielle Gold](#), a Steamboat Springs

Fitzgerald, student, CU Denver; and A Queer Endeavor, CU Boulder.

resident, won a bronze medal in the ladies' halfpipe. She is a psychology major at CU Boulder.

SPOTLIGHT ON **ALUMNI**



Law firms, burger joints and the governor's office

Thirty-one years ago, Pat Meyers was completing his bachelor's degree in sociology at CU Denver. Today, he serves as Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper's chief of staff. In the years in between, Meyers forged a successful and eclectic career, with roles ranging from submariner to assistant attorney general to Smashburger owner and, now, public servant.

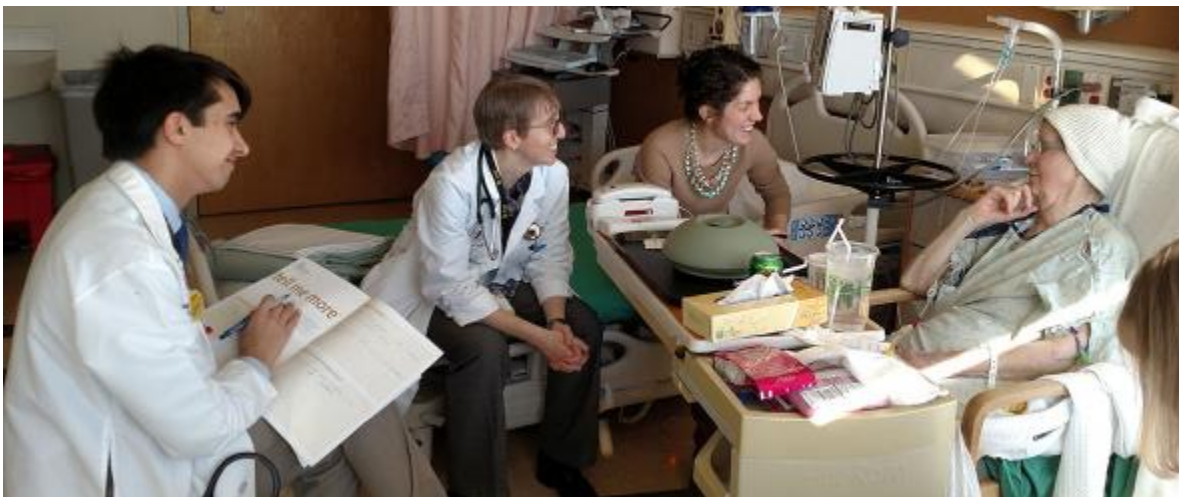




[CU offers fully MOOC-delivered master's in electrical engineering](#)

In fall 2018, the University of Colorado will launch a new and innovative MOOC-delivered master's degree in electrical engineering – the first of its type in the world. Today on CU on the Air, host Ken McConnellogue talks with CU Boulder professor [Robert Erickson](#) about what this revolutionary MOOC has to offer learners across the globe, as well as how it is making us rethink how people learn. He also chats with [Michael Lightner](#), vice president of academic affairs, about the positive impact MOOCs offer learners and the university.

ALL FOUR:COLORADO



[Tell Me More: A small dose of compassion goes a long way](#)

In the end, his patient died. But as Ajay Major, M.D., then an intern, flipped through the old veteran's medical record, he found comfort in the memories the notes inspired. Major, co-president of the CU Anschutz School of Medicine Resident Chapter of the Gold Humanism Honor Society, helps preserve those memories through the Tell Me More (TMM) program.

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

[CU Boulder among top producers of Fulbright U.S. students for 2017–18:](#) 10 graduate students or alumni received Fulbright grant offers to pursue teaching, research and graduate studies abroad.

CU COLORADO SPRINGS

[Research shows creating and maintaining online shopper loyalty is complex:](#) Online stores need to focus on both the usefulness of their website and the satisfaction of the buying experience when trying to generate consumer loyalty.

CU DENVER

[Architecture students envision a more accessible future:](#) Access Gallery and CU Denver team up to imagine a live-work space for artists with disabilities.

CU ANSCHUTZ

[Hammering away against the odds:](#) Former Olympian sets her sights on a new goal – becoming a surgeon.



Make a difference. Support CU today!

GIVE TO CU

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