Published on *University of Colorado* (https://www.cu.edu)

CU at the Capitol [1]

February 6, 2020 by Natalie Barry [2]

Representatives from the University of Colorado have testified and presented at several events at the State Capitol.

On September 17, higher education leaders across the state addressed the Making Higher Education Attainable Interim committee [3]. Members in attendance included Senator Rachel Zenzinger (D-Arvada) and Committee Chair Senator Tammy Story (D-Conifer), as well as Representatives Mary Young (D-Greeley), Mark Baisley (R-Douglas), Julie McCluskie (D-Dillon) and Barbara McLachlan (D-Durango). The committee was charged with looking at the costs of higher education, tuition rate setting, roadblocks to obtaining post-secondary education, and the risks and rewards of post-secondary education. Senator Story asked all of the higher education institutions to address how they would be impacted by the 5% budget cut scenario the Governor asked the Department of Higher Education to submit. Senator Story was especially interested in knowing how student services would be impacted.

Presenters for the University of Colorado included President Mark Kennedy, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Todd Saliman and CU Denver biology student, Jonté Roberts. President Kennedy spoke about the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the importance of state investment in higher education, especially for four-year degree programs. He also highlighted the significance of modern technology and meeting students where they are (i.e. students now operate with mobile phones as opposed to computers or iPads, so how do we look at delivering education in formats that meet their technological preferences).

President Kennedy also talked about lifelong learners, and how people will need to retool knowledge as they move throughout different professions. Jonté Roberts told the committee about the importance of state funding investment into higher education and shared that had she not received critical scholarships from the campus and state, she would not have been able to attend college as a young Native American first generation student. Our panel made it clear that state investment is critical in serving the needs of our students and is directly correlated to the cost of tuition.

Throughout the day, a common theme among all of the higher education leaders was the importance of state investment and the fact that higher education is a key component in the global economy. Countries like China and Australia are investing heavily in creating strong higher education systems, while the United States is cutting higher education systems. The governing boards also discussed the importance of key partnerships across the higher education sector like concurrent enrollment and 2+2 agreements (where students earn their associates degree at a community college and then transition to a university for the final two years of their bachelor's degree), as well as key innovations and efficiencies that make Colorado’s higher education system a strong return on investment for taxpayers.

On September 20, Bill Woodward, CU Boulder Director of Training and Technical Assistance at the Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence [4], presented to the School Safety Interim Committee [5].

During October through December, CU School of Medicine (SOM) Dean John J. Reilly, Jr., MD, met with House Speaker KC Becker (D-Boulder), House Majority Leader Alec Garnett (D-Denver), Representative Susan Lontine (D-Denver) and Representative Yadira Caraveo (D-Thornton) at the Capitol to discuss a range of healthcare issues anticipated during the 2020 legislative session. Dean Reilly wanted to ensure that legislative leaders consider the SOM faculty as a resource available to conduct research, present to committees and help the legislature understand complex healthcare issues. The leaders asked Dean Reilly's advice about a number of pending proposals.

In November and December, CU Athletic Director Rick George met with Senators Rhonda Fields (D-Aurora) and Jeff Bridges (D-Greenwood Village) as well as Representative James Coleman (D-Denver) to discuss proposed legislation to allow student athletes to monetize the use of their name, image and likeness. California passed the first bill in the country in 2019 (SB-206 Collegiate Athletics: student athlete compensation and representation [6]), which triggered a robust national discussion and consideration of legislation in numerous states and the congress. Chancellor DiStefano is a member of the NCAA Board of Governors [7] and the NCAA Division I Board of Directors [8] while Athletic Director George is a member of the NCAA Division I Name, Image and Likeness Legislative Solutions group [9]. Both will continue to follow the issue closely. Senators Fields and her colleagues want to position Colorado as a leader in the policy discussion.

On January 17, all three CU Education Deans, Kathy Schultz (CU Boulder), Valerie Martin Conley (UCCS) and Rebecca Kantor (CU Denver) attended an educator preparation stakeholder meeting at the Capitol. Senator Nancy Todd (D-Aurora), the chair of the Senate Education Committee [10], hosted the stakeholder meeting. All three deans are working with Senator Todd on her educator preparation bill and were able to offer valuable insight on the work already being done across all three campuses. SB20-158 Professional Training for Educators [11] makes changes to the assistance programs that are designed to increase the number of educators within the state, especially in rural school districts.

On January 22, University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS) Chancellor Venkat Reddy along with National Cybersecurity Center (NCC) [12]Chief Executive Officer Vance Brown presented to the Joint Business Committee. The presentation focused on how UCCS and NCC used the funding appropriated in SB18-086 [13], Cyber Coding Cryptology For State Records, to fund scholarships for cybersecurity students and further develop the growing cybersecurity department at UCCS. UCCS was committed to cybersecurity workforce development, hiring tenure professors in both the College of Engineering [14] and College of Business [15], building more programs, expanding the number of degrees, and creating more pathways for students coming from community colleges.

On January 23, CU Denver Dean of Education Rebecca Kantor presented to the Joint Education Committee members on CU Denver's efforts surrounding teacher preparation, teacher shortages, and alternative licensure programs.



Representative Mary Young, CU President Mark Kennedy, Senator Tammy Story, Representative Mark Baisley

Office of Government Relations



CU Boulder Dean of Education Kathy Schultz, CU Denver Dean of Education Rebecca Kantor, UCCS Dean of Education Valerie Martin Conley

Office of Government Relations



President Mark Kennedy, VP Todd Saliman, CU Denver student Jonte Roberts - Kennedy Higher Ed committee

Office of Government Relations

Display Title:
CU at the Capitol
Send email when Published:
Yes

Source URL:https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/cu-capitol

Links
[1] https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/cu-capitol [2] https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/author/3242 [3] https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/making-higher-education-attainable-interim-study-committee/2019-regular-session [4] https://cspv.colorado.edu/
[5] https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/school-safety-committee/2019-regular-session
[6] https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB206
[7] http://www.ncaa.org/governance/committees/ncaa-board-governors
[8] http://www.ncaa.org/governance/committees/division-i-board-directors
[9] http://www.ncaa.org/governance/membership-resources-name-image-and-likeness
[10] https://leg.colorado.gov/committees/education/2019-regular-session
[11] http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2020A/bills/2020a_158_01.pdf [12] https://cyber-center.org/ [13] https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/sb18-086 [14] https://www.uccs.edu/eas/
[15] https://www.uccs.edu/business/