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CU Federal Relations Monthly Update - 10.30.26 [1]

October 30, 2026 by Riley Black [2]

Sen. Hickenlooper Visits CU Boulder
Sen. John Hickenlooper visited CU Boulder on Oct. 30, where he met with researchers and toured the Environmental Data Science Innovation & Impact Lab (ESIIL [3]), which is part of the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES [4]), and the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR [5]). Senator Hickenlooper was also joined by Chancellor Justin Schwartz and Massimo Ruzzene, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research.

Rep. Pettersen Joins CU Anschutz JDC Luncheon
Rep. Brittany Pettersen and Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser joined CU Anschutz's Helen and Arthur Johnson Depression Center (JDC) [6] for their annual luncheon on Oct. 23 featuring actor and mental health advocate Sean Astin.

President Saliman Joins Governor for Space Academy Announcement
CU President Todd Saliman joined Gov. Jared Polis on Oct. 23 to launch Colorado's proposal to host the proposed United States Space Academy in Colorado Springs. UCCS would play a key role in the establishment of the Academy in Colorado Springs, serving as its initial academic and residential home before a permanent Academy campus is opened. President Saliman stated that "UCCS is the ideal university to be the temporary home of the Academy." More about the proposal and CU's role can be read on the UCCS news page [7].

Rep. Neguse Joins CU Boulder Law School Events
Rep. Joe Neguse joined CU Boulder Law School's Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy and the Environment to present an evening guest lecture [8] on Oct. 21 as part of the Ruth Wright Distinguished Lecture in Natural Resources. The congressman also joined CU Law students earlier in the day for a lunch discussion [9].

Sen. Bennet Participates in CU Anschutz Roundtable
Sen. Michael Bennet participated in a roundtable at CU Anschutz focused on the growing role of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare on Oct. 12. Experts from CU Anschutz briefed the senator on ways AI is being used in healthcare currently and discussed how to ensure the technology is used responsibly and effectively. More can be read on the CU Anschutz news page [10].

Golden Age of Science Summit

The White House hosted the *Science: A New Golden Age* Summit in Washington D.C. on Oct. 8, announcing new science and AI initiatives and public-private investments. Massimo Ruzzene, Senior Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation at CU Boulder, and Heather Bene, Senior Associate Vice President of Federal Relations, attended the invite-only summit. More details on the summit can be read in the CU Federal Relations Weekly Update on Oct. 9 [11].

Rep. Boebert attends CU Boulder Football Game

Rep. Lauren Boebert attended the CU Buffs football game versus Texas Tech on Oct. 3.

Recent Comment and Advocacy Letters

CU Anschutz [12] and CU Boulder [13] responded on Oct. 13 to a National Institutes of Health (NIH) request for information on proposed changes to how NIH reports peer review outcomes for grant applications.

The CU System, CU Anschutz, CU Boulder, UCCS, and CU Denver signed onto a multi-organization letter on Oct. 21 to leadership in support of FY27 NIH funding.

CU Financial Aid Officer Event

Brett Roude and Annie Larson from the CU Federal Relations team, alongside Julie Steeler from General Counsel, presented regarding changes to student aid programs at “CU Financial Aid Day” on Oct. 9. The event, which was held at CU Anschutz, featured financial aid officers from CU campuses and discussed changes to federal aid programs.

CU Campus Events

Chancellor Jennifer Sobanet hosted the State of UCCS on the afternoon of Oct. 7. CU Regents Montera and Scott, State Sen. Synder, congressional staff from the offices of Sens. Bennet and Hickenlooper and Rep. Crank, and representatives from local government and community partners attended the event.

Capitol Hill Visits

Alana Jones, Associate Vice Chancellor for the Office of International Affairs at CU Denver | Anschutz, met virtually with staff from the offices of Sens. Bennet and Hickenlooper and Rep. DeGette on Oct. 6.

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[4] https://cires.colorado.edu/ [5] https://www.colorado.edu/instaar/ [6] https://johnsondepressioncenter.org/
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