University of Colorado Regent Sue Sharkey has long been involved in leadership and business in the state and is a proud CU parent. She is the mother of three adult children, two of whom graduated from the University of Colorado Boulder.

A Republican, she was elected in 2010 to serve her first term on the CU Board of Regents, and re-elected to a second term in 2016. Regent Sharkey represents Colorado’s 4th Congressional District. Her six-year term ends in January 2023.

Sharkey was elected to serve as Chair for the Board of Regents for FY 2017 and re-elected as Chair for FY 2018. She also served as Vice Chair for FY 2013 and FY 2014. In 2012, she was instrumental in the Colorado Legislature’s passage of House Bill 1350, which extends
resident student tuition to active duty military personnel and their dependents pursuing their education on CU campuses. Sharkey also sponsored a Regent resolution that was passed and implemented in the university’s non-discrimination and harassment policy to include political philosophy and political affiliation.

Sharkey served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 2004, 2008, 2012 and 2016. Her other past leadership roles include president of the Larimer County Republican Women, executive board member of the Larimer County Republicans, member of the Larimer County CORE/Placement Board, Larimer County co-chair of the Women’s Coalition for Victory Campaign and a Cub Scout leader. In 2008, she was chosen to participate in the Leadership Program of the Rockies, which develops, strengthens and trains emerging leaders.

Raised in a military family, Sharkey lived in Taiwan, Germany, Washington, D.C., and other locales, where she experienced diverse cultures. She has considered Colorado home since her father retired in Colorado Springs.

She gained early work experience in her parents’ retail store in Colorado Springs. Sharkey learned the family business and eventually took on management of a store. When the business was sold, Sharkey went to work for the investigative division of the El Paso County District Attorney’s Office. She later embarked on a marketing and public relations career in banking. Her proudest and most successful role has been as mom to her three children, all of whom successfully obtained a college education. She enjoys her six grandchildren and looks forward to the day they enter into one of the campuses at CU to continue the family’s legacy as CU alumni.

Groups audience: Board of Regents

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[2] mailto:Sue.Sharkey@cu.edu