CU initiated a system-wide strategic planning process in late summer 2019. Early work on the plan demonstrated a need to improve CU’s information technology (IT) environment by assessing capabilities and recommending a roadmap for improving and aligning IT capabilities across the university. The assessment identified three imperatives for change:
Clarify roles and responsibilities by establishing clear mandates of responsibility for the system and the campuses through collaborative IT governance that promotes consistency.
Strengthen CU’s core technology services and access to data by delivering reliable, secure, and cost-effective solutions.
Foster Innovation and Effectiveness through a focus on strategic partnerships that leverage automation, artificial intelligence, and analytics to advance the mission.
Before the pandemic struck in spring 2020, higher education already faced external pressures such as declining enrollment, reduced public funding and concerns over tuition costs. The global pandemic is also forcing universities to adjust how they deliver education. CU started down a path in fall 2019 to assess how technology can be best used to strategically advance its mission. The pandemic magnified the need for change across CU’s four campuses. The Transformation & Innovation Program will ensure that CU is stronger, more efficient and innovative in its IT operations, thereby best positioning the institution for the future.

The recommendations in the proposal were agreed to by the President and Chancellor Team, and the Transformation & Innovation Program (TIP) office was established to lead the project. A summary is shown in the Future State Recommendations tab in the section below.

**Technology Assessment (Completed March 2020)**

The objective of the assessment was to review, assess, and evaluate the information technology (IT) environment and provide recommendations, including a roadmap, for improving and aligning IT capabilities to meet the strategic needs of the University of Colorado (CU) students, faculty, and staff.

**Scope**

- Interviews and detailed documentation reviews to understand the current state of IT governance, IT finance, IT talent, technology capabilities, and services.
- Analysis of current IT capabilities and services relative to industry leading practices and identification of gaps between the current state and desired future state
- Recommendations regarding IT services and future state delivery models based on the findings
- Implementation plan, inclusive of a program management approach, success metrics, and recommended sequencing of initiatives

**Approach**

The approach enables a focus on each area in scope across four primary project phases and for the following entities of the University of Colorado (CU):

| A. Current State Assessment | B. Benchmarking | C. Future Delivery |

The approach looked at CU holistically and included the following entities:
• University of Colorado System Office (CU System Office), University Information Services (UIS), and University of Colorado Advancement Office (CU Advancement)
• Office of Information Technology (OIT) as each campus
• University of Colorado, Boulder (CU Boulder)
• University of Colorado, Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus (CU Denver/Anschutz)
• University of Colorado, Colorado Sprints (UCCS)

IT at the University of Colorado System

IT operations and strategy should be organized to support CU’s mission, values, and priorities.
"IT Strategy Tree" model maps CU's goals against the capabilities of IT

Application of the IT Transformation Framework
Current State Findings (as of March 2020)

While the current state technology assessment was being finalized in early March 2020,
critical business strategies coupled with the global health pandemic elevated the need to accelerate certain technology efforts. Therefore, current state may have changed since early March 2020.

Download Full Current State Findings Summary [4]

**Future State Recommendations**

Recommendations from Deloitte’s Technology Assessment are shown below and outline 19 initiatives. CU senior leadership approved 11 initiatives to launch at the outset of program, which have been prioritized and grouped according to work effort. Many of the initiatives support, or are dependent on, the Online Project as denoted below.
1. IT Governance

1.1 Redefine the Role of IT across CU to Clarify Responsibilities
1.2 Enhance System IT Governance to Improve Collaboration and Efficiency

4. Technology Capabilities

4.1 Consolidate Data Center Infrastructure Across CU and Standardize Cloud Capabilities
4.2 Enhance Networking Capabilities Across CU and Improve Wi-Fi Services
4.3 Enhance High Performance Computing Capabilities to Advance Research and Innovation
4.4 Implement an Enterprise Identity and Access Management Approach Across CU
4.5 Develop an Enterprise Approach to Security Operations
4.6 Deploy a Common Integration Layer to Enable Data Sharing Across CU
4.7 Develop a CU-Wide CRM Strategy
Download Full Future State Recommendations [5]

Groups audience:
Transformation & Innovation Program

Source URL: https://www.cu.edu/tip/program-description-scope

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