

Subject Line: Finishing Strong – Upholding Academic Integrity

Dear Colleagues,

This message is about *finishing strong*. You have ensured the success of our students through your dedication and hard work, especially during the pandemic and other challenges of the past year, and we have done so well as an academic community. CSU has risen to meet many COVID-19 challenges, thanks in great part to you.

Now we need to finish strong.

Although we effectively met many challenges, the pandemic-driven increase in online and hybrid instruction led to concomitant increase in student misuse of third-party for-profit homework platforms (e.g., Chegg) and chat programs (e.g., GroupMe) to violate, knowingly and unknowingly, academic honor and integrity policies and norms. The use of social media and chat programs to violate the CSU honor code is an especially vexing problem since student social media use is ubiquitous and unregulated, and an Ad Hoc Group was formed to address it.

It is important for instructors and students to report academic dishonesty when it is detected. If instructors suspect student(s) of academic misconduct and are uncertain as to how to handle, they should visit the [CSU Academic Honesty and Integrity website](#). Likewise, students are expected to adhere to the [CSU Student Honor Pledge](#) and report possible violations to instructors. Working together, we can protect CSU's academic integrity.

RAMS are Reliable, Accountable, Mindful, Sincere. A core value of our [Principles of Community](#) is Integrity.

We call on members of the CSU community to work together to meet our high standards for academic conduct. The Ad Hoc Working Group on Mass Academic Dishonesty Incidents Conducted on Social Media will share proposed strategies to support instructors and students in joint pursuit of learning and growth, *with integrity*.

We certainly need to use digital tools, but we cannot become unwitting "victims of the digital age." We must remind students of how they can best maintain fidelity to our university standards, while, in the long term, instructors work to best construct evaluations of learning that effectively discourage academic dishonesty.

Academic dishonesty is unacceptable under any circumstance or for any reason. We thank members of the Colorado State University community for doing their part to strengthen our cherished culture of integrity.

Together, we are better and stronger. Let's finish strong.

Sincerely,

Kelly Long,
Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs

Steven P. Dandaneau,
Associate Provost & Executive Director, Reinvention Collaborative