



## OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

### Message from the Provost & Executive Vice President



Dear Colleagues:

What an exciting time to work in higher education. We face challenges without doubt, but opportunities abound. Colorado State University is a premier institution with an exceptional reputation for teaching and research, and the impact of your work reaches from our campuses to every corner of the world.

A few days ago, I had the honor of representing President Amy Parsons and CSU at the League of Women Voters of Larimer County. I was asked to provide the keynote address for the League's celebration of Women's Equality Day commemorating passage of the Nineteenth Amendment giving women the right to vote. I was proud to talk about our Thematic Year of Democracy and all we continue to do to help our students listen to each other, dialogue with kindness, be active in our democracy, and learn what it means to be an informed global citizen.

Right before the start of the academic year, we celebrated our newest incoming class at convocation. When our census numbers come out in a few days, we anticipate the data will reveal this incoming class is one of the most diverse and largest in our history. We also expect this to be the largest class ever from Colorado with increased representation from our rural communities throughout the state. We have more students choosing us than ever before, and our responsibility to prepare them for the world ahead is more important than ever before.

- This year we continue to experience subtle and seismic shifts for all of us working in higher education, and for our students. Colleges are facing cultural, financial, and political headwinds, and our students are navigating university life socially and academically while the nation prepares for a highly contentious presidential election looming on the horizon.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to shepherd our students through this moment in history; to help them think differently and to think generously, and to make CSU a place where welcoming a diversity of ideas is commonplace, reflecting our shared values and Principles of Community.

I hold great optimism about the future even as we move against the challenges and political headwinds. I believe in our students and their ability to build a better world, and I believe in you as teaching and research faculty to prepare them as future leaders and agents of change.

I am grateful for the excellent work you do every day to advance our mission of access and inclusive excellence, and all you do to ensure the success of our students. Thank you, and I wish you a rewarding and productive fall semester.

Sincerely,  
Marion

Connect with the Provost & EVP: [LinkedIn – Marion Underwood](#) [X/Twitter – @MKUnderwood01](#)

### Save the Dates

#### Faculty Council Meet & Greet

Thursday, September 12, 3:30-5 p.m.

Lory Student Center Room 312

Meet & Greets are informal gatherings to engage with Faculty Council leadership and other members. Visit the [Faculty Council website](#) for more information.

#### The Provost's Ethics Colloquium on Mental Health

Tuesday, October 29, 9-11 a.m.,  
Reception 11-noon

Lory Student Center Theatre

Keynote: Dr. Katie Rose Guest Pryal,  
University of North Carolina School of Law

### Academic Leadership Updates

Several searches for academic leadership successfully concluded over the summer. It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome [Dr. Kjerstin Thorson as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts](#) and [Dr. Carolyn Lawrence-Dill as Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences](#), both of whom began their new roles Aug. 1.

We are also thrilled to announce that Dr. Kimberly Miloch will join our campus Nov. 1 as the inaugural Chief of Staff and Associate Vice Provost for Organizational Strategy and Academic Leadership Development in the Office of the Provost & Executive Vice President.

The search for [Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Success and Advising](#) commenced in August as an internal search, and finalist interviews will take place Sept. 10-12. Semifinalist interviews for the role of [Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Affairs](#) are complete, and finalist interviews are expected on campus starting in mid-September. Open forum dates and locations for both positions will be posted on their respective search pages, along with opportunities for the campus community to provide feedback.

Three finalists have been selected in the search for Director of the School of Global Environmental Sustainability, and interviews and open forums are expected to take place in September and October. More information will be posted on the [SoGES website](#).



**Dr. Kjerstin Thorson**  
Dean, CLA



**Dr. Carolyn Lawrence-Dill**  
Dean, CAS



**Dr. Kimberly Miloch**  
Chief of Staff,  
Provost/EVP  
Office

### Faculty Success

#### IDEA Department Grants

The Faculty Success program has awarded a total of \$74,000 to academic departments to advance equity-promoting practices at the unit level through the IDEA Grant program. IDEA grants have supported eight projects across 12 departments, with focuses on:

- developing a peer-mentoring network,
- improving promotion, tenure and evaluation processes,
- increasing opportunities for professional development and recruitment,
- supporting scholarship on equity and inclusion in STEM fields, and
- developing a new onboarding process.

Department chairs and heads who participate in the [Chairs & Heads Institute for Inclusive Excellence \(CHIE\)](#) are eligible to apply for IDEA grants. CHIE will be offered again in November 2024.

#### Enhancing Faculty Recruitment

Faculty Success has partnered with HR Talent Acquisition to enhance faculty recruitment at CSU, including two new efforts:

- A [new faculty search chair training](#), required for all new faculty search chairs and those who last completed a search chair training eight or more years ago. Spots are available for upcoming trainings this fall – additional information and registration here.
- A [faculty recruitment toolkit](#) containing a trove of resources on CSU processes and evidence-based best practices.

### Student Success

#### Sustaining Key Initiatives

Following the conclusion of [one-time student success support](#) from the CSU System Board of Governors, three key student success initiatives have been sustained due to their demonstrated impact on closing opportunity gaps and improving student retention:

- the [Bridge Scholars Program](#) run by the Access Center,
- [New Student Seminars](#) led by Orientation and Transition Programs, and
- the [Multicultural Undergraduate Research Art and Leadership Symposium \(MURALS\)](#) and [United in STEM](#) organized through the Office for Inclusive Excellence.

These initiatives have been supported at present scale and at scope moving forward.

#### A New Principles of Human Physiology

As a result of implementing a myriad of course-based student success strategies, [Principles of Human Physiology \(BMS300\)](#) is transforming to meet the learning and student success needs of today's college students.

Through formative class assessments, teaching assistant-led exam review and tutoring, expanded office hours, and research-informed learning analytics and [science of learning interventions](#), students are completing this course with significantly improved learning and GPAs.

## Announcements

- **New Faculty Orientation** – The Office of the Provost/Executive Vice President and The Institute for Learning and Teaching are pleased to welcome new faculty members to CSU by hosting the New Faculty Orientation series. There will be two in-person events designed to create a sense of belonging and give new faculty information they need to get their career off to a successful start. Look for more information on the [Provost's New Faculty Orientation page](#).
- **2024 Symposium for Inclusive Excellence** – Join OIE Oct. 21-25 for the largest Symposium for Inclusive Excellence yet, featuring more than 60 workshops, a special film screening selected by the ACT Film Festival, guest speakers, and discussion panels. This is one of the largest free professional development conferences in the country centered on diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. A new web-based event platform will be used to host the symposium this year. Registration opens on September 2. The link to register will be on the [Office for Inclusive Excellence's symposium site](#).
- **Graduate Advising Training** – The Graduate Center for Inclusive Mentoring (GCIM) is excited to announce that registration is now open for the [Mentor Well Program](#) for Fall 2024! Additionally, the Mentor Well Bootcamp series will be offered in January 2025. The Mentor Well Program, open to faculty members advising graduate students, enhances faculty mentoring by developing skills that promote the personal and professional well-being of their mentees through scientifically based, effective methods. If you don't have a prior registration for sessions in the Mentor Well Program, you must first enroll in the program by selecting the ENROLL option at the top of the [CSU training page](#), and then you can [register for each session here](#).
- **Undergraduate Research and Artistry** – CSU's [Mentored Research and Artistry Distinction](#) is open to all undergraduate students regardless of major. The goal is to recognize student excellence in research and artistry, and students earn notation on their transcript and silver cords of distinction for graduation. If you work with undergraduate students in research or other creative projects, TILT encourages you to share with them the [interest form](#).



## Higher Education News

Nationwide concerns continue to rise about a growing mental health crisis in higher education. Discussions center on everything from student loneliness to increases in post-traumatic stress disorder to students of color being less likely to seek help than their white peers for anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. Here are two articles worth reading on the issue:

- *U.S. News & World Report* covered the outcomes of a panel examining student mental health held at the State of Equality in America conference in Washington, D.C. over the summer. The June 2024 article, "[Mental Health on College Campuses: Challenges and Solutions](#)," also cites data from a *U.S. News* survey that says about 70% of students have struggled with mental health since starting college.
- *The Chronicle of Higher Education* recently addressed the issue in an August 2024 article titled, "[Fighting the Mental-Health Crisis Narrative: Do young people misunderstand everyday stress?](#)" An excerpt from the article reads: "Amid rising overall rates of anxiety and depression, researchers report an increase in social anxiety, among late adolescents and college students in particular. That's contributed to what has been described as an epidemic of loneliness."

The CSU Libraries provide a [campus subscription to \*The Chronicle\*](#).

## Points of Pride

- **Temple Grandin** (Animal Sciences), Colorado State University's renowned animal scientist and autism advocate, received the [2024 Denver Business Journal's Outstanding Women in Business Lifetime Achievement Award](#).
- The College of Business' **Supply Chain Management Concentration** was named the [No. 12 undergraduate logistics program in North America](#) by Gartner, recognizing the program's scope and value to industry.
- **Atmospheric Science** embarked on teaching the College of Engineering's first AUCC course, [ATS 150: The Science of Climate Change](#), which supports the education of CSU's undergraduates on topics related to climate and sustainability and is a key contributor to undergraduate certificates and majors on campus.
- The American Psychological Association honored University Distinguished Professor **Manfred Diehl** (Human Development and Family Studies) with the prestigious [Paul B. Baltes Distinguished Research Award](#), recognizing his impactful career in human aging.
- **Stephanie Malin and Mindy Hill** (Center for Environmental Justice) are working on a Department of Energy grant led by Boise State's Energy Policy Institute, hosting public conversations in Colorado on community priorities for consent-based siting of critical infrastructure. As part of the [Common Ground Consortium](#), the goal is to improve public engagement processes, like those for energy/nuclear technology-related facilities.
- The Ecological Society of America awarded **Sara Petrita Bombaci** (Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology) the [Murray F. Buell Award for Excellence in Ecology](#) for her multidisciplinary research blending conservation and social science in pursuit of innovative solutions to conserve biodiversity while meeting diverse human needs.
- Assistant Professor **Kate Wilsterman**, Department of Biology, has been named a [2024 Boettcher Investigator](#). The award will further her team's research on reproductive physiology at high altitude.
- **Sandra "Q" Quackenbush** (Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology), was recognized as an educational and scientific leader with the [2024 Kevin Ann Oltjenbruns Award for Outstanding Leadership](#), capping off a three-decade career at CSU. Retiring from academic life, Q leaves a legacy that reaches from classrooms and labs to international leadership in virology.
- **Dr. Sara Anne Tompkins** (Graduate School) and her dog, **Bear**, earned a [HABIC Human-Animal certification](#) in July. They will offer de-stressing interventions for graduate students.
- The Graduate School's **Dr. Kristina Quynn**, Co-PI, received a \$50,000 grant from the [Colorado Department of Higher Education's Open Education Resources Grant](#) to develop resources for GradCO, supporting statewide graduate and postdoctoral professional development.
- CSU is a key partner in two multimillion-dollar projects aimed at [producing new regenerative therapies for patients with osteoarthritis](#). Co-principal investigators for the CSU sub-awards are **Kelly Santangelo**, veterinary clinical pathologist and professor (Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology); **Laurie Goodrich**, professor and director of the Orthopedic Research Center; **Jeremiah Easley**, director of the Preclinical Surgical Research Laboratory; and **Ben Gadomski**, associate research professor at the Orthopedic Bioengineering Research Laboratory.
- Associate Professor **Justin Sambur** (Chemistry) was awarded the [CSU Monfort Professorship for 2024-26](#). The action plan he submitted for the award focused on creating new clean hydrogen technologies at CSU, envisioning a societal shift away from the current fossil-fuel based economy.
- CSU has once again been selected to participate in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education's Academy for Leaders in the Humanities. **Dr. Ray Black** (Race, Gender, and Ethnic Studies), will represent CSU as our [WICHE Fellow for 2024-26](#), joining **Dr. Tom Dunn** (Communication Studies), 2023-25 WICHE Fellow.
- **Rodolfo Valdes-Vasquez**, associate professor in the Department of Construction Management, received the [2024 Associated Schools of Construction Region 6 Outstanding Educator Award](#), honoring his teaching impact and dedication to the industry.
- **Sudeep Pasricha** (Electrical and Computer Engineering) has been named a [Distinguished Lecturer for the IEEE Council on Electronic Design Automation](#). He is one of only four in the select group of scholars chosen to promote the field of electronic design automation to the scientific community and public at large.
- In recognition of interdisciplinary contributions to the scientific understanding of teams, Department of Management senior research scholar **Mary "Mara" Waller** received the [Joseph E. McGrath Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Study of Groups](#) by INGroup.
- **Eugene Kelly** (Soil & Crop Sciences), a soil scientist with a decades-long career in agriculture, urbanization, and climate change, has been appointed by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to a three-year term as [chair of the U.S. National Committee for Soil Sciences](#).