

[Campuses define concealed carry in student housing](#)[1]

The University of Colorado Boulder and University of Colorado Colorado Springs will amend their student housing contracts in response to the Colorado Supreme Court's ruling earlier this year.

Both campuses will establish a residential area for residents over age 21 who possess a valid concealed carry permit (at CU-Boulder, University Apartment Graduate Housing). For other residential areas, the student housing contracts will not permit residents to engage in concealed carry. Attendees at ticketed athletics and cultural events on both campuses also will not be permitted to engage in concealed carry.

The campuses made their decisions after engaging in an extensive evaluation of Colorado law, the practices of other universities, and dialogue with students, faculty, law enforcement and other community members.

The amendments to the housing contracts are consistent with those employed in other jurisdictions with concealed-carry laws that are similar to Colorado's law. By creating a housing option for students with concealed-carry permits, the campuses have attempted to balance the competing interests while preserving campus safety. Each campus will continue to prohibit all other weapons in all housing units, consistent with existing Regent Policy.

Patrick T. O'Rourke, vice president, university counsel and secretary of the Board of Regents, believes that the amendments to the housing contracts are lawful and recognize the unique contractual nature of student housing.

"In contrast to other public buildings, student housing presents a relationship that is essentially landlord-tenant," O'Rourke said. "Like other tenants in the community, residents in student housing can agree not to bring weapons into a particular living environment."

In those residential areas where residents may possess a concealed weapon, the housing contract has been designed to promote safety. The resident must store any weapon in a gun safe when it is not physically in the resident's possession and the resident may not display the weapon in an open manner.

[Staff Council focuses on professional development, review process](#)[2]

Professional development – including more accessible training, tapping into campus resources, and an effort to target needs of each campus – will be an area of focus of the University of Colorado Staff Council (UCSC) during the upcoming academic year.

UCSC members:Officers

Stephanie Hanenberg, chair; Carla Ho-a (Johnson), vice chair; Tyson Randall, treasurer; Erin Foster, secretary **CU-Boulder**

Dana Drummond; Erin Foster, John McKee, Philip Bradley (alternate) **CU Denver, CU Anschutz Medical Campus**
Deserae Frisk, Malaika White, Danny Felipe-Morales, Jennifer Williams **Colorado Springs**

Deidre Green, Rhea Taylor, Ida Dilwood, Carla Rupprecht **System**

Tricia Strating, Leo Balaban, Debbie Martin, Jim Dages (alternate)

The council, which includes several new members, met Aug. 9 to plan its annual retreat, where members will define the development goals. The group will spend Oct. 4-5 in Breckenridge discussing the agenda, which likely will include performance management.

Council members previously have discussed disparities in the execution of employee reviews – sometimes within the same department – and Boulder Campus Staff Council drafted a resolution calling for an improved system, especially because merit raises often are dependent on performance evaluations.

The resolution states: "Boulder Campus Staff Council representatives have heard anecdotally from many staff members and appointing authorities that the existing performance management processes are not efficient, fair and consistent. They are not an effective tool to measure work performance and to use those measurements for the

determination of merit increases.”

[In the document](#)^[3], the Boulder Staff Council recommends that the campus adopt and implement a variety of performance management system goals, including consistent supervisor training, fair and consistent evaluations, and an audit system to ensure procedures are properly executed. The resolution will be sent to Boulder campus administrators.

During the Staff Council meeting, members said constituents feel that the performance management system seems to be broken. They said evaluation results are subjective, even within the more regimented format used for classified employees. Depending on supervisors, results could differ widely, council members said. The format for exempt professionals is decentralized and often is completely different, even within the same unit. Council members said a feedback loop is missing, and supervisor training is absent.

“Because a performance management system feeds into the merit increases, it’s a sore point for people,” said Carla Ho-a (formerly Johnson), who recently stepped down as UCSC chair to focus on additional duties in her position of associate dean for finance and administration in the College of Nursing.

Ho-a will remain on the council as vice chair. Stephanie Hanenberg, formerly vice chair, will assume the role of council chair.

Also at the meeting, E. Jill Pollock, vice president of employee and information services, said in the next month, employees will be asked to comment on the university’s health and wellness programs in an effort to provide new or enhanced services for better employee health or increased patient satisfaction.

[Five questions for Bill Possel](#)^[4]

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Bill Possel grew up during the heady days of NASA’s Apollo missions, after President John Kennedy challenged the space agency to put a man on the moon and when astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first to place imprints on the lunar surface. Excited by what he saw, Possel dreamed about working in the space program.

It became the main reason why he joined the U.S. Air Force. During his 27-year career, which he finished as a colonel, he realized his dream, with duties that included working on space shuttle experiments and developing large satellites. The work he enjoyed most, however, was spacecraft operations, and in 2006, that led him to the Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics (LASP) at the University of Colorado Boulder, where he is director of Mission Operations and Data Systems.

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LASP focuses on science within our solar system, with scientists and engineering staff working together to build and later operate space instruments and spacecraft. The research institute also takes data from the missions it monitors, processes the information and then disseminates the data back to the scientists.

LASP employs about 450 people; Possel’s group numbers about 100, split between scientists and staff members. About 50 students also are involved in the work. “I’m thrilled to be able to work in a position like this at CU,” Possel says. “It’s at a marvelous institute, especially because we actually are operating NASA spacecraft with students. That’s probably why I’m here.”

1. What are the NASA spacecraft that LASP operates?

We operate four: Solar Radiation and Climate Experiment (SORCE), Aeronomy of Ice in the Mesosphere (AIM), Quick Scatterometer (QuikSCAT), and Kepler. If you add up all the dollars it took to build those satellites, it's more than a billion dollars' worth of missions that we operate here. LASP built all of the instruments on SORCE and two of the three instruments on AIM. We're focused on the mission operations part of Kepler and QuikSCAT.

SORCE, for instance, looks at the sun's radiation – the total amount of light coming from the sun – as well as the specular radiance, or how much light is coming from different wavelengths. Data from it plays a role in climate models. AIM is designed to monitor high-altitude clouds above Earth's polar regions.

2. You help run Kepler operations with student support. How does that work?



Students are involved in software development, including the software we use to operate the spacecraft and instruments, and for the planning and scheduling of activities. They're also involved in data processing and data distribution. There are a lot of very smart students who have computer science backgrounds or science and physics backgrounds who help us. We also recruit students to support us in the operations of spacecraft, and they are the ones that send commands to spacecraft under the supervision of one of our staff members. In that program, we bring students in, usually at the end of their sophomore year, and take them through a 12-week summer training program where we teach them everything from basic orbital mechanics to specific details about each one of our spacecraft, our instruments and how they all work. After earning certificates, student responsibilities in these paid positions include working shifts when we have commanding passes and we send commands to the spacecraft. They're also in charge of subsystems, so for instance, the students monitor how the batteries are doing. There's also a student team that each day looks at the telemetry and performs an assessment of how well their subsystem is performing. They are pretty much our first line of defense concerning the health of the spacecraft, instruments and subsystems, so they play a very critical role.

We also bring students in for anomalies -- problems with the spacecraft. Whether it is nights, weekends or holidays, we'll call in students who are on shift to assist with recovery activities: understanding what went wrong, how to fix the problem, and how to get back to collecting science. They're getting important hands-on experiences at CU.

Other schools work with smaller spacecraft, but we have the strongest student program because of our training. Every year during the certification process, only an average of 70 percent will pass. These are the cream-of-the-crop students who make it through the interview process. They work full time in the summer and 20 hours a week during the school year, so students must balance that workload with their academic workload. It's a challenging and demanding job.

3. Kepler initially was launched to “look” at 100,000 stars. What types of information has the spacecraft delivered to us so far?

Kepler is nearing three and a half years of operations, and the mission has been extended for another two years, so we'll keep operating it. The spacecraft is changing the way we understand planet formation, and has found more than 3,000 new planets, all within our galaxy. Kepler is looking for Earth-like planets in an Earth-like orbit. It's a photometer, so if a planet goes in front of a star, the light or intensity from the star dips a little bit. If the light thins today and you see the same dip in the star a year from now, you can say, “Maybe that's a planet.” You wait another year or for another data point and collect the data, then wait again. If it happens again over the same cycle, scientists say that's a potential planet. So we're close to probably finding an Earth-like planet in an Earth-like orbit.

After a review of all NASA missions, Kepler was ranked as the No. 2 mission doing this type of physics. There's also a lot of excitement from the public about it. It is finding planets that we never thought could exist: planets larger than Jupiter that orbit their stars every three days. We've been able to detect these because of a couple of reasons. The orbit Kepler is in is called an Earth trailing orbit, so it goes around the sun, looking at one region of our galaxy. It is focusing on a specific area, and the camera that Ball Aerospace built, the photometer, is extremely sensitive. That's been one of the keys to the success of the program. Kepler is about 10 times more accurate than Hubble. Because of an advancement in detectors in pointing performance and the smart scientists on the ground who process data, we can pull out very weak signals to determine if these are planets. Kepler is revolutionizing our understanding of how planets

are formed and our students are part of the team making new discoveries.

4. What are some of your favorite memories from your time with LASP?

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One was the night we launched Kepler. We had an open house at LASP with probably 500 visitors watching the launch on TV and witnessing the first contact we had with Kepler. That many people at an event like this was very special. We were in the control room and I remember the first moment we saw the signal coming back from Kepler and knew it was fine and healthy. That was very exciting.

The other was recently. One of our former students that graduated in 2006 was key member of the Mars “Curiosity” team. He was interviewed on an L.A. television station a week before the launch. Here was a student that went through our program and now has a major role in the success of that mission. It shows the kind of students who graduate from the program and how they go on to very good positions. They’re given more responsibility than a graduate from another school because of the experience they had at LASP.

5. The night sky inspires awe or romance for many of us. What do you see?

I enjoy amateur astronomy. I’ve been part of a group that goes to Rocky Mountain National Park, which puts on stargazing events about six or seven Friday evenings over the summer. I go out there with 20 or so other amateurs and we bring out telescopes. Usually we have a crowd of more than 100, most of whom have never looked through a telescope or seen the rings of Saturn or the spot on Jupiter. I’ve been doing amateur astronomy since I was a kid and I’ve been teaching at the park for 10 years. It’s the coolest thing when you have a little kid who looks through the telescope and you hear a “wow” when they see a planet or a star.

[New study shows heroin, morphine addiction can be blocked](#)[\[9\]](#)

In a major breakthrough, an international team of scientists from the University of Adelaide and University of Colorado Boulder has proven that addiction to morphine and heroin can be blocked, while at the same time increasing pain relief.

The team has discovered the key mechanism in the body’s immune system that amplifies addiction to opioid drugs. Laboratory studies involving rats have shown that the drug (+)-naloxone will selectively block the immune-addiction response.

“Our studies have shown conclusively that we can block addiction via the immune system of the brain, without targeting the brain’s wiring,” said lead author Dr. Mark Hutchinson, ARC Research Fellow in the University of Adelaide’s School of Medical Sciences.

“Both the central nervous system and the immune system play important roles in creating addiction, but our studies have shown we only need to block the immune response in the brain to prevent cravings for opioid drugs.”

The results – which could eventually lead to new co-formulated drugs that assist patients with severe pain, as well as helping heroin users to kick the habit – are published in the Aug. 15 edition of the Journal of Neuroscience.

The team has focused its research efforts on the immune receptor known as Toll-Like receptor 4, or TLR4.

“Opioid drugs such as morphine and heroin bind to TLR4 in a similar way to the normal immune response to bacteria. The problem is that TLR4 then acts as an amplifier for addiction,” Hutchinson said.

“The drug (+)-naloxone automatically shuts down the addiction,” he said. “It shuts down the need to take opioids, it cuts out behaviors associated with addiction, and the neurochemistry in the brain changes – dopamine, which is the chemical important for providing that sense of ‘reward’ from the drug, is no longer produced.”

Senior author professor Linda Watkins, from the Center for Neuroscience at CU-Boulder, said: "This work fundamentally changes what we understand about opioids, reward and addiction. We've suspected for some years that TLR4 may be the key to blocking opioid addiction, but now we have the proof.

"The drug that we've used to block addiction, (+)-naloxone, is a non-opioid mirror-image drug that was created by Dr. Kenner Rice in the 1970s," she said. "We believe this will prove extremely useful as a co-formulated drug with morphine, so that patients who require relief for severe pain will not become addicted but still receive pain relief. This has the potential to lead to major advances in patient and palliative care."

The researchers say clinical trials may be possible within the next 18 months.

The study has been funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse in the United States and the Australian Research Council, or ARC.

[Alumni. Admissions offices take to phones for early welcome of students](#)^[10]

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Representatives from the Denver Campus Alumni Association recently teamed with Admissions Office staff in a phone-a-thon reaching out to incoming first-year and transfer students.

Jack Kroll (above left), past president CU Denver Student Government Association (SGA), lent a helping hand during the Aug. 7 phone-a-thon.

"This is a 'yield enhancement' activity that these two offices have done since 1997," said Barbara Edwards, assistant vice chancellor for Enrollment Management. "The phone-a-thon is held during the weeks before the beginning of fall and spring semesters. The calls are focused on those new students that have registered for classes for the upcoming semesters, and it's intended to provide a welcome from alumni to CU Denver.

"We get great feedback from new students and their parents about how they enjoyed and appreciated this personal touch from CU Denver."

Throughout the evening, 570 calls were made, 235 connected directly with students, 268 messages were left with a call-back number and request to contact the Admissions Office directly if they had any questions.

Among the outbound callers were 15 alumni callers including Dan Bush (above right), Urban Design and Urban and Regional Planning (MA'07) and Environmental Engineer (MPA '07), now with Matrix Environmental Services LLC. He has served as a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and is taking on the role of president this year. Bush also has worked on the alumni scholarship committee and commencement.

[Evolution of branding to be focus of fall forum](#)^[13]

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A refined UCCS logo, guidelines for its use, and the relationship of UCCS to University of Colorado branding efforts will be the primary subject for the first forum of the fall semester.

The forum is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. Aug. 28 at the University Center Theater. Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak and Martin Wood, vice chancellor, University Advancement, will lead the discussion and provide an overview of a new UCCS logo.

The forum will feature giveaways with the new logo as well as a question-and-answer session about both implementation of the change and resources to help. Jeff Foster, multimedia marketing specialist, University Advancement, will be available to help departments with the change.

"Many people are going to ask if they have to throw out their business cards or other materials that have the old logo on it," Wood said recently. "The answer is no. Departments should use their existing supplies. If you're going to do something new, we ask that you begin using the new logo."

The new logo represents an evolution of changes enacted over the past three years by the CU system to better align CU campuses and the CU Foundation and to unify the university's image with prospective students, donors, legislators and other key audiences.

For more information about CU branding efforts, please visit www.uccs.edu/brand[15]

[Ahmed recognized for excellence, leadership](#)[16]

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Medhat Ahmed, coordinator of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion at CU Anschutz Medical Campus, has been recognized among the Men of Distinction, Excellence and Leadership (M.O.D.E.L.) presented by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

Ahmed was nominated for the award by Lia Nelson-James, coordinator of Student Assistant Services at the Anschutz Medical Campus. Ahmed also is director of the Undergraduate Pre-Health Program and coordinates Outreach and Pipeline Programs.

The M.O.D.E.L. award recognizes and honors the outstanding achievements of men in the Denver community who exemplify the values of Alpha Kappa Alpha. Those values are excellence in education, career and community. The award will be presented to Ahmed at the annual M.O.D.E.L. Awards Luncheon Sept. 15 at the Marriott City Center.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority became America's first Greek-letter organization established by Black College women in 1908. Through the years, Alpha Kappa Alpha's function has become more complex growing from one undergraduate chapter to an international organization with a membership of more than 200,000 women. The first chapter came to Colorado in 1949.

[System Staff Council recruiting team for diabetes walk](#)[18]

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System Staff Council is leading a team in the JDRF Walk to Cure Diabetes, a family-oriented, 5K walk set for Sunday, Sept. 9, at Coors Field.

The council is committed to having a large team of walkers to raise at least \$1,000 collectively. To reach the goal, walkers are invited to join the Walk to Cure Diabetes team, CU – Office of the President. All registered walkers will receive a University of Colorado walk T-shirt.

Diabetes is a chronic disease that affects many of us in different ways – sons or daughters, mothers or fathers, grandparents or ourselves. CU has much research grant work focusing on finding better treatments and a cure for diabetes.

To join the walk team, [register online](#)[20] and click on “Join this Team.” Next, ask your family, friends and neighbors to sponsor you by making a contribution to JDRF, or to walk with you on our team. You may even fundraise online by logging in to your online Participant Center at www.walk.jdrf.org[21] and creating a personal page to raise even more money. Finally, join our team at 9 a.m. Sept. 9 in the Coors Field parking lot as the team will “Walk to Cure Diabetes!”

For more information, contact team captain David Pierce, David.Pierce@cu.edu[22], 303-837-2129.

[Anschutz faculty, high school educators talk collaboration at annual meeting](#)[23]

Robert Winn

The Anschutz Medical Campus recently hosted teachers from Aurora’s Hinkley High School for their annual before-school, team-building meeting. Presenters gave teachers a better idea of what Anschutz has to offer their students after graduating high school.

On hand to speak with the teachers was the staff of the [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#)[25] at Anschutz Medical Campus. The first item that was talked about was the relatively new [BA/BS – MD program](#)[26].

The program is run by Charles Ferguson, Ph.D., and is in its third year this fall. The program is designed to assemble eight to 10 outstanding students from diverse backgrounds who are committed to serving the health care needs of Colorado. The eight-year program leads to a doctorate. The students must maintain a 3.5 grade point average as well as receive no lower than a B in any class.

Also speaking to the teachers was John L. Barry, superintendent of Aurora Public Schools.

“Everyone needs help at some point – please do not hesitate to ask,” Barry said. “Higher education, not only at Anschutz Medical Campus, wants students that are prepared and it is our job to prepare them accordingly.”

In the afternoon, Robert Winn, M.D., an associate professor in pulmonary sciences, spoke to the teachers about the difference they make to their students.

“Students reflect the attitude of their teachers,” he said. “I am happy you guys are here. You are making a difference in your student’s lives already.”

Winn concluded his speech by saying, “We are the agents of change.”

The day ended with a tour of the new [Anschutz Health and Wellness Center](#)[27], in which teachers were given the opportunity to learn how to enhance not only their students’ minds but their physical well-being.

Said Raul Cardenas, associate vice chancellor for student affairs, "As a community of educators, we know that preparation is a vital key to success in life's endeavors. Students who prepare to pursue higher education are more likely to accomplish their goals. You are on the front lines and best-positioned to ensure the preparation is complete and meaningful to the next generation of college-bound students."

The University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus will be working with local area high schools in the next few weeks to strengthen ties. Green Mountain High School in Jefferson County has teachers on the downtown campus this week.

[Webb to lead undergraduate research initiative](#)[28]

Webb

Rebecca Webb, assistant professor, College of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, will lead a yearlong campus initiative to expand opportunities for undergraduate students to be involved in real-world research projects.

To launch the initiative, Webb hosted an undergraduate research seminar to promote the work currently under way and to strengthen faculty-student relationships. Webb hopes the undergraduate research initiative will benefit students and faculty. For Webb, one of the great things about having undergraduate researchers is seeing them grow and develop skills through real-world research. Undergraduates involved in research typically do better in the classroom and learn more in the lab, Webb said. Also, students who work in the lab apply for graduate school at a higher rate than those who don't thanks to the knowledge they gain and the investment of time they receive from the faculty supervising them. Faculty also benefits from the partnership, Webb said.

[Dropping names...](#)[30]

Phil Strain and **Ted Bovey**, researchers with CU Denver's School of Education and Human Development (SEHD), have been recognized by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Studies in a What Works Clearinghouse review/report. The review highlights their work to develop the LEAP training and support model to improve outcomes of preschool children with autism. Work in autism by Strain and Bovey also was recognized earlier this year as "significant progress" by the Interagency Autism Coordinating Council, a congressionally created entity to advance autism research across federal agencies. ... **Mike Wilson**, pathology professor at the School of Medicine, has been named the new editor in chief of the American Journal of Clinical Pathology, the leading clinical-oriented, peer-reviewed pathology and laboratory medicine research journal. ... School of Medicine's **Ed McCabe**, professor of pediatrics, has joined the Board of Directors for the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology representing the American Society of Human Genetics, of which he is a past president. The foundation is the nation's largest group of biomedical researchers.

Links

[1] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/campuses-define-concealed-carry-student-housing>[2]
<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/staff-council-focuses-professional-development-review-process>[3] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/BCSC-1302_improved-performance-mgmt.pdf[4]
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