CU names two Jefferson Award honorees for 2024[1]

Two University of Colorado community members have been named recipients of the 2024 Thomas Jefferson Award, among the highest honors bestowed at the state's largest institution of higher education.

The honorees are:

Faculty: **Ajume Wingo,** Ph.D., Department of Philosophy, CU Boulder

Student: **Matthew Miranda,** undergraduate, Class of 2024, CU Boulder

Named for the third U.S. president and a Founding Father who greatly influenced American arts, sciences, education and public affairs, the biennial Jefferson Award[2] recognizes CU faculty, staff and students who demonstrate excellence in the performance of regular responsibilities at the university while also contributing noteworthy service to the broader community.

The awardees were chosen for embodying and advancing the ideals of Thomas Jefferson: broad interests in literature, arts and sciences, and public affairs; a strong concern for the advancement of higher education; a deeply seated sense of individual civic responsibility; and a profound commitment to the welfare and rights of the individual.

The honorees will be celebrated at an awards reception, 3-5 p.m. April 22 in the Flatirons Rooms of the Center for Community at CU Boulder. Click here to register.[3]

Ajume Wingo

An associate professor of philosophy in the College of Arts and Sciences at CU Boulder, Ajume Wingo's commitment to humanitarian causes and dedication to catalyzing positive change extends across the globe.

A prince from the kingdom of Nso in Cameroon, Wingo joined CU Boulder in 2009. He has founded organizations advancing human welfare and liberty in some of Africa's most needy communities.

In Cameroon and Ghana, Wingo founded nonprofit humanitarian organizations that make biodegradable sanitary pads that are distributed to local girls. PridePads Africa also educates community members about menstruation, working to fight the stigma that contributes to barriers facing young women.

Wingo also established a nongovernmental entity that built systems to provide clean water to communities in need, a particular help to women and girls who previously carried water in vessels on their heads. Another of Wingo's efforts is helping to bring peace to Cameroon in the wake of civil conflict.

In academia, Wingo is a respected authority in political philosophy, political monuments, and ethics. He has published widely on liberal democratic philosophy and politics, particularly on institutional building in places where there are non-liberal democratic or illegitimate political institutions. He has also published on civic education, African politics, African art, and aesthetics.

Matthew Miranda

A first-generation, nontraditional student, Matthew Miranda is a senior studying political science and communication with a Leadership Studies Minor at CU Boulder, with graduation expected in August.

After a brief stint in community college, Miranda earned his Personal Training Certification and worked as a fitness trainer before the outbreak of COVID-19 across the country. Seeking a second shot at earning a degree, he left his home in Florida and moved to Colorado on his own during the pandemic.

At CU Boulder, he took on the role of program director for CU GOLD (Gaining Opportunities through Leadership Development), which provides peer-to-peer education on leadership topics including effective communication, public speaking, ethics, conflict management, and more. During Miranda's three semesters at the post, CU GOLD saw a record of over 300 student participants. He forged partnerships with numerous clubs and organizations on campus, fought for an increased budget for the program, and added more paid student positions to the executive board. His advocacy for leadership education for college students has earned him awards including Student Leader of the Year and the James E. Schafer Leadership Award.

Miranda has a passion for public service. He has interned for U.S. Sen. John Hickenlooper and state Rep. Eliza Hamrick. He also worked on a successful political campaign as a campaign manager for Lafayette's mayor, J.D. Mangat. Miranda also helped relaunch the Boulder County Young Democrats, where he now serves as chair. His future aspiration is to run for elected office, where he can continue to advocate for leadership education and champion policy important to young people.

Winners of CU's Thomas Jefferson Awards are selected by a committee of CU faculty, staff and students. Recipients receive an engraved plaque and a $2,000 honorarium.

The Thomas Jefferson Award was established at the University of Virginia in 1951 by the Robert Earll McConnell Foundation to honor teaching faculty who exemplified the humanistic ideals associated with Jefferson. By 1962, six other institutions – including CU – had established a Jefferson Award. In 1980, the university added a student category; in 1988, the staff category was approved. Funding for the awards is derived from earnings on an endowment provided by the McConnell Foundation and from a bequest by Harrison Blair, a CU alumnus.

President Todd Saliman visits CU Denver campus[4]

[5]

CU Denver hosted Todd Saliman, the University of Colorado's 24th president, on April 3 to meet with students, faculty and staff and learn more about important campus initiatives.

President Saliman and other leaders from the CU system began their visit by meeting with Chancellor Michelle Marks and with shared governance leaders from the CU Denver Staff Council and then the Faculty Assembly and University of Colorado Denver Association of Lecturers and Instructors (UCDALI).

President Saliman began each session with an update on some of the things happening at the system level, including many of the important legislative bills being discussed at the state Capitol. President Saliman also thanked Chancellor Marks for hosting this week's Board of Regents meeting on the CU Denver campus.

The discussion with the Staff Council allowed the group to voice their support for and appreciation of upcoming changes to the Tuition Assistance Benefit program. The group felt the changes will positively impact current and future employees who wish to continue their higher education journey at CU. The group also shared the success of the Clifton StrengthsFinder event, sponsored by Staff Council. Members in attendance believe that events with a focus like StrengthsFinder are great tools for keeping staff engaged and prospering.

The Faculty Assembly and UCDALI began their discussion with positive feedback on the plans to make it easier for students who may not be accepted to CU Boulder to receive immediate notifications about their potential opportunities at CU Denver and UCCS. They viewed this as a very positive opportunity to increase enrollment. The group expanded the discussion to other opportunities for partnership, including support for students who may find success in CU Denver programs like engineering and business. The group also discussed the importance of understanding the Auraria Higher Education Center's (AHEC) funding model better to ensure CU Denver faculty, staff and students are not funding projects that should be within AHEC's mandate.

President Saliman concluded his morning meetings and transitioned to lunch with a group of CU Denver students

representing a wide range of majors and backgrounds. The group included Student Government Association President Bria Combs, whom President Saliman thanked again for helping to lobby for House Bill 24-1340, Incentives for Post-Secondary Education, at the Capitol. He particularly enjoyed hearing about each student's journey to CU, which served as a powerful reminder of the many pathways that exist for students interested in CU Denver.

The daylong meeting schedule closed with a discussion that included the enrollment and student success team. The focus was on the department's strategies for addressing the campus's current enrollment challenges. President Saliman appreciated the updates and the work being done to increase enrollment while focusing on retention strategies that create successful pathways for all CU Denver students.

The CU Denver visit followed stops earlier this year at UCCS and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus[6]. The president's current series of campus visits is scheduled to conclude with an upcoming trip to CU Boulder.

See what's around the next turn this Open Enrollment[7]

Call for proposals: Accessing Higher Ground 2024[8]

Accessing Higher Ground 2024[9], the official conference of ATHEN[10], and presented by AHEAD[11], is now accepting first-round proposals for its 27th annual conference in Denver.

The submission deadline is April 30. The conference is set for Nov. 11-15 at the Hilton Denver City Center.

Accessing Higher Ground seeks proposals on topics such as:
Accessible media Universal Design Best practices for web and media development Accessible curriculum Alternate format Artificial Intelligence Legal and policy issues, including ADA and 508 compliance Evidence-based research Other topics related to accessibility in higher education and other environments, including campus-wide or business-wide accessibility initiatives.
View last year's sessions[12] to get a full sense of the typical agenda and range of topics.

Besides one- and two-hour main conference sessions, organizers also are looking for three- or six-hour pre-conference proposals.

Proposal submission

Use the online speaker proposal form[13] to submit your proposal. Additional speaker information can be found on the AHG website[14].

Speaker discounts:
Out-of-state speakers receive a 10% discount on registration ATHEN and AHEAD members receive an additional 10% discount Pre-con speakers receive a 50% discount for three-hour sessions and 100% waiver for full-day workshops
If you have any questions about proposal submission or the conference, contact Howard Kramer at 720-351-8668 or ahg1@ahead.org[15]

Conference URL: http://accessinghigherground.org/[9]

CU Boulder leads the charge toward gender parity in engineering [16]

UCCS earns ninth straight Military Friendly Gold ranking [17]

Making CU Denver more accessible friendly [18]

From sepsis to cervical cancer: AI helps CU Anschutz save lives [19]

DiStefano addresses faculty assembly [20]

Johnson on sharpening math reasoning and engagement [21]

In memoriam: Linda Bunnell [22]

Why trekking poles are the most underrated piece of outdoor gear[23]

High-potency marijuana highlights the risk of cannabis-induced psychiatric disorders[24]

New AI tool at UCHealth improves polyp detection rate during colonoscopies[25]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/cu-names-two-jefferson-award-honorees-2024[2] https://www.cu.edu/office-academic-affairs/awards-grants/thomas-jefferson-award[3] https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcvent.me%2Fv08Qeo&data=05%7C02%7Cdedrick%40cu.edu%7Cb7bbd8092d694499f53908dc580ff

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https://connections.cu.edu/stories/president-todd-saliman-visits-cu-denver-campus[5]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/todd_cu_denver_visit_twitter_connections_crop_04-11-2024.jpg[6]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/president-saliman-s-series-campus-visits-begins-uccs-cu-anschutz[7]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/see-what-s-around-next-turn-open-enrollment[8]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/call-proposals-accessing-higher-ground-2024[9]
https://accessinghigherground.org/[10] https://athenpro.org/[11] https://www.ahead.org/home[12]
https://accessinghigherground.org/schedule-2023/#cs_2023-11-08[13] https://accessinghigherground.org/speaker-proposal-form/[14] https://accessinghigherground.org/speaker-info/[15] mailto:ahg1@ahead.org[16]
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https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-earns-ninth-straight-military-friendly-gold-ranking[18]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/making-cu-denver-more-accessible-friendly[19]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/sepsis-cervical-cancer-ai-helps-cu-anschutz-save-lives[20]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/distefano-addresses-faculty-assembly[21] https://connections.cu.edu/people/johnson-sharpening-math-reasoning-and-engagement[22] https://connections.cu.edu/people/memoriam-linda-bunnell[23]
https://connections.cu.edu/itn/why-trekking-poles-are-most-underrated-piece-outdoor-gear[24]
https://connections.cu.edu/itn/high-potency-marijuana-highlights-risk-cannabis-induced-psychiatric-disorders[25]
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