## CU Regents to host public open forums with Presidential Finalist Todd Saliman[1]

The University of Colorado Board of Regents will host open forums through April 22 for campus and community stakeholders to meet with Presidential Finalist Todd Saliman[2].

Events include public open forums, which may be attended in person or virtually, on all four CU campuses and at the system office in Denver. The schedule follows below:

**UCCS:** 10:30-11:30 a.m. Monday, April 18, Berger Hall

**CU DENVER:** 2-3 p.m. Tuesday, April 19, Jake Jabs Center

**CU BOULDER:** 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, April 20, University Theatre

**CU ANSCHUTZ:** 4-5 p.m. Thursday, April 21, Education 2 South, Room 1102

**CU SYSTEM ADMINISTRATION:** 11 a.m.-noon Friday, April 22, 1800 Grant St., Bruce and Marcy Benson Conference Room

Click here[3] for more information on the open forums. Streaming and feedback links will be listed as soon as they become available.

Saliman also will meet with stakeholders from across the university and the state, including business and community groups and organizations representing rural communities, nonprofit organizations and elected officials. All are being asked to provide feedback to the Board of Regents before it holds a final vote on CU's next president at the end of April.

Comments may be submitted via the CU Presidential Search website[4], where a survey will be available starting Sunday, April 17.

"The importance of this stage of the process cannot be overstated," said Board of Regents Chair Jack Kroll. "The board will not vote on the next CU president until considering all public input. We encourage everyone in the community to take part."

## Changes to CU's online education strategy will better serve students[5]

The University of Colorado is making changes to its online education strategy to better meet the needs of students and adjust to lessons learned during the pandemic about how best to serve a growing market.

A cross-campus and system project team has been meeting since January and taking input from various stakeholder groups. The project team has delivered recommendations to the chancellors and president, which have been accepted. These recommendations are aligned with each campus's specific plan to move forward with their own integrated digital education approach.

"Our success in serving our state and students depends on CU's campuses creating and realizing a vision for multi-modal learning," said CU President Todd Saliman. "By taking time and collaborating across the system to consider how we provide the online component of multi-modal learning, each campus is identifying the necessary steps to meet students' needs now and in the future."

The CU system will continue to provide support for the CU Online platform and aggregator website (online.cu.edu[6]), where online programs being featured could expand to include categories such as low-residency programs and non-

degree, continuing education options for all four campuses. These system service offerings will be known as Integrated Online Services and will reside within University Information Services (UIS). All other services previously provided by the Office of Digital Education inclusive of learning design services, enrollment services (recruitment and student support) and programmatic digital marketing services, will be provided by the campuses.

The next phase will focus on specific implementation plans to transition, by June 30, to the new service structure outlined above ensuring a seamless experience for current and prospective online-only students.

## CU Health Plan rates to increase modestly, with university contributions remaining high[7]

The University of Colorado is increasing its investment in quality health care across the system, and faculty and staff will see only modest increases on most monthly CU Health Plan premiums. These increases will begin with the 2022-23 plan year on July 1.

While absolute premium costs will increase across the board, the university will continue to minimize the effect by paying the dominant share of the cost increases. The university, on average across all medical and dental benefits, pays approximately 90% of all costs.

Cost increases come in response to several factors. Medical and prescription usage among CU's covered members increased over the past year, and the COVID-19 pandemic continued to drive an increase in covered services such as testing, vaccination and in-patient care.

Another area where plan providers saw a marked increase in health care spending is in mental health services — undoubtedly a concurrent trend with other pandemic health care costs.

"It's good to see CU Health Plan members and their families actively seek the care and support they need," said Tony DeCrosta, CU Health Plan Chief Administrator. "We're dedicated to the health and wellness of CU's faculty, staff and the university community."

While the university's four medical plans will not undergo significant changes this year, they will add several requested services[8], including expanded mental health coverage on all plans and select fertility treatments coverage on Anthem-administered plans.

"These services enhance the quality of life of our employees," DeCrosta said. "We continue to invest in comprehensive coverage for CU's faculty and staff."

The CU Health Plan has managed the university's self-funded medical plans to provide faculty and staff the best possible health plans with the most flexible choice and prices. Since its inception, it has saved CU and its employees over $75 million compared to the university's previous insurance model.

**More about plan rates**

All plans emphasize preventative care by providing those services at no cost to covered members.

Monthly premium increases will vary by plan and coverage level. For individual coverage, monthly premiums for the High Deductible medical plan and the Essential dental plan will remain $0. The High Deductible plan carries the added benefit of the ability to enroll in a Health Savings Account (HSA)[9] — a tool that allows employees to save pre-tax money which can be spent on qualified medical expenses and invested to earn interest tax-free.

Coverage for additional dependents on the High Deductible plan will range between $5 and $10 a month, while Exclusive premiums will increase by $5.50 for individual coverage and $3.50 for family coverage.

The Extended and Kaiser medical plans will see the highest premium increases — up to $41.50 per month depending on the plan and coverage level (single, employee and spouse, full family, etc.). This larger increase is driven, in part, by higher-than-expected service utilization compared to CU's other medical plans.

Vision plans will increase by less than $1, and dental, life insurance and disability insurance monthly premiums will not change.

Please visit www.cu.edu/rates[10] to view the rate sheets for the current plan year and next. Here, you can see how much your current plan premiums will increase and compare them to rates for other plans.

**How well is your current medical plan working for you?**

The university's annual Open Enrollment is your opportunity to consider health plan options and choose plans for the coming year. This year, eligible employees can change plans, enroll for the first time or update their coverage and health savings levels anytime between April 18 and May 6.

As an employee covered under a medical CU Health Plan, you have options: CU offers four health plans to meet the needs of its diverse faculty and staff population.

The Basics of CU Health Plans and Pretax Savings[11] on-demand course, available in English and Spanish, can help you evaluate your plan options and learn how to lower your health care cost through pretax savings plans. Consider your annual health care costs and how you use your health benefits year-to-year to help determine which CU Health Plan would best serve your needs.

Start exploring your options today to make informed decisions during Open Enrollment. Visit the Open Enrollment website[12], attend live webinars[13] with our health plan vendors from April 25-29, stop by the virtual fair for digital resources, then pick the best plans for your needs.

Employee Services' benefits professionals are available to answer additional questions at 303-860-4200, option 3, or benefits@cu.edu[14].

Gov. Jared Polis, panelists address climate change during Conference on World Affairs[15]

Photo Feature: UCCS celebrates first full year of Alumni and Friends Volunteer Program[16]

Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning celebrates two years of supporting faculty and fostering intellectual growth[17]

Kupferman earns Fulbright Scholar Award[18]

Should I get a another COVID booster? Six common questions answered[19]

Kalpathy-Cramer named chief of Artificial Medical Intelligence in Ophthalmology[20]

Napierkowski retires after 49 years at UCCS[21]

Q&A: Colorado looks at COVID overseas to predict possible trends[22]

Efforts to Colonize Mars Could Have a Negative Impact on Global Health[23]

What's Working: Colorado program is looking for a few good older workers[24]

**Links**
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/cu-regents-host-public-open-forums-presidential-finalist-todd-saliman[2] https://www.cu.edu/presidential-search/todd-saliman[3] https://www.cu.edu/presidential-search/finalist-open-forums[4] https://www.cu.edu/presidential-search[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/changes-cu-s-online-education-strategy-will-better-serve-students[6] https://online.cu.edu/[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-health-plan-rates-increase-modestly-university-contributions-remaining-high[8] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/discover-what-s-changing-during-open-enrollment[9] https://www.cu.edu/blog/work-life/why-invest-health-savings-account-it%E2%80%99s-literally-money-bank[10] http://www.cu.edu/rates[11] http://www.cu.edu/node/285185[12] http://www.cu.edu/node/39058[13] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment#webinar[14] mailto:benefits@cu.edu[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/gov-jared-polis-panelists-address-climate-change-during-conference-world-affairs[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/photo-feature-uccs-celebrates-first-full-year-alumni-and-friends-volunteer-program[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/center-excellence-teaching-learning-celebrates-two-years-supporting-faculty-and-fostering[18] https://connections.cu.edu/people/kupferman-earns-fulbright-scholar-award[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/should-i-get-another-covid-booster-six-common-questions-answered[20] https://connections.cu.edu/people/kalpathy-cramer-named-chief-artificial-medical-intelligence-ophthalmology[21] https://connections.cu.edu/people/napierkowski-retires-after-49-years-uccs[22] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/qa-colorado-looks-covid-overseas-predict-possible-trends[23] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/efforts-colonize-mars-could-have-negative-impact-global-health[24] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/what-s-working-colorado-program-looking-few-good-older-workers