Champions of Open Educational Resources honored for achieving savings for students[1]

President Todd Saliman – along with the Office of Academic Affairs and the Open CU Committee – recently honored the four recipients of the 2023 Open Educational Resources (OER) Champion Awards.

The honor celebrates an educator from each of the four CU campuses who contributes to the open educational movement through the creation of open access learning materials, and in so doing, increases OER awareness and interest in exploring, adopting and creating OER to benefit CU students.

This year’s resources included openly accessible/no-cost textbooks, curriculum based on open software, and open augmented reality anatomy models. For the first time, students this year received OER Champion Awards as key collaborators of the honored educators.

In the five years since the award’s inception, open educational resources have provided CU students open access valued at nearly $2 million in learning material cost savings.

The 2023 OER Champion Awards were presented at an event March 10 at 1800 Grant St. The recipients are:

UCCS

Baye Herald, senior instructor, Technical Communication and Information Design

Also recognized: Joshua Ferguson, undergraduate student, Technical Communication and Information Design

Awarded for: Creation of the open Technical Communications Across the Professions textbook

Notable:
Professor Herald co-created and co-edited this textbook with students Incorporated universal design for learning principles Represented diverse perspectives through adequate samples, examples and links

CU Denver

Troy Butler, associate professor, Mathematics and Statistical Sciences

Awarded for: Developing open course material for two undergraduate courses, Programming for Data Science and Partial Differential Equations

Notable:
Use of the free cloud-based Jupyter notebooks and Colab that ensures every student has access to the same content and computing platform Utilizing live code that makes the interaction with the course materials transformative by bringing an experimental mindset into mathematics and statistics curricula previously reserved for physical science disciplines

CU Boulder

David Paradis, associate teaching professor, Department of History

Also recognized: Sheena Barnes, former graduate student, Department of History; Abbey Lagemann, former graduate student, Department of History

Awarded for: Creation of the Origins of European History open textbook in collaboration with students Barnes and Lagemann

Notable:
Cost savings to CU Boulder students of approximately $15,750 annually Creating a customized course text that directly addresses students’ needs

CU Anschutz

Chloe Page, instructor, Department of Psychiatry

Awarded for: Creation of the neuroendocrinology educational content for medical residents

Notable:
Creation and open licensing of 3-D augmented reality brain models that afford spatial and holistic interaction with important regions of the brain, typically not available to neuroanatomy learners

The University of Colorado received a total of $137,125 in annual state grant funding from the CDHE this year: $67,500 went to the Open CU Initiative for Open CU: Expanding a Successful Multiyear OER Initiative, which is then distributed to educators across all four campuses - CU Open Initiative Committee $54,125 went to the Department of Mathematics and Statistical Sciences at CU Denver for OER for the Creation of Interactive Computational Notebooks and a Computational Pathway in Mathematics and Statistics - Troy Butler, Joshua French, Adam Spiegler, Stephen Hartke, Yaning Liu and Gary Olson $12,000 went to Thinq Studio, Denver, for ThinqStudio Open Press (TOP) @ CU Denver - Dennis DeBay, Diane Hegeman and Brad Hinson $3,500 went to Nathan Schneider, CU Boulder, for Governance Framework for an OER Textbook on Social Media $10,000 each went to graduate students D. Hailey Herman, CU Boulder, and Bruce Mandt, CU Anschutz, for GradCO Open Program for Advanced Workforce Readiness

Visiting D.C., President Saliman highlights CU priorities for federal leaders[2] [3]

CU President Todd Saliman last week traveled to Washington, D.C., meeting with federal officials, members of Colorado's congressional delegation, CU students and many CU supporters.

“We had a great visit to D.C. to advocate for CU’s priorities across all four campuses,” Saliman said. “I’m grateful for the members of Colorado’s delegation and other leaders for taking the time to meet with us. I also enjoyed having the opportunity to spend time with CU Boulder students participating in the CU in D.C. program, who are gaining amazing public policy experience in Washington.”

Joined by Danielle Radovich Piper, senior vice president for external relations and strategy, and members of CU’s Federal Relations team, Saliman hosted a breakfast attended by Reps. Brittany Pettersen, Joe Neguse and Lauren Boebert and senior leaders from the offices of Reps. Diana DeGette and Doug Lamborn. CU leaders highlighted the university’s federal policy initiatives and ways CU can partner with their offices.

Saliman and the CU team met with Rep. Ken Buck to discuss working together on national security, athletics, and rural and veterans’ health issues. Buck said he aims to continue supporting CU in these areas and views the university as a leader in many Colorado issues.

A visit with Sen. Michael Bennet highlighted CU’s advocacy efforts around student aid, and ways CU can support students across Colorado. The senator said he is committed to supporting CU’s federal priorities in the upcoming Congress.

CU leadership joined Rep. Neguse and members of the Longmont City Council, who were in Washington for the National League of Cities Congressional Conference, on an after-hours tour of the Capitol building. Neguse offered a view into the history of the building during the tour, which also provided an opportunity for the CU team to connect with the Longmont leaders and learn about potential educational, community and workforce partnerships between CU and
Over lunch, Saliman and Peter Goff had a conversation about the importance of CU appealing to all Coloradans and discussed how to expand the university’s diversity outreach. Goff is a former State Senate president who now works and lives in Washington.

Another former State Senate president, Leroy Garcia now serves as the special assistant to the assistant secretary of the Navy for Manpower and Reserve Affairs. He led a tour of the Pentagon for the CU team. In Garcia’s new position, he works with all branches of the military and the White House on military readiness. Saliman and Garcia discussed CU’s pre-collegiate programs and the university’s outreach work across the state, including the recent hiring of two new regional program managers.

Finally, Saliman hosted a breakfast with CU Boulder “CU in D.C.” students and two Ph.D. candidates who were in Washington for the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering (CASE) Workshop, a national workshop CU helped launch for STEM students interested in policymaking. The students highlighted their interests in federal policy and how they represent CU in Washington. CU Boulder is one of only two founding universities in the CASE organization.

Regents announce slate of honorees for 2023

The University of Colorado Board of Regents has announced the list of individuals receiving Honorary Degrees, Distinguished Service Awards and University Medals for 2023.

Upon the recommendation of the board’s Awards Committee, the regents in November approved the nominees. Each recipient has been invited to attend a campus commencement ceremony to accept an award; the dates and locations are to be announced.

Honorary Degrees recognize outstanding achievement in one or more of the following areas: intellectual contributions, university service, philanthropy and/or public service. Distinguished Service Awards recognize those persons whose achievements and contributions are particularly associated with the state and/or nation. University Medals recognize those persons whose achievements and contributions are particularly associated with the university.

The 2023 recipients are:

Honorary Degrees

Henry “Woody” and Leslie Eaton (CU Boulder)

CU Boulder alumni Leslie and Woody Eaton have brought vitality and insight to the campus through their service as enthusiastic advocates, tireless volunteers, community-minded connectors and inspired philanthropists. Their most recent initiative, the Eaton Family Scholarships, will create opportunities for deserving Colorado students for generations to come. Woody has served on the Alumni Association Board of Directors and been a member of the advisory board for the Center of the American West. Leslie has served as a board member of the CU Foundation, a member of the CU Student Affairs Advisory Board and a volunteer fundraiser for the CU Foundation. Thirty years ago, the Eatons created the Henry and Leslie Eaton Scholarship, and over the past 20 years they helped found the Buffalo Bicycle Classic, a community tradition that raises money for scholarships in the College of Arts and Sciences, and were honored for their campus support with the renaming of the Humanities Building to the Eaton Humanities Building.

Anna Jo Garcia Haynes (CU Denver)

For over half a century, Anna Jo Garcia Haynes has been a driving force for early childhood care and education in the city.
Denver. She is a founder and President Emeritus of Mile High Early Learning Centers, the oldest and largest provider of subsidized quality early care and education in Denver. As a lifelong advocate for children, Garcia Haynes worked with others to bring Head Start to Colorado. She also served as the founding chair of the City/Denver Public Schools Ready to Succeed Early Childhood Council appointed by the superintendent and the mayor. She was a founding chairperson of the Colorado Children’s Campaign, a founder and third President of the Women’s Foundation of Colorado and one of the founding co-chairs of the Early Childhood Leadership Commission appointed by the governor. She was instrumental in the political campaigns of numerous officials, including Rachel Noel, who became the first African American member of the Denver School Board and later the first African American and woman to be elected to the CU Board of Regents.

George Lopez (CU Anschutz)

George “Doc” Lopez, M.D., is a highly distinguished CU School of Medicine alumnus, graduating in 1973 and subsequently working as an Internist at USC and UCLA. His ongoing contributions to medicine are measured not only by the hundreds of lives saved as an ICU physician and Board-Certified Internist, but also by the tens of thousands of health care workers who no longer contract life-threatening diseases such as HIV and hepatitis due to his innovations in infusion therapy. At the core of his business success and vision is his passion for big ideas that change the world. Lopez founded ICU Medical after losing a patient when an IV line accidentally disconnected during a critical illness. Devastated by the preventable death of his patient, and determined to prevent a tragedy like this from happening again, Lopez designed, developed and patented an IV hub-locking device later known as the ClickLock. Noteworthy philanthropy includes the Doc Lopez Scholarship Fund, which has supported the education of 14 CU School of Medicine students from backgrounds underrepresented in medicine.

Distinguished Service Awards

Dana Crawford (CU Denver)

Preservationist Dana Crawford initiated a concept of urban renewal that was one of the first of its kind in the United States, pioneering the redevelopment of Denver’s historic Larimer Square in the mid-1960s. Since then, Crawford has redeveloped more than 1 million square feet of historic property in Denver. Crawford also has been a consultant to many cities and towns wishing to rejuvenate and reactivate their downtown areas, including Longmont and Glenwood. Crawford has served on the board of the Downtown Denver Partnership for more than 30 years and has been active with the Platte River Greenway Foundation, Denver Art Museum, Historic Denver Inc., Colorado Historical Society and Foundation, and Denver Center for the Performing Arts. She was awarded a Doctorate of Humanities by the University of Colorado, and is a member of the CU Denver College of Architecture and Planning’s Advisory Board. Crawford’s passion for place has inspired countless young preservationists, including students in CU Denver’s Dana Crawford Preservation Program, named in 2022.

Ruth Glenn (CU Denver)

Ruth Glenn is the president and CEO of the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She previously was employed by the Colorado Department of Human Services for 28 years and served as the director of the Domestic Violence Program for the last nine of those years. Glenn has worked and volunteered in the domestic violence field for over 20 years. She is skilled in nonprofit management, including budgeting, coaching, grassroots organizing and crisis intervention. She has served on many domestic violence program and funding boards, provided hundreds of presentations on domestic violence victimization and survival, testified before the Colorado legislature and U.S. Congress, and provided consultation, training and technical assistance at the local and national levels on victim/survivor issues. She earned a master’s in public administration from CU Denver and still finds time to engage with students at the School of Public Affairs Gender-Based Violence Program; she recently spent time with them discussing her work and inspiring the students to move forward.

Barbara Grogan (CU Boulder)

Barbara Grogan’s many outstanding achievements and commitment to Colorado extend back over four decades. She never encountered a glass ceiling she didn’t break, starting when she donned a hard hat and became founder and
CEO of one of the largest industrial contracting businesses in the region. She looked beyond her own business and stepped up to serve as the first woman chair of the board of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. She pushed boundaries to lead in the region and was the first woman to chair the board of the Kansas City Branch of the Federal Reserve Board. She is a longtime supporter of education (including early education), housing, mental health and substance abuse services for unhoused community members. A past member of the CU Foundation Board of Directors, Grogan has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for scholarships and programs at CU and other institutions of higher education. Hundreds of young leaders have benefited not only from Grogan’s generous heart but also her mentoring and guidance.

Karen Middleton (CU Denver)

A CU Denver alumna, Karen Middleton exemplifies the qualities CU seeks in its admits and cultivates in its students: focus on serving her local community, mentoring and developing the next generation of leaders, and taking courageous steps to improve all lives. Centered in supporting access to educational opportunities, she has worked in higher education, nonprofit, private and public sectors. As an elected official who served for nearly three years in the Colorado House of Representatives, Middleton was a fierce and vocal advocate for students in K-12 and in higher education. While in the legislature, she supported a bill that helped transferability between community colleges and four-year universities; sponsored legislation that helped create My Colorado Journey, which helps students navigate their path into college; and was co-chair of a committee on school finance. As policy director for the Colorado General Assembly majority, she helped ensure legislative focus remained on education. Middleton is known for forging creative and bipartisan policy solutions for complex policy problems. She exemplifies what is best in public service.

Ginger Ramsey (CU Boulder)

During her 40-year tenure as educator for Boulder High School, Centaurus High School and currently as principal of Broomfield High School, Ginger Ramsey has demonstrated her devotion toward and wisdom about the students in her charge. She is entering her 50th year of education, serving an incredible 34 years as an administrator. She also spent 14 years as a math teacher, seven of those years in Arizona, positively impacting the lives and futures of students. Ramsey began working on her doctoral degree in 1986 at CU Boulder. Suddenly, becoming a single mother, and raising two kids on her own, she was not able to complete the program. However, as difficult as that time was for her, she successfully completed the required comprehensive exams, thus granting her the status of all but dissertation (ABD). As a Marshall Fire survivor, she lost her home of 31 years. Her only message to her community, when so many people reached out to help her was, “Thank you, but I will be fine. If you truly want to help me, please support those families who also desperately need the support.”

Julissa Soto (CU Anschutz)

Julissa Soto is a powerful force for the health of Latino communities across Colorado. For more than 20 years, Soto has dedicated her career to being a leading advocate for Latino immigrant equality, inclusion and health equity in Colorado and throughout the nation. She has single-handedly made an incredible impact in the increase of COVID vaccination rates in her community, having worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to ensure that Latino immigrants have information about and access to vaccines for COVID-19. She has helped host vaccination clinics at churches, schools, community centers and essentially any location accessible to Latin immigrants who will allow her to set up shop. Soto has more than two decades of nonprofit experience and innovative insight, leading and managing evidence-based prevention programs serving new immigrants. She immigrated to the United States nearly 21 years ago from the state of Michoacán in central Mexico, so she understands the health needs of Colorado Latinos/x and the importance of reaching out to them.

University Medals

Robert Damrauer (CU Denver)

Robert “Bob” Damrauer first joined CU Denver in 1968 as an assistant professor of chemistry and has been a tireless champion for the institution ever since. At the time, the institution was part of CU Boulder extension; Damrauer was a strong advocate for the transformation of the institution into what CU Denver is today. He rose in the ranks as a
professor, chair, dean, special assistant to the provost and associate vice chancellor of research. An internationally
known scholar, Damrauer was named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and published more than 80 articles,
of which more than 25 were with student co-authors. Damrauer and his late wife, Lennie, changed the lives of dozens
of students, faculty and staff through mentoring and by example. Through their philanthropy, they established
scholarships for students as well as a speaker’s fund in the Chemistry Department. They also endowed the
Chancellor’s Distinguished Lecture Series to bring renowned scientists, engineers and entrepreneurs to CU Denver
each year to give community talks, visit classrooms and engage students. He officially retired in December 2021.

Allan McMurray (CU Boulder)

Allan McMurray, emeritus professor of band conducting and director of bands, had an outstanding career at CU
Boulder from 1978 until his retirement in 2013. In 2005, he was named a CU Distinguished Professor, the first faculty
member in the College of Music to be honored with this distinction; in 2008, he was named the recipient of the Robert
and Judy Charles Endowed Chair, the first endowed chair in the College of Music. He reshaped the CU band program
into one of distinction and national reputation while also creating new conducting pedagogy at the undergraduate and
graduate level. McMurray dedicated himself to bettering the lives of music students of all ages, along with college band
directors across Colorado and the United States. He single-handedly influenced numerous people to enter the
profession and to study artistic conducting while also placing many of his own students in university and college band
director positions both nationally and internationally. McMurray’s contributions to the instrumental conducting and
college teaching professions are more than extraordinary.

Sam Walker (CU Denver)

Sam Walker has made numerous contributions as a citizen, community builder, faculty member and philanthropist. For
36 years, he has taught and inspired students as a professor of philosophy at CU Denver, all while providing countless
students access to a college education through his extremely generous and thoughtful personal support of
scholarships on the campus. Walker is a philosopher who quietly takes his perspective and wisdom into the swirling
world around him, into his classrooms and beyond to build communities for mutual support and development. About 25
years ago, having always understood the importance of building and nurturing a community of instructional faculty, he
joined in creating and guiding what became the University of Colorado Denver Association of Lecturers and Instructors
(UCDALI). He has continued as a campus leader there and on the Faculty Assembly through the years, always caring
about our students and faculty. In addition to scholarships, investments in his department and college, and support for
his fellow faculty members, he has given generously to causes that advance equity for all students.

Don White (CU Denver)

Don White is known for a distinguished career, outstanding leadership, and service to CU and the College of
Engineering, Design and Computing at CU Denver. White is an exemplar of a CU Denver engineering student. A
Denver native, he served in the U.S. Navy and then returned home to begin working as a truck driver for an electrical
contractor. He took night classes at what was then the Denver Extension Center of CU; in 1965, he became one of the
first electrical engineering graduates at CU Denver. White went on to found Riviera Electric, one of the largest electrical
contractors in Colorado. In his current role as chairman of the board at E Light Electric, he continues to be an industry
leader through the company’s emphasis on renewable energy sources. He and his wife, Karen, have been longtime
and highly impactful supporters of CU Denver and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Among their philanthropy, the
Whites in 2014 established the Don and Karen White Professorship in Electrical Engineering, the first-ever named
professorship for the College of Engineering and Applied Science.

CU community invited to offer input on new DEI statement for Regent Policy[5]

The University of Colorado community is invited to review a newly drafted diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI)
statement for Regent Policy 10 and to provide feedback before its eventual consideration by the Board of Regents.
Regent Policy 10[6], which is in the process of being updated, contains several subsections regarding nondiscrimination (also found in Regent Law 8A[7]) and diversity. Links to the new draft DEI statement[8] and to information on other proposed revisions to Regent Policy 10 are posted at the Board of Regents website’s Regent Laws and Policies Review page[9].

The draft DEI statement includes a hyperlink button (“FEEDBACK”) for easy submission of input.

Led by Judi Díaz Bonacquisti, senior diversity officer for the CU system, and Valerie Simons, chief compliance officer and system Title IX coordinator, a systemwide group of representatives from DEI offices, human resources offices and equity offices met this past winter to review and revise Regent Policy 10, focusing on the development of the new DEI statement. (The nondiscrimination statement, codified in Regent Law 8.A, is not part of this review.)

Feedback is requested by April 28 so that the Office of Policy and Efficiency[10] may share it with leadership. Community input will inform revisions to the draft before its presentation May 18 to the Regents Governance Committee. (The committee reviewed an earlier draft of the statement at its March 15 meeting.)

Once the committee has reviewed the final draft, it may advance the statement to the full Board of Regents for its approval at the June 22-23 board meeting.

Regents, president provide report assessing Treasury issue[11]

The Treasury Investment Process Review Committee has provided its report[12] to the Board of Regents and CU President Todd Saliman on findings and recommendations regarding a gap in funding[13] for planned acceleration of elements of the system strategic plan.

The Board of Regents and President Saliman established the committee in January to detail lessons learned and to determine what policies and controls need to be restored, refined, or added to guard against the situation reoccurring. The committee included three members of the Board of Regents, the system chief financial officer (CFO), two campus CFOs, the university treasurer, the internal auditor, and the president/principal of Innovest Portfolio Solutions, an external firm.

In a communication to faculty and staff on Wednesday, Board of Regents Chair Lesley Smith and Saliman noted, “The report provides a comprehensive assessment of what happened and sound recommendations to improve our operations. It also notes areas of best practice occurring in the University Treasury that should continue.”

They continued, “We understand the disruption and challenges the campuses faced when funding that was committed was no longer available. We are confident that what we have learned and the recommendations we will implement will serve us well going forward.”

The funding gap was discovered in late fall. A steep decline in the stock market during 2022, combined with incomplete and inaccurate information the former university treasurer provided to university leadership, meant the FY 2022-23 gap was $69 million. The figure was arrived at after three months of intensive accounting by the interim treasurer and system/campus CFOs. As a result, some elements of accelerating the strategic plan were halted, delayed, or scaled back. The Accelerating the Strategic Plan funds are different from the regular campus operating budgets. Each campus has evaluated the impact of the ASP funding gap and has made adjustments to their planned investments tied to these efforts.

Initial plans to accelerate elements of the strategic plan were made based on using Treasury pool unrealized gains from the close of FY 2020-21. Despite assurances from the treasurer as to the availability of these funds, university leadership insisted that around 50% of the unrealized gains were left in the portfolio as a buffer to protect against market volatility.
The committee’s work was carried out by CU Internal Auditor Agnessa Vartanova and Wendy Dominguez of Innovest Portfolio Solutions, who combined provided an internal and external perspective. The committee examined:

The CU Treasury Office’s operating reserve investment processes and associated controls. How Treasury communicates, including communicating reliable, accurate, and timely information to leadership on investment issues.

The sufficiency of training in the Treasury Office and with related investment committees/resources.

The committee’s recommendations include:

- Provide university leadership with more timely, insightful, relevant, and accurate information to facilitate decision-making and advice related to assigning planned spending against unrealized gains, reporting on cash availability for commitments requiring large cash outflows, and overall portfolio design.
- Strengthen internal processes and controls as they relate to maintaining policies and procedures, segregation of duties, performing reconciliations, reviewing transactions, and reporting.
- Leverage the advisory capacity of Treasury’s Investment Advisory Committee by providing them with timely, accurate, and sufficient information to review the upcoming expected cash flow needs and the balances of the operating reserves.
- Strengthen the collaboration between the Treasury Office and the Office of Budget & Finance, specifically to include pro forma cash flow projections.
- Increase Treasury’s awareness of the timing and priorities of university initiatives that require large cash outflows, and non-capital reserve spending projections above historical levels through leveraging meetings and campus and system administration CFOs collaboration.
- Enhance Training and Understanding of Accounting Procedures and Claim on Cash

A more comprehensive assessment of what led to the situation and of the recommendations is in the report.

Additionally, the Board of Regents has initiated a search for a new treasurer (the treasurer is one of four positions at CU that report to the board). The person hired will play an important role in implementing the recommendations, leading the Treasury team, and working with external investment advisers. Retired University Treasurer Dan Wilson has been serving in the interim position since November, when the previous treasurer left the university.

$68 million NASA contract awarded to National Snow and Ice Data Center

Students shoot for the stars with CubeSat launch

Urban Design program spotlights opportunities in missing middle housing

CU Anschutz experts call attention to unsupervised youth gun access in Colorado

Ebadi, Nobel Laureate professor, set for April 7 event

Marks leads CU Nursing’s AC PNP specialty
Romaine appears on all-star jazz album[21]

University of Colorado School of Medicine researchers launch trial for new COVID vaccine for children[22]

Study: Colorado forests are not recovering post-fire like they used to[23]

Ultrasound Hacks: The Hidden Dangers of Voice-Controlled Devices[24]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/champions-open-educational-resources-honored-achieving-savings-students
[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/urban-design-program-spotlights-opportunities-missing-middle-housing
[16] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/study-colorado-forests-are-not-recovering-post-fire-they-used