Video: Interactive simulations help engineering students master fluid mechanics[1]

Fluid mechanics is one of the most challenging subjects in undergraduate engineering, requiring students to grasp complex mathematical concepts and visualize how fluids behave in real-world systems. Supported by a CU Next Award[2] from the CU system, a collaborative project at CU Boulder and CU Denver is helping make that learning process more engaging, accessible and intuitive.

Led by CU Boulder's Ankur Gupta and CU Denver's Kannan Premnath, the project developed free, web-based interactive simulations for undergraduate fluid mechanics courses. Unlike traditional engineering software, the browser-based tools require no downloads and allow students to conduct virtual digital experiments, helping them better understand complex concepts through visualization and hands-on exploration.

Initially implemented in courses at CU Boulder and CU Denver, the project demonstrates how innovative teaching approaches can improve student learning while removing barriers to access. By freeing instructors from lengthy mathematical demonstrations, the simulations create more opportunities to focus on critical thinking, engineering design and real-world problem solving.

Watch the video[3] to learn how this CU Next-supported collaboration is preparing the next generation of engineers through innovative teaching and cross-campus partnership.

Boettcher Foundation awards $250,000 in bridge funding to biomedical researchers facing gaps[4]

Stepping up at a critical moment for biomedical researchers who are reliant on government funding, the Boettcher Foundation is providing timely support to select investigators from its longtime Boettcher Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards Program.

The Boettcher Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards Program provides critical early career support and positions recipients at CU campuses and other leading academic and research institutions to compete for additional private, state and federal research funding. Each grant supports up to three years of independent scientific research.

The new effort, Boettcher Investigators Webb-Waring Bridge Funding, is a pilot program designed to provide short-term, catalytic support for eligible Boettcher Investigators in Colorado who are experiencing temporary funding gaps – specifically from the loss of federal funding. This program aims to sustain momentum for promising biomedical research and bridge to the next stage of external funding.

From a pool of 19 eligible applicants, five recipients were chosen. Each will receive one-time funding of $50,000.

The scientists and their research topics are:

CU Anschutz

M. Cecilia Caino, Ph.D., Role of GCN2 in prostate cancer

Suet Nee Chen, Ph.D., Targeted Bridge Support to Advance a Near-Funded NIH R01 on FLNC-EHD2 Signaling in Dilated Cardiomyopathy

CU Boulder

Nausica Arnoult, Ph.D., Regulation of the DNA damage response by non-canonical ORFs

Colorado State University

Jaclyn Stephens, Ph.D., Sustaining the BRAIN: Brain Research Advancement and Innovation in Neurorehabilitation

Allison Vilander, DVM, Ph.D., DACVP, Defining the Mechanisms of Novel Orally Delivered Recombinant Probiotic Trained Immunity Agent

When the Boettcher Foundation recognized a need in its community of past awardees, its leadership turned to a familiar partner: Dan Montez, director of the CU system's Office of Policy and Efficiency, who manages the annual Boettcher Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards Program for CU on behalf of the Office of the President.

For 11 years, Montez and his team have played a pivotal role in the process, supporting a distinguished and prestigious systemwide review panel of CU scientists that considers applications from researchers at CU. He welcomed the opportunity to assist and assemble a similar review team to determine awardees for Boettcher Investigators Webb-Waring Bridge Funding. The team consisted of CU Anschutz professors Gidon Felsen, Chad Pearson and Lori Sussel.

"Dan has played a critical role in ensuring the continued success of the Boettcher Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards Program at CU over the years," said CU President Todd Saliman. "I'm grateful that he has been asked by the Boettcher Foundation to help administer this new Bridge Funding Program as well."

The Boettcher Foundation Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards Program[5] supports early career investigators whose research has a direct impact on human health.

With this new addition of one-time funding, CU's 80 Boettcher Investigators[6] have received more than $19 million in biomedical research grants over the course of the program, established in 2008.

CU campuses receive $6.75 million in grants from The Denver Foundation's Reisher Scholars Program[7]

The University of Colorado on Monday announced that three of its campuses have received $6.75 million in grants from the Reisher Scholars Program at The Denver Foundation as part of a landmark $25 million initiative marking the 25th anniversary of the program.

The campuses and their individual grant totals are:
CU Denver, $3.25 million **UCCS,** $2.25 million **CU Boulder,** $1.25 million
The funds will be directed to CU students over the next two academic years.

The grants are part of a statewide investment by the Reisher Scholars Program at The Denver Foundation, recognizing colleges and universities that share a commitment to expanding access, opportunity and success for Colorado students.

"CU is proud of our longstanding partnership with the Reisher Scholars Program since its founding 25 years ago," said CU President Todd Saliman. "We're deeply grateful for the program's enduring investment in our students and for the additional support these anniversary grants will provide. They're a meaningful way to celebrate the Reisher Program's remarkable legacy of expanding opportunity while also creating possibilities for a new generation of Colorado students."

CU is among a group of current and future Reisher partner institutions across the state to receive anniversary funding.

"This investment celebrates 25 years of transformative partnerships and positions the Reisher Scholars Program for its next chapter of growth," said Javier Alberto Soto, president and CEO of The Denver Foundation, which administers the scholarship program. "By putting significant resources directly into the hands of institutions that share our commitment to student success, we are strengthening relationships statewide and opening doors for the next generation of

Colorado scholars."

The Reisher Scholars Program[8] has supported Colorado students for 25 years through partnerships with colleges and universities across the state. Made possible by the Reisher Family Foundation, the program is administered by The Denver Foundation.

For 100 years, The Denver Foundation.[9] its generous donors and community partners have been building a stronger, thriving Denver, Colorado and beyond. Centered in racial equity, The Denver Foundation prioritizes housing, climate and environment, youth well-being and economic mobility. Providing more than $1.6 billion in grants to local nonprofits in its 100-year history.

Register for CU Innovation Day 2026, spotlighting science, art and entrepreneurship[10]

CU Innovation Day, in partnership with Colorado Startup Week, returns Monday, Sept. 14, at the History Colorado Center in Denver.

The annual event brings together researchers and creative leaders from across the CU system, alongside partners for a day of conversations and connections with founders, funders and ecosystem builders who are driving Colorado's innovation economy.

Attendees will discover high-potential startups, artists and research coming out of CU's four campuses. Some 50 themed exhibits will fill Inspiration Hall, where art, science and startups share the space.

Register today.[11]

CU Innovation Day[12] highlights include:
A keynote from Bryan Leach, founder of Ibotta Founder spotlights from CU Boulder, CU Anschutz, CU Denver and UCCS A panel exploring CU and the future of the arts in the Rocky Mountain West, featuring Jeff Levine, head of audience development and experience at the Sundance Film Festival, and leading CU creatives Happy hour with featured innovators and community partners
CU Innovation Day
When: Noon-5 p.m. (lunch 12:30-2 p.m.) Sept. 14 Where: History Colorado Center, 1200 Broadway, Denver, CO 80203 RSVP[11]Learn more about CU's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Initiative[13]
For a preview of what to expect, read some of CU's startup stories as featured on Colorado Public Radio[14].

Student opportunities

We're looking for enthusiastic students to serve as Innovation Docents at CU Innovation Day[12] on Sept. 14. This is a great role for students who are curious, reliable and love connecting people to ideas. It should be a great networking opportunity for a range of students. They can apply here[15] by Aug. 29.

Call for nominations: President's Teaching Scholars[16]

The Office of Academic Affairs is announcing the call for nominations of President's Teaching Scholars for 2026-27.

President's Teaching Scholars: The President of the University of Colorado is soliciting nominations from CU faculty for the 2027 President's Teaching Scholars Program (PTSP). The PTSP consists of a group of tenured faculty, from the four CU campuses and from a wide range of disciplines, whose work reflects excellence in teaching, research and creative works. Lifetime PTSP membership in an active society of scholars and teachers includes collaboration with

faculty colleagues and faculty peers in departments, schools and colleges. Anyone from the CU community can nominate faculty for this designation and commitment. Self-nominations are not accepted.

All tenured faculty members who have been employed at CU for at least five consecutive years are eligible to be nominated. In addition, faculty members at CU Anschutz who are tenure eligible, who have been employed at CU for at least four consecutive years and who teach or have an educational research portfolio are eligible. Those designated as President's Teaching Scholars receive a one-time honorarium of $5,000.

Deadline for applications is midnight Dec. 7, 2026.

Click here[17] for more information and to submit a nomination.

Reminder: Nominations for CU OER Champions awards due Aug. 19 [18]

Wildfires are moving faster. Here’s what that means for Colorado [19]

UCCS, Care and Share partner to expand food access for students, families [20]

Lynx present their work at the 2026 Summer Research Symposium [21]

CU Anschutz physicians recognized among Colorado’s Top Doctors for 2026 [22]

Federal update: HHS high-risk research policy, more[23]

From July 31, this update from CU Federal Relations and Counsel includes information on HHS High-Risk Research Policy, ED Title VI Rule, DOJ Updated Disability Rights Guidance, and Ruling Against Illinois In-State Tuition.

Click here to read the post.[24]

Also from July 31, this monthly update from CU Federal Relations includes information on FY27 Appropriations, FY27 NDAA, OMB Uniform Guidance Comments, College Transparency Act, Recent Hill Visits, and Recent CO Events.

Click here to read the post.[25]

From July 24, this update from CU Federal Relations and Counsel includes information on Termination Clause Ruling, DOJ Lawsuit Challenging CO In-State Tuition, CU Anschutz CMS Comments, WH R&D Reports, National Academies of Sciences Order, and DOJ Review of Harvard Financial Aid.

Click here to read the post.[26]

For the latest communications and federal memos, please visit the CU System Federal Updates and Actions[27] page.

Weis named co-executive director for Lyda Hill Institute for Human Resilience[28]

Evans elected chair of Smead Aerospace [29]

In memoriam: Ron Tzur[30]

New CU Boulder-built device to fly on the International Space Station[31]

Research being done in Colorado examines how climate change may reshape disease risk, spread[32]

Even scientists need a doctor sometimes. Colorado physician makes house call to Greenland.[33]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/video-interactive-simulations-help-engineering-students-master-fluid-mechanics[2] https://www.cu.edu/oaa/academic-innovation-programs/cu-next-award[3] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoJYkOYdmuM&t=1s[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/boettcher-foundation-awards-250000-bridge-funding-biomedical-researchers-facing-gaps[5] https://boettcherfoundation.org/grantmaking/webb-waring-biomedical-research/[6] https://www.cu.edu/bfww/cu-investigators[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-campuses-receive-675-million-grants-denver-foundation-s-reisher-scholars-program[8] https://denverfoundation.org/scholarships/reisher/[9] https://denverfoundation.org/[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/register-cu-innovation-day-2026-spotlighting-science-art-and-entrepreneurship[11] https://web.cvent.com/event/eacb90e9-b554-44ad-973f-51786af3082f/summary[12] https://innovate-cu-showcase.my.canva.site/26-innovation-day[13] https://www.cu.edu/impact-cu/[14] https://www.cpr.org/2024/10/11/nine-startup-stories-university-of-colorado/[15] https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeD2WGAtNE5B_oArRHR9UwhguqhOpriDOBLomBl0j6v4k1SGQ/viewform[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/call-nominations-president-s-teaching-scholars[17] https://www.cu.edu/ptsp/forms/call-nominations-2026-2027[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/reminder-nominations-cu-oer-champions-awards-due-aug-19[19]

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