The 10 most-read CU Connections features of 2021[1]

1. President's Diversity Awards honor faculty, staff, students[2]
March 4 – The award recognizes significant achievements of university community members in developing a culturally and intellectually diverse university community reflective of inclusive excellence. Awardees, each of whom receives $2,000, engage in meaningful diversity activities beyond their primary CU responsibilities.

2. CU Faculty Voices: The persistence of pay inequity[3]
May 20 – Equal pay for equal work seems like a topic that would garner little debate. Surprisingly, the notion of equal pay for equal work has a long history of debate and defeat, and has proved to be difficult to achieve in practice. Consider that decades ago, newspaper listings for employment included separate sections for men and women seeking work.

[3]

3. Five CU researchers named to 2021 class of Boettcher Investigators[4]
May 27 – The 2021 Boettcher Investigators are the newest recipients of grant funding through the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards Program, which supports promising, early career scientific researchers by helping them to advance their independent research and compete for major federal and private awards in the future.

4. New class of CU Distinguished Professors: leaders in research, education, service[5]
Nov. 11 – CU Distinguished Professors are tenured faculty members who demonstrate exemplary performance in research or creative work; a record of excellence in promoting learning and student attainment of knowledge and skills; and outstanding service to the profession, the university and its affiliates.

5. CU Faculty Voices: A historian gets fact-checked[6]
April 1 – In early March, a shiny magazine—the Spring 2021 issue of Alpinist, a magazine for mountaineers—arrived in my mailbox. The issue included a short article I wrote about down sleeping bag testing during World War II. Because I'm a historian of the outdoor industry, the publication's readership represented an ideal popular audience.

6. Five questions for Regent Jack Kroll[7]
July 8 – John "Jack" Kroll has served on the CU Board of Regents for over four years, but he'll lead the governing body as newly elected board chair when members gather next week for their annual summer retreat. The multi-day meeting in Tabernash will be the board's first in-person event since before the coronavirus pandemic.

7. 2021 Sustainability Report: How CU is making strides in reducing carbon footprint[8]
June 3 – A new report takes stock of the University of Colorado's significant achievements in environmental sustainability in recent years, while also stating goals for improvement that align with the systemwide Strategic Plan that's nearing completion.

8. Exceptional staff members recognized by Staff Council[9]
Nov. 18 – The CU staff members – two from each campus and from system administration – received the honors, which annually recognize those who go above and beyond their job duties and consistently surpass expectations. Each received $250 award presented by a member of each campus's leadership team at the Oct. 1 ceremony at the Hilton Denver Inverness.

9. Regents announce slate of 2021 honorees[10]
Jan. 7 – The University of Colorado Board of Regents has announced its selection of this year's recipients of Honorary Degrees, Distinguished Service Awards and University Medals. Upon the recommendation of the board's Awards Committee, the regents in November approved the 2021 nominees.

10. CU draws $1.45 billion in sponsored research funding[11]
Oct. 28 – University of Colorado faculty this year attracted $1.45 billion in sponsored research funding and gifts supporting research. The support fuels discovery and impact that benefits Colorado and beyond. The 2020-21 systemwide total marks the fifth consecutive year that CU's annual sponsored research funding and gifts have topped $1 billion. This year's tally increased 3% over the previous year's $1.41 billion mark.

Applications for spring 2022 Tuition Assistance Benefit now being accepted[12]

Learning is an experience that belongs to everyone. The four campuses of the University of Colorado are ever focused on expanding human knowledge and making that knowledge broadly accessible.

Employees on any of CU's campuses and at system administration are eligible to receive the Tuition Assistance

Benefit (TAB) for themselves or their dependents. The TAB application period for spring 2022 opened Dec. 13 and will close on the following dates for each campus:
CU Boulder — Jan. 28 CU Denver l Anschutz Medical Campus — Feb. 2 CU Colorado Springs — Feb. 2
For employees[13], using the benefit means having up to nine credits waived on any campus. For dependents[14], the benefit allocation and type depends on the home campus of the employee, but they are eligible to receive either waived credits, a percentage discount or a per-credit-hour stipend.

Employee Services spoke to three employees who've used TAB for themselves or their dependents on various campuses, and you can read their experiences[15] to help decide if you'd like to take advantage of this benefit.

It's important to remember that once TAB is applied to an employee's courses or to their dependent's, it can only be used by that person for the remainder of the academic year. So if the benefit was used for the employee in the fall 2021 semester, for example, only the employee can use it in the spring and summer of 2022.

All users of the benefit should be aware that they will still be charged student fees and that use of the stipend may be subject to taxation. See the Tuition Assistance website[16] and the Tuition Assistance FAQ[17] for program rules and spring 2022 deadlines by campus.

View deadlines by campus of registration:
CU Boulder[18]CU Colorado Springs[19]CU Denver and CU Anschutz[20]
Access the application:
Log into the employee portal[21]. Open the CU Resources drop-down menu and select **Forms.** Click the **Career Advancement tile**, then click the **Tuition Assistance Application tile**.

How is this variant different? 10 omicron questions answered [22]

Photo feature: 13th Annual Mountain Lion Research Day [23]

Associate professor joins international team in discovery of Europe's earliest female infant burial[24]

Virtual reality opens patients' eyes to their own cancerous tumors[25]

Schulick, Del Chiaro recognized as world experts in pancreatic neoplasms [26]

How Lahijanian creates safety and soundness in autonomous systems[27]

Fenell reflects on 37 years (and two deployments) at UCCS[28]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/10-most-read-cu-connections-features-2021[2] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/president-s-diversity-awards-honor-faculty-staff-students[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-voices-persistence-pay-inequity[4] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/five-cu-researchers-named-2021-class-boettcher-investigators[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-class-cu-distinguished-professors-leaders-research-education-service[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-voices-historian-gets-fact-checked[7] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/five-questions-regent-jack-kroll[8] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/2021-sustainability-report-how-cu-making-strides-reducing-carbon-footprint[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/exceptional-staff-members-recognized-staff-council[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-announce-slate-2021-honorees[11] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/cu-draws-145-billion-sponsored-research-funding[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/applications-spring-2022-tuition-assistance-benefit-now-being-accepted[13] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/tuition-assistance-benefit[14] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/dependent-options[15] https://www.cu.edu/blog/work-life/how-employees-are-using-cu%E2%80%99s-tuition-assistance-benefit-tab[16] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/[17] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/faq-1[18] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/cu-boulder[19] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/uccs[20] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/cu-denveranschutz[21] https://my.cu.edu/[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/how-variant-different-10-omicron-questions-answered[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/photo-feature-13th-annual-mountain-lion-research-day[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/associate-professor-joins-international-team-discovery-europe-s-earliest-female-infant[25] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/virtual-reality-opens-patients-eyes-their-own-cancerous-tumors[26] https://connections.cu.edu/people/schulick-del-chiaro-recognized-world-experts-pancreatic-neoplasms[27] https://connections.cu.edu/people/how-lahijanian-creates-safety-and-soundness-autonomous-systems[28] https://connections.cu.edu/people/fenell-reflects-37-years-and-two-deployments-uccs