[University of Colorado launches systemwide ChatGPT access](#)[1]

The University of Colorado has entered into an agreement with OpenAI to provide secure, institutionally controlled access to ChatGPT EDU for students, faculty and staff across all four campuses and the CU system office, university leaders announced.

Under the agreement, each campus and the system office will operate its own dedicated ChatGPT environment, which will advance equitable access to this tool while maintaining strong privacy, security and data governance standards. The agreement is renewable annually.

University officials said the initiative reflects CU's commitment to ensuring students have equitable access to the tool and leave the university ready for the modern workforce.

"Equitable access to this emerging technology is essential for our students and employees," said CU President Todd Saliman. "By investing at the system level, CU is helping remove barriers and ensuring that all members of our community can engage with these tools, regardless of discipline or background."

The university's ChatGPT EDU environments will be available to enrolled full-time and part-time students, as well as faculty and staff, using university-issued email credentials. OpenAI will not use any CU ChatGPT EDU environment or user content to train its large language models, according to the agreement.

"Our data shows that generative AI tools, particularly ChatGPT, are already widely used by CU faculty, staff and students," said CU Boulder Chancellor Justin Schwartz. "But using institutional data on the public platform can expose students, faculty, staff and the university to security risks. Through this agreement, ChatGPT EDU will offer a secure, institutionally supported alternative that better protects our data and meets users where they already are."

Before gaining access, users will complete a brief training on appropriate use, privacy considerations and best practices. Additional learning resources will be available to help users apply the tool effectively in academic, research and administrative contexts.

"Across UCCS, people are already experimenting with AI, as well as becoming proficient and expert users. Generative AI, natural language processing, machine learning and other AI tools are becoming part of how we teach, learn and work," said UCCS Chancellor Jennifer Sobanet. "By offering a secure, institutionally supported option, we're reducing risk to university data and meeting our faculty, staff and students where they are, while also launching UCCS into the future. This agreement empowers our community to use AI thoughtfully and responsibly."

The decision followed recommendations from the President's AI Working Group, a systemwide committee of faculty and staff with subject-matter expertise. The group evaluated commercial AI options using guiding principles that emphasized privacy, security, sustainability, equity and institutional benefit.

The initial year of licensing costs for 100,000 users — approximately $2 million annually — will be covered by the CU system office. Campuses will assume responsibility for their individual environments in subsequent years.

"At CU Anschutz, we're already seeing how thoughtfully deployed AI tools can enhance patient care, expedite scientific research and enrich the educational experience," said CU Anschutz Chancellor Don Elliman. "This program is the next step in our ongoing investment in AI, and we look forward to all it will make possible for our students, faculty and staff every day."

University officials also acknowledged the environmental impacts associated with artificial intelligence and said CU will continue to align AI adoption with its sustainability goals, including efforts to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions across all campuses.

Use of ChatGPT EDU will not alter existing university policies, including academic freedom, student codes of conduct or data governance requirements. Faculty retain control over whether and how AI tools are used in their classrooms.

"We have a responsibility to teach our students proper and ethical uses of technology in order to position them for success in the job market," said CU Denver Chancellor Kenneth T. Christensen. "We also have an obligation to deploy tools that help increase efficiencies for employees in their daily roles so that they have more time to enhance and elevate the educational experience of our students."

The systemwide rollout is expected to happen on March 31, with campuses and the system office providing additional guidance to their communities as access becomes available.

[Click here to get your questions answered.](#)[2]

[CU system introduces new awards, grants to advance faculty innovation with AI](#)[3]

The CU system Office of Academic Affairs in partnership with the Office of the President is launching three new systemwide awards and grants that will recognize and support innovative uses of artificial intelligence (AI) in teaching and learning and scholarly and creative work across all CU campuses.

By championing bold, creative uses of AI toward compelling learning outcomes and impactful scholarly and creative work, the University of Colorado is cultivating a dynamic culture of innovation and excellence across all CU campuses.

Three AI-focused opportunities

The CU system Office of Academic Affairs is soliciting nominations and proposals for its new set of AI recognitions and grants:
[CU System AI Recognition Award: AI for Teaching & Learning](#)[4][CU System AI Recognition Award: AI for Scholarly & Creative Work](#)[5][CU System AI Sprint Grant: AI for Teaching & Learning](#)[6]
AI Recognition Award: AI for Teaching & Learning
[7]

The CU System AI Recognition Award: AI for Teaching & Learning honors faculty who use AI innovatively in their teaching to achieve demonstrable improvements in student learning aligned with stated course learning goals. In addition, recipients' work should have impact beyond their individual courses. By recognizing and rewarding creative, effective uses of AI in pedagogy that produce meaningful student outcomes, the University of Colorado system aims to foster a culture of innovation and excellence in AI-enhanced teaching.

Eligibility: Tenure or tenure-track faculty and full-time and instructional series faculty are eligible to apply.

Deadline: Nominate by March 30, 2026.

[Learn more here.](#)[4]

AI Recognition Award: AI for Scholarly & Creative Work
[8]

The CU System AI Recognition Award: AI for Scholarly & Creative Work honors faculty whose innovative use of artificial intelligence leads to compelling outcomes in their scholarly and creative work and demonstrates meaningful impact on their field. By acknowledging and rewarding impactful applications of AI in scholarship and creative practice, the University of Colorado system aims to cultivate a culture of innovation among its faculty.

Eligibility: Tenure or tenure-track faculty and full-time and instructional series faculty are eligible to apply.

Deadline: Nominate by March 30, 2026.

Learn more here.[5]

AI Sprint Grant: AI for Teaching & Learning
[9]

The CU System Sprint Grant: AI for Teaching & Learning is focused on improving course outcomes using AI with goals of supporting and accelerating innovative teaching practices that leverage AI to enhance student learning. This grant is designed to provide faculty with the resources and time needed to develop and implement AI-driven pedagogical strategies for the specific purpose of increasing student performance relative to the learning goals/outcomes of a single course. The 'sprint' structure is designed to meet the pace of AI evolution, and in doing so, foster an environment of experimentation and growth with meaningful, of-the-moment outcomes toward improving student learning.

Eligibility: Tenure or tenure-track faculty and full-time and instructional series faculty are eligible to apply.

Deadline: Apply by March 30, 2026.

Learn more here.[6]

Questions: Contact the Office of Academic Affairs.[10]

Budget scenarios for 2026-27 presented to Board of Regents[11]

Last week's Board of Regents provided the first look at potential budget scenarios across the University of Colorado system for the 2026-27 fiscal year.

Chad Marturano, vice president and chief financial officer for the CU system, presented the budget proposals[12] during the first day of the board's Feb. 5-6 meeting[13] at CU Boulder. Details varied among three scenarios, differing based on potential variations in state funding, tuition and fees, and compensation.

Depending on the amount of state investment and current scenario planning, undergraduate resident tuition rates at CU Boulder could range between 2.6% and 4.5% for new, incoming students; continuing students are assured of no increases because of the campus tuition guarantee. At CU Denver, undergraduate resident tuition could range between 2.5% and 4.5%; at UCCS, the range is 2.6% to 4.5%. Undergraduate nursing tuition at CU Anschutz is slated for a 2.4% increase in each scenario.

Proposed fees vary by campus.

Compensation increases are proposed across the system, with caveats. Classified employees would see a 3.1% increase, based on the statewide agreement. CU Boulder is assuming either a 3.1% merit pool alone, or the same merit pool plus a 0.5% pool for compression, retention and adjustment pay. At CU Denver, all scenarios have a 2.75% pool for merit and compression, retention and adjustment pay, assuming revenue thresholds are met. Compensation plans at UCCS are pending the outcome of ongoing budget discussions at the campus. CU Anschutz is assuming a 2.5% merit pool, with either 0.6% or 1.0% for compression, retention and adjustment pay.

Hourly minimum wage rates for most staff and student employees will remain stable or increase at varying amounts at the four campuses.

Familiar challenges affecting budgeting across the campuses and system include uncertain state and federal funding, enrollment, adequacy and competitiveness of compensation, increases in mandatory costs brought on by inflation, increased need for student financial aid and student support services, deferred maintenance, and information technology needs.

While enrollment projections will be refined in the months ahead, overall enrollment at CU Boulder is projected to rise 1.3% in fall 2026. CU Denver is projecting a 0.6% increase in overall enrollment in 2026-27. UCCS is projecting a 1.3% decrease in overall enrollment in 2026-27. CU Anschutz is projecting an overall enrollment increase of 3.6% for 2026-27.

In other business at last week's board meeting, Strategic Planning Co-Chairs Marturano and Lynn Vidler, provost at UCCS, provided an update to the board, including a preview of early findings of a constituent survey.

Phase 3, in which the scope of the plan is defined, is ending, Marturano said, noting Friday's conclusion of the constituent survey. The working group also determined a list of key metrics from the first strategic plan that will continue to be used, including four- and six-year graduation rates, freshman retention, sponsored research totals, patients served and philanthropy totals.

The next phase of the process is underway, with planning synthesis and prioritization slated to continue into April. The fifth phase, finalization and implementation, is set for May through the fall.

Learn more about the strategic planning process.[14]

Also at last week's meeting, the board formally recognized six members of the newest cohort of Distinguished Professors, first named last November[15]. The CU Boulder faculty members – Kristen Carpenter, Russell Cropanzano, Marcia Douglas, Noah Finkelstein, Karl Linden and Jade Morton – attended and were introduced by Chancellor Justin Schwartz, who presented the official awards.
[16]

The Distinguished Professor title is CU's highest honor for faculty. They 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. The seventh member of the 2025 cohort of Distinguished Professors, Marc Moss of CU Anschutz, will be recognized at a Board of Regents meeting later this year.

The regents also honored Regent Emeritus Henry F. "Hank" Anton Jr., who died Dec. 18, 2025, at age 88. The board paid tribute with the passage of a memorial resolution[17].

Anton[18] won election to the board from District 3 in 1994, later serving as board chair. He also was a proud graduate of CU Boulder and a member of the Chi Psi Fraternity. He was presented with the prestigious University Medal, one of CU's highest honors, in 1992.

For more on last week's Board of Regents meeting, see CU Boulder Today[19] and CU Denver News[20].

Updates to CORA-related administrative policy statement took effect Feb. 1[21]

The Office of Policy and Efficiency (OPE) has announced updates to APS2022-Colorado Open Records Act (CORA)[22].

The University of Colorado is centralizing the process for receiving public records inquiries and requests pursuant to the Colorado Open Records Act (CORA), C.R.S. § 24-72-201, et seq.?Such requests will now be received via an online form which will route requests to the Director of Public Records Compliance and the appropriate campus records custodians who will respond to the submissions.

The revisions and cleanups to APS2022 will align the policy with the new centralized process and online request form. These revisions are effective Feb. 1, 2026.

For more detailed information, go to https://www.cu.edu/ope/aps/latest-changes[23].

For additional information on systemwide APSs, go to: http://www.cu.edu/ope[24].

[CU announces $2M investment in Center for African and African American Studies](#) [25]

[UCCS' Kam, O'Shea earn personal best score, help USA win Olympic gold in team figure skating event](#) [26]

[Panel addresses navigating grant funding during uncertain times](#) [27]

[CU Anschutz's firearm injury prevention initiative takes its suicide-prevention message to a major firearms-industry trade show](#) [28]

[Federal update: FY26 appropriations, OPM federal worker final rule, more](#)[29]

From Feb. 6, this update from CU Federal Relations and Counsel includes information on FY26 Appropriations, OPM Federal Worker Final Rule, and White House Seeking Settlement with Harvard.

[Click here to read the post.](#)[30]

From Feb. 3, this monthly update from CU Federal Relations includes information on FY26 Appropriations, ED Involuntary Payment Collection Delay, ED Negotiated Rulemaking and more.

[Click here to read the post.](#)[31]

For the latest communications and federal memos, please visit the [CU System Federal Updates and Actions](#)[32] page.

[Bebarta on service, leadership and impact](#) [33]

[Yousafzai to speak at Conference on World Affairs in April](#) [34]

[CU Denver hosts higher ed in prison leaders at conference](#)[35]
[36]

CU Denver was host site for the recent Colorado Conference on Higher Education in Prison, a daylong gathering of more than 150 leaders in the field.

Stephen Hartnett, professor in the Department of Education and director of the [CU Denver Prison Education Program](#) [37] (PEP), said attendance at the Jan. 30 conference more than tripled compared to last year's inaugural event. It was hosted by PEP and the Colorado Coalition for Higher Education in Prison.

Besides professionals from across Colorado, the conference drew higher education in prison leaders from California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Texas and Wisconsin. Attendees also included 11 formerly incarcerated speakers who are now community leaders. Three incarcerated speakers appeared from prison via Zoom.

"I am so proud of the ways our CU Denver community has rallied to support the cause of higher education in prison," Hartnett said. "The key thing to remember is that offering college to incarcerated students is also about reimagining the roles our campus plays in our community life.

"As the conference demonstrated, our community is miraculously diverse yet united in our commitment to advancing social justice. As our incarcerated and formerly incarcerated speakers testified, everyone deserves a second chance and, when given the opportunity, is capable of giving back to the community in powerful and beautiful ways."

[Need a new path in midlife? There's a school for that and a quiz to kickstart it](#)[38]

[Is Denver ready for a Super Bowl? Examining possible timeline, challenges to host big game](#)[39]

[U.S. Flu Cases Are Rising Again](#)[40]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/university-colorado-launches-systemwide-chatgpt-access[2] https://www.cu.edu/gen-ai[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-system-introduces-new-awards-grants-advance-faculty-innovation-ai[4] https://www.cu.edu/oaa/cu-system-ai-recognition-award-ai-teaching-and-learning[5] https://www.cu.edu/oaa/cu-system-ai-recognition-award-ai-scholarly-and-creative-work[6] https://www.cu.edu/oaa/cu-system-sprint-grant-ai-teaching-learning[7] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/banner_recognition_teaching_learning_ai_awards_grants_02-12-2026.jpg [8] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/banner_scholarly_creative_work_ai_awards_grants_02-12-2026.jpg[9] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/banner_ai_sprint_teaching_learning_ai_awards_grants_02-12-2026.jpg [10] mailto:academicaffairs@cu.edu[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/budget-scenarios-2026-27-presented-board-regents[12] https://cu.community.diligentoneplatform.com/document/51fb2517-9780-4185-b533-cc493eef1fb0/[13] https://cu.community.diligentoneplatform.com/document/26387/?splitscreen=true&media=true[14] https://www.cu.edu/strategic-planning[15] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/cu-designates-seven-new-distinguished-

professors[16] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/distinguished_professors_02-12-2026.jpg[17]
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