

### [First look at 2024-25 budget scenarios presented to Board of Regents](#)<sup>[1]</sup>

The Board of Regents on Friday began reviewing potential budget scenarios for the 2024-25 fiscal year, including possible increases in state funding, tuition and fees, and compensation.

Chad Marturano, vice president and chief financial officer for the CU system, [presented the budget proposals](#)<sup>[2]</sup> during the second day of [the board's Feb. 8-9 meeting](#)<sup>[3]</sup> at CU Boulder. Details varied among three scenarios, differing based on potential variations in state funding, tuition and fees, and compensation.

Depending on the level of the state's investment, undergraduate resident tuition rates at CU Boulder would increase either 3.0% or 4.0% for new, incoming students; continuing students are assured of no increases because of the campus tuition guarantee. At CU Denver and UCCS, undergraduate resident tuition would increase either 2.0%, 2.5% or 4.0%, with less state funding resulting in larger tuition rate increases. At CU Anschutz, an increase of 1.9% is expected regardless of the scenario since it is only for the undergraduate resident nursing program.

Proposed fees vary by campus.

Compensation increases of at least 2.0% are assumed across the system, with caveats. Classified employees would see a 3.0% increase, plus step plan increases, based on the state requirement. CU Boulder plans a 4.0% merit increase, concluding a two-year planned increase. Merit increases of 2.0% at CU Denver would be triggered by meeting enrollment thresholds; UCCS also proposes an additional 2.0% for merit, plus an additional 2.0% pool for compression, retention and equity that would be triggered by meeting enrollment thresholds. CU Anschutz plans a 3.0% merit increase with a 0.8% pool for compression, retention and equity. CU system administration is considering a 3.0% merit pool increase.

Hourly minimum wage rates for staff and student employees are planned to increase at varying amounts at CU Denver, UCCS and CU Anschutz, while CU Boulder is keeping minimum wage changes static due to a significant increase last year.

Perennial challenges affecting budgeting across the campuses and system include limited funding from the state, enrollment, market pressure on compensation, and increases in mandatory costs brought on by inflation.

While all enrollment projections will be refined in the months ahead, overall enrollment at CU Boulder is projected to increase 0.5% in the fall of 2024. CU Denver is budgeting a 3.9% decrease in overall enrollment in the 2024-25 fiscal year. UCCS expects overall enrollment to be flat in the fall of 2024. CU Anschutz projects an overall enrollment increase of 3.4% for the 2024-25 fiscal year.

At its April meeting, the board will receive budget resolutions with recommended tuition, compensation and fee changes. A final vote on the budget is expected at the June regents meeting.

In other business at the Feb. 8-9 Board of Regents meeting, the board voted to approve new degrees and certificates at CU Denver, CU Boulder and UCCS. Regents also approved the discontinuance of a master's degree in health services research, policy and administration at CU Anschutz. The proposals were previously [approved on Jan. 23](#)<sup>[4]</sup> and advanced to the full board by the Regents University Affairs Committee.

Also at last week's board meeting, Marturano and Angelique Foster, assistant vice president for strategic initiatives, [presented metrics](#)<sup>[5]</sup> and led group discussions tied to the Diversity, Inclusion, Equity and Access pillar of [CU's strategic plan](#)<sup>[6]</sup>. The deep dive into staff and faculty new hires and retention showed progress toward goals in growing the number of underrepresented minorities among employees.

The board approved one appointment with tenure, Jason Thatcher of the Leeds School of Business at CU Boulder, effective Aug. 19, 2024.

The next Board of Regents meeting is scheduled for April 11-12 at CU Denver.

### [CU's outdoor partnerships reshaping industry norms](#)<sup>[7]</sup>

Three initiatives across the University of Colorado are working to serve the outdoor industry through collaborative efforts involving students, staff, faculty and key partners in the outdoor sector.

From new partnerships with Outside magazine to existing partnerships with Blister Labs and ecosystem builders like the Venture Attractor program, these dynamic alliances redefine the role of academic institutions, propelling Colorado's outdoor sector to unprecedented heights and creating opportunities for students and businesses alike.

<sup>[8]</sup>

### **Blister Labs at CU Boulder**

A leader in qualitative gear testing, [Blister Labs](#)<sup>[9]</sup>, in partnership with CU Boulder and Western Colorado University, has been instrumental in revolutionizing long-term testing for skis, bikes, running shoes and technical apparel. This partnership creates a special offering by blending different testing approaches, including subjective and objective methods.

CU's commitment to reaching all corners of Colorado is exemplified through this partnership, actively engaging with students from Western Colorado University and fostering collaboration on multiple fronts. Notably, Blister Labs has supported numerous master's and Ph.D. students, facilitated over 50 full-time paid engineering internships, published academic papers, and played a pivotal role in connecting students with internships at esteemed local outdoor organizations, such as Romp Skis.

The collaboration with Blister Labs is more than just a partnership; it's a fusion of qualitative experience and quantitative analysis. Collaborating closely with CU Boulder engineering faculty – including [Greg VanderBeek](#)<sup>[10]</sup>, [Travis Hainsworth](#)<sup>[11]</sup>, [Jenifer Blacklock](#)<sup>[12]</sup> and [Sean Humbert](#)<sup>[13]</sup> – as well as students from CU and Western Colorado University, Blister Labs is dedicated to addressing critical questions in the outdoor industry. From assessing the value of expensive mountain bike wheelsets to comparing in-field damping properties of different skis, Blister Labs is pioneering new tests and data collection methods.

“We are solving a real problem for outdoor ski companies,” Humbert said. “Even the biggest ski companies don't have the capabilities to do quantitative gear testing. We can marry the quantitative data we can collect with the qualitative data that Blister provides, building out the capacity to help Colorado ski companies improve their products, building out in-house testing.”

This collaboration extends beyond the lab with the Blister Labs Summit and [Sean Humbert's latest podcast](#)<sup>[14]</sup>. It calls enthusiasts worldwide to access independent testing data, showcasing CU's active contribution to advancing Colorado's outdoor industry and bridging academia with real-world applications.

<sup>[15]</sup>

### **Colorado Springs Venture Attractor at UCCS**

Nestled in the heart of Olympic City USA, UCCS is igniting the flames of outdoor entrepreneurship through the visionary [Venture Attractor program](#)<sup>[16]</sup>, founded by [Tom Duening](#)<sup>[17]</sup>.

Administered by the El Pomar Institute for Innovation and Commercialization (EPIIC), the Venture Attractor is instrumental in making Colorado Springs a vibrant hub for startup innovation in sports/outdoors, health innovation, and human performance clusters. Going beyond conventional funding, the [Torch Grants](#)<sup>[18]</sup> program provides \$50,000 nonequity grants to ventures in those clusters. The Venture Attractor awarded three Torch Grants in 2022 and two in 2023. To be eligible for a Torch Grant, ventures must first complete the Venture Attractor's Scale to \$1M Boot-Up Camp. During the Boot-Up Camp, ventures undergo a transformative journey through the practical phases of venture development, ensuring they develop a foundation for scaling.

In a strategic move to position Colorado Springs as a global destination for startups, the Venture Attractor concentrates on specific clusters. Originally focused on the unique sports cluster in Colorado Springs, the Venture Attractor will be expanding its reach to include aerospace and proptech ventures in its 2024 cohort. Beyond its local impact, the program is designed to attract top entrepreneurs to the Colorado Springs area. The Venture Attractor fosters an innovative ecosystem that goes beyond financial support, creating a supportive environment for entrepreneurs. Through its unique blend of financial backing, mentorship and focus, the Venture Attractor at UCCS is positioning Colorado Springs as the premier destination for those seeking to make significant strides in the outdoor industry and beyond.

[19]

### **The Outside Lab at CU Denver**

New, cutting-edge innovation initiatives continue to emerge, like the Outside Lab at CU Denver's College of Engineering, Design and Computing, led by [Dan Griner](#)[20] and [Dana Carpenter](#)[21]. Set to open in 2024, this cutting-edge innovation lab invites passionate individuals to become founding members dedicated to developing and testing outdoor gear. Administered by CU Denver, the lab's mission is to increase outdoor participation by enhancing the comfort, safety and accessibility of future gear. SVP Jon Dorn emphasizes the goal of elevating product performance through controlled lab testing, complemented by media faculty and students contributing to storytelling and marketing efforts. This collaborative effort aims to provide advanced testing capabilities while publishing sophisticated reviews that guide outdoor enthusiasts to the best gear.

The Outside Lab is not just a space for technical innovation; it's a collaborative hub where product development meets effective marketing strategies. By involving media faculty and students, CU Denver ensures that the innovations emerging from the lab receive the attention they deserve. This holistic approach, combining engineering prowess with strategic storytelling, positions the Outside Lab as a catalyst for transformative ideas in Colorado's outdoor industry.

Together, these strategic alliances involving CU Boulder, Western Colorado University, UCCS and CU Denver transcend the conventional role of academic institutions. Collaborating with Blister Labs, the Outside Lab and the Torch Grants and Venture Attractor programs, these institutions actively contribute to the academic landscape while creating opportunities for students and nurturing Colorado businesses.

These strategic alliances not only contribute to the academic landscape but actively create opportunities for students and nurture Colorado businesses from startup to scale. By serving as incubators for student talent and providing hands-on experiences, these initiatives play a pivotal role in shaping the economic future of the region. These programs actively steer and assist Colorado businesses at every stage of their journey, ensuring that the majestic Rocky Mountains thrive as an exciting playground for outdoor enthusiasts and forward-thinking entrepreneurs.

Gear up with students, faculty and staff to learn more or participate yourself, joining the journey to explore, learn and actively contribute to the transformative impact these programs are creating for individuals and the broader Colorado business community.

Submitted by the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Initiative, Office of Academic Affairs

[Retirement could be just your cup of tea with Retirement Ready](#) [22]

[Systemwide administrative policy statement updates: February 2024](#) [23]

The Office of Policy and Efficiency (OPE) has announced updates to the following administrative policy statements (APS) from the Academic Affairs and Human Resources areas:

APS 1024 - Approval of Tenured Faculty Sabbatical Assignments

APS 1024 was due for periodic review. Updates include a footnote regarding sabbatical funding for CU Anschutz Medical Campus faculty, and an update to the title and a note in the introduction to clarify that this policy applies to tenured faculty only.

APS 8003 - Campus Designation on Diplomas and Transcripts

The only update to APS 8003 was to move the transcript format example from within the policy to a new attachment at the end of the policy.

APS 5062 - Leave (Section 10: Military Leave)

The revisions incorporate changes from House Bill 23-1045 to the military leave section by allowing up to 21 calendar days of paid leave per fiscal year.

These revisions took effect on Feb. 1, 2024.

For more detailed information, go to <https://www.cu.edu/ope/aps/latest-changes>[24]. For additional information on systemwide APSs, go to: <http://www.cu.edu/ope>[25].

[Call for proposals: Coleman Institute's Technology Translational Research and Development Awards](#)[26]

The [Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities](#)[27] is now accepting proposals from CU faculty members for the Technology Translational Research and Development (TTRD) Awards. Projects must be authored by full or part-time faculty members with the rank of assistant, associate or full professor.

The Coleman Institute's mission is to catalyze and integrate advances in technology that promote the quality of life of people with cognitive disabilities and their caregivers. The goal of the TTRD Awards is to advance the Institute's support of translational science resulting in products or services reaching the hands of consumers. The award will fund researchers and developers from the four CU campuses to develop and disseminate technology products that directly aid people living with cognitive disabilities.

Phase I (early stage development) awardees will receive \$50,000 and phase II (late-stage development) awardees will receive \$100,000. A selection committee composed of industry experts and scientists will review the proposals.

The intended outcome of both phase I and II projects is to catalyze the development of tangible tools, resources, hardware or software, and/or other technology strategies for improving quality of life for persons living with cognitive disabilities and their caregivers across the lifespan. Proposals that are driven by user-inspired research and have a clear path of translation to the marketplace will be funded. Recipients will have 12 months to use the funding.

The proposal submission template and full guidelines and requirements are available online at <https://www.cu.edu/coleman/coleman-institute-funding>[28].

Deadline for proposal submissions is midnight April 30, 2024.

Questions regarding the proposal can be sent to [cathy.bodine@cu.edu](mailto:cathy.bodine@cu.edu)[29].

[CU Boulder-convened Quantum Community Coalition unveils vision for Colorado's 'Quantum-Ready Workforce'](#) [30]

[Conference on World Affairs set for April 10-12](#)[31]

[Build your mental health support skills with new training](#) [32]

[CU Denver's National Society of Black Engineers helps students connect their passions with a paycheck](#) [33]

[CU Cancer Center leaders share insights with Colorado legislators](#) [34]

[Connors named associate dean for Graduate Medical Education](#) [35]

[Cardenas joins CU Department of Surgery](#) [36]

[Henline recognized with McCord Award](#) [37]

[CU Boulder opens art exhibit honoring Black History Month](#) [38]

[With climate change, Colorado River officials peer into muddy future](#) [39]

[Why is Salmon Good for You? Researchers Discover the Compounds that Make the Fish so Healthy](#) [40]

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#### **Links**

[1] <https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/first-look-2024-25-budget-scenarios-presented-board-regents>[2] [https://go.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/D2AKEB513652/\\$file/FY%202024-25%20Budget%20and%20Fee%20Proposals%20\(Summary%20Version\)%20.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/D2AKEB513652/$file/FY%202024-25%20Budget%20and%20Fee%20Proposals%20(Summary%20Version)%20.pdf)[3] <https://go.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/Public>[4] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-university-affairs-committee-advances-proposals-new-degrees-certificates>[5]

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