Five questions for Robert Valuck[1]

President's Diversity Award recipients honored for contributions to inclusive excellence[2]

The CU President's Diversity Award committee has announced three awards for 2018.

The President's Diversity Award[3] recognizes significant achievements of faculty, staff, students and academic or administrative units 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 responsibilities at the university.

This year's recipients will be recognized at a reception set for 2 p.m. Friday, April 20, at 1800 Grant St., Denver. All members of the university community are invited to attend. Click here for event details and registration information.[4]

The 2018 CU President's Diversity Award recipients are:

Violeta Chapin, clinical professor, Colorado Law, CU Boulder

Professor Violeta Chapin is an ardent clinician committed to social and legal justice. Her counsel in and fundraising for legal clinics for communities throughout the state of Colorado has had a profound impact for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) recipients, undocumented immigrants, and immigrant employees, among others. According to Chapin's nominator, in response to the September 2017 DACA rescission, "Professor Chapin worked tirelessly to meet with not only the DACA recipients (at CU Boulder), but any DACA recipient who needed assistance in our state. She spoke at multiple rallies, contacted local agencies, and even worked with our state representatives." In addition to Chapin's DACA renewal clinics at CU Boulder, she helped with similar legal clinics at Colorado State University and the University of Northern Colorado. As concluded in Chapin's nomination, "She has continued to fight for our immigrant students and staff."

Jasmine Fitzgerald,student, CU Denver

Jasmine Fitzgerald is a student in the master of social sciences degree program in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at CU Denver and also is a student program assistant for the Auraria Campus' LGBTQ Student Resource Center. Fitzgerald is driven to enhance inclusion for all at CU Denver and throughout higher education. She has focused her efforts on issues of diversity and community by way of coordinating events, discussions and panels addressing intersections of identity. Fitzgerald has helped coordinate the You Are Welcome Here (YAWH) Conference, which is planned for late 2018, to provide attendees opportunities to engage in critical dialogue on LGBTQ identity and experience coupled with faith. A supporting letter in Fitzgerald's nomination notes that in co-coordinating the YAWH Conference, "She saw a campus community need, and she immediately found a way to address the gap for LGBTQ+ students who also identify with various faith backgrounds, and the overlaps between violence, mental health, coalition building, bullying and more."

A Queer Endeavor, School of Education, CU Boulder

Co-founded and led by **Bethy Leonardi** and **Sara Staley,** A Queer Endeavor (AQE) of the CU Boulder School of Education "seeks to contribute to the knowledge base on gender and sexual diversity-affirming policies and practices in education, inform research and praxis, and engage in broad-based coalition building with a variety of community-based stakeholders." The unit has achieved this by building partnerships and leading professional development and teacher training opportunities for primary and secondary education institutions, as well as institutions of higher learning.

With AQE's support, these various entities have proven to develop, foster and augment an ethos of community inclusion for LGBTQ+ and gender-expansive youth that is conducive to an accepting, healthy teaching and learning environment for all. AQE raised funds to produce a documentary film, "Breaking the Silence: Honoring the Voices of LGBTQ Youth and Allies in Supporting our Teachers," a piece to start – then continue – teacher education with a focus on diversity.

Hickenlooper honored by Faculty Council[5]
[6]

The Faculty Council last week presented its Leadership in Public Higher Education Award to Gov. John Hickenlooper, who welcomed council members to his office for the occasion.

Following the governance group's Feb. 15 meeting at 1800 Grant St., a dozen Faculty Council members headed to the Capitol, where they were joined by Tanya Kelly-Bowry, vice president of government relations.

Faculty Council Chair Ravinder Singh presented Hickenlooper the award and read a resolution that praises the governor as a champion for investment in public higher education institutions. See the resolution here[7].

Hickenlooper spent several minutes chatting with the faculty members, stressing his belief that a state's investment in higher education directly supports its economic vitality. Council members thanked the governor for his November budget request[8] and its $86.89 million increase for higher education. If approved by the Legislature, it would mean an increase of about $18.9 million for CU – a 10 percent boost.

The Faculty Council's annual awards slate typically is announced in April; Hickenlooper's award presentation was delayed to a time when the governor was available to accept in person. The council's Executive Committee has requested nominations – due by 5 p.m. March 2 – for the following 2018 Faculty Council awards:

Administrator of the Year Award

The award for Administrator of the Year is given (though not necessarily on an annual basis) to a CU administrator in recognition of significant contribution(s) to the University, to Faculty Council, and/or to shared and faculty governance. The winner receives a plaque from Faculty Council, presented at a Faculty Council meeting and/or a Board of Regents meeting.

Distinguished Service Award

The Faculty Council Distinguished Service award recognizes the service of faculty to the University of Colorado. It is designed to recognize contributions through participation in faculty governance, particularly through activities in Faculty Council and its committee structures.

Further award descriptions and eligibility requirements may be found at https://www.cu.edu/faculty-council/faculty-council-awards[9].

In other business at the Feb. 15 Faculty Council meeting:
Discussion continued on the review of Regent Laws and Policies[10] as it pertains to the current review of Article 5[11] and Policy 5[12]. Michael Lightner, vice president for academic affairs, said multiple faculty groups and individuals have submitted comments, which will be reflected in the second draft of revisions. In a letter signed by Women's Committee Co-Chairs Leanna Morgan and Sarah Anderson, and by Personnel and Benefits Committee Chair Tamara Terzian, a call was made to expand medical benefits to address a lack of coverage for infertility treatment including artificial insemination and in vitro fertilization. The committees welcome input from other committees and plan to work with human resources leadership with a goal of expanding at least one CU medical insurance plan by 2019.

Benefits, annual awards discussed by Staff Council[13]

The University of Colorado Staff Council discussed a variety of issues during its regular monthly meeting Feb. 15 on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. During the meeting, council:
Solidified plans for the release of the working survey, which took the pulse of staff members regarding issues that ranged from the university's tuition benefit to parental leave to personal development. Council will use the survey results to determine future action items, including promoting possible policy changes. Chose winners of the 2018 Service Excellence Awards, which honor staff members for their contributions to the university and their communities. Award winners, one from each campus and system administration, will be honored during an April 13 lunch. Heard updates on a parental leave white paper drafted by a Staff Council committee that recently was presented to administration officials. A similar faculty proposal also will be incorporated into the discussion of a proposed policy change. Discussed CU's Faculty Housing Assistance Program[14]. Council members decided to seek more information on the program to determine whether it would be feasible to advocate for a similar program that would be available to staff members.

Ensuring the backend of online learning is front and center[15]

CU Boulder appoints W.B. Allen, Stephen B. Presser visiting scholars in conservative thought, policy [16]

Construction-based toys and video games help develop childhood spatial skills [17]

Frankenstein turns 200: We dare you to stitch together your own creation [18]

Chancellor's Town Hall: How to meet the needs of today's student[19]

Coordinator Fontana facilitates access and equity[20]

Overcoming a health challenge and finding purpose[21]

Caruthers selected for National Inventors Hall of Fame[22]

Samet on why Colorado School of Public Health will refuse big tobacco money [23]

Camidge, Glasgow make world's impactful researchers list[24]

Qualls receives Makepeace Community Trustee Award[25]

CU Boulder students crafting drone for studying whales[26]

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https://www.cu.edu/oaa/recognitions/presidents-diversity-award[4] http://www.cvent.com/d/v5qgxs[5]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/hickenlooper-honored-faculty-council[6]
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