CU at the Capitol in 2022[1]
[2]

The 2022 State Legislative Session began on Wednesday, Jan. 12. This year our state government relations team will continue to focus their efforts on state support for higher education through the budget, capital development and policy initiatives that benefit our students, faculty and staff. It is also an election year so there will be a major focus on statewide issues such as criminal justice, public safety, collective bargaining and clean energy. Workforce needs will be a primary theme during the 2022 session, and higher education is sure to play a critical role.

Spending of federal stimulus dollars will also be at play as recommendations from committees that met during the interim become legislation. Our team closely monitored the HB21-1330 Student Success and Workforce Revitalization Task Force which had a specific focus on higher education. The Task Force was allotted $90 million to create transformative change across higher education and address equity gaps in the state and released its final report and recommendations[3] to the legislature on Dec. 18, 2021.

Below is CU-initiated legislation the State Relations team will focus on this session:
Displaced Aurarian Scholarships[4] – On Nov. 4, 2021, the CU Board of Regents approved the permanent expansion of the Displaced Aurarian Scholarship. Under the new resolution, CU Denver, Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver) and the Community College of Denver (CCD) will offer tuition-free education to all direct descendants of Aurarians who were forced to relocate to build the Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC). We are seeking additional state support to build upon the institution's scholarship fund investment. HB 21-1220 Remove Barriers to Educator Preparation[5] - Seeks to reduce barriers to entry for aspiring teachers to address the growing teacher shortage and develop a more diverse educator workforce. The bill creates a new multiple measure approach to licensure, which includes development of a performance-based portfolio pathway. This pathway is key to our students who have challenges passing the Praxis exam, which disproportionately impacts underrepresented students. It also provides state supported residency stipends for Pell-eligible students in addition to funding for wrap-around services to help students along the pathway enter the profession. We are also working with the legislature to identify key opportunities with federal stimulus money, including support for CUbit Quantum Initiative[6]. All four campuses have been engaged in drafting a Rural Healthcare bill. Led by Mark Deutchman, M.D., Director of the University of Colorado School of Medicine's Rural Program[7], the bill concept aims to build the healthcare workforce in underserved rural communities in Colorado. Currently the School of Medicine's existing rural track program serves 20 towns in rural counties across the state. This initiative will add various healthcare providers to the existing infrastructure, including nurses, dentists, physical therapists, physician assistants, counselors, psychologists, and other health professionals. These specialties will provide a welcome addition to targeted communities with the current severe shortages in nursing and mental health services. The bill will likely include student scholarship and support for living expenses, in addition to covering administrative costs.

-- Office of Government Relations

Call for submissions: President's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Awards and Grants[8]

Submissions now are being accepted for this year's President's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Awards[9] and the President's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Grants[10].

"At CU, we're committed to supporting an environment where every person feels a strong sense of belonging and has the opportunity and support to thrive," said CU President Todd Saliman. "Because our work to advance diversity, equity and inclusion is ongoing and happens in units and spaces across our system, it's important to recognize, support and reward the people who are pursuing innovative, transformative actions. So I encourage members of our community to nominate deserving individuals or groups for these annual awards and grants."

This year sees the evolution of the awards, previously known as the Diversity Awards, and grants, formerly the Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Grants. The application period for those had previously taken place in the fall but was shifted to the spring for the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Also new for this year: Based upon feedback from campus diversity officers, President Saliman has doubled the potential amount for each grant, up to a maximum of $6,000 (previously $3,000).

President's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Awards[9] honor individuals and units who have demonstrated outstanding commitment and made significant contributions to advancing DEI within the CU community.

As many as four awards, which include $2,000 and a commemorative plaque, may be given each year.

Nominations are sought in four categories:
Faculty (full-time CU faculty with the rank of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, senior instructor or instructor) Staff Undergraduate or graduate students Academic or administrative unit (academic or administrative offices; staff, faculty and student committees; and organizations – e.g., alumni – directly associated with CU)
The submission deadline is March 11. Awardees will be announced in early April; a reception is planned for late April.

President's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Grants[10] are designed to fund innovative and creative projects that promote DEI throughout CU.

Applications will be assessed on:
Demonstrates feasibility, clarity of identified issue and proposed activities and alignment to campus-wide DEI goals; Indicates the potential for tangible results, capacity-building, sustainability and replication; Offers an effective, innovative approach to meeting important needs in higher education; delivers outcomes that are consistent with campus-wide diversity, equity and inclusion goals; and, Fosters collaboration between groups (e.g. campuses; departments; faculty, staff and students; community).
Projects selected for funding are restricted to a maximum award of $6,000?.

The application deadline is April 6.

Grantees will be announced in early May.

Questions: systemdei@cu.edu[11]

CU System Office fully reopens to the public on Monday[12]

The University of Colorado's System Administration Office will fully reopen to the public on Monday, Feb. 28.

System Administration departments will implement hybrid work schedules, with most employee schedules comprising a mix of in-person and remote work.

For anyone visiting 1800 Grant St. in Denver, there are a few key requirements to bear in mind.

First, check with your point of contact to make sure they — or their department — will be working on-site the day you plan to visit. Anyone who is not vaccinated for COVID-19 will not be working on site.

Second, anyone entering the building must submit a health attestation the day of their visit.

Masks will not be required, but a supply of KN95 masks will be available at the front desk for those who wish to use them. We ask that visitors show courtesy in carrying a mask with them and be willing to put it on if asked.

The building at 1800 Grant St. closed in March 2020 and moved to fully remote work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the last 23 months, the CU System Administration office has undertaken logistical and structural changes to facilitate hybrid work. These changes include reservable hoteling workstations, hybrid meeting technology

and more.

Terri Fiez, vice chancellor for research and innovation, to retire in June[13]

Even minor exposure to light before bedtime may disrupt a preschooler's sleep[14]

UCCS research team shows mentors for multiply marginalized youths can create successful outcomes — even virtually [15]

Community shines through at LYNX UP celebration of faculty and staff philanthropy[16]

Oral health report: Mouth serves as gateway to overall health[17]

CU Innovations names Holers director of faculty ventures[18]

CIRES Director Abdalati appointed to NASA Advisory Council[19]

Myers named AVC for Academic Planning and Institutional Effectiveness[20]

JILA sets new record for precise measurement of effect of relativity[21]

UCCS will offer two new degrees this fall[22]

New study identifies risk factors for severe COVID in kids[23]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/cu-capitol-2022[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/leg_feat_1.jpg [3] https://highered.colorado.gov/Publications/Reports/Legislative/1330/2021_SSWR_Task_Force_Report.pdf[4] https://www.ucdenver.edu/student-finances/scholarships/displaced-aurarian#:~:text=The%20Displaced%20Aurarian%20Scholarship%20is,to%20descendants%20of%20these%20residents.[5] https://leg.colorado.gov/bills/hb22-1220[6] https://www.colorado.edu/initiative/cubit/[7] https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/education/current-students/curriculum/longitudinal-curriculum/tracks/rural-program[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/call-submissions-president-s-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-awards-and-grants[9] https://www.cu.edu/oaa/recognitions/presidents-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-dei-award[10] https://www.cu.edu/oaa/grants/presidents-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-dei-grants[11] mailto:systemdei@cu.edu[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-system-office-fully-reopens-public-monday[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/terri-fiez-vice-chancellor-research-and-innovation-retire-june[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/even-minor-exposure-light-bedtime-may-disrupt-preschooler-s-sleep[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-research-team-shows-mentors-multiply-marginalized-youths-can-create-successful-outcomes[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/community-shines-through-lynx-celebration-faculty-and-staff-philanthropy[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/oral-health-report-mouth-serves-gateway-overall-health[18] https://connections.cu.edu/people/cu-innovations-names-holers-director-faculty-ventures[19] https://connections.cu.edu/people/cires-director-abdalati-appointed-nasa-advisory-council[20] https://connections.cu.edu/people/myers-named-avc-academic-planning-and-institutional-effectiveness[21] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/jila-sets-new-record-precise-measurement-effect-relativity[22] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/uccs-will-offer-two-new-degrees-fall[23] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/new-study-identifies-risk-factors-severe-covid-kids