Call for proposals: President's Fund for the Humanities[1]
[2]

The Office of Academic Affairs is now accepting proposals from full-time faculty members for the President's Fund for the Humanities[3].

Funding requests can range from $1,000-$5,000.

The President's Fund for the Humanities was established to promote and enhance the humanities on and across CU campuses and in the wider community, and to preserve a balance in the university's programs of education and research by giving special attention to the humanities.

An advisory board composed of faculty representatives from each campus considers the proposals and makes funding recommendations to the president. The board seeks proposals involving traditional and innovative projects in the humanities.

Projects must be authored by a full-time faculty member with the rank of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, senior instructor or instructor.

The proposal submission form, along with other proposal criteria and requirements, is online at https://www.cu.edu/oaa/grants/presidents-fund-humanities[4].

Deadline for proposal submissions is 5 p.m. April 4, 2022.

Questions? academicaffairs@cu.edu[5]

Sharon Matusik recognized with Excellence in Leadership Award[6]
[7]

Dean Sharon Matusik has led the University of Colorado Boulder's esteemed Leeds School of Business for five years, but when she learned she was being recognized by the CU community with the Excellence in Leadership Award, it came as a surprise.

"Oh my gosh, I fell out of my chair," Matusik said, laughing. "I was so honored to be recognized like this."

The Excellence in Leadership Award[8] recognizes an Excellence in Leadership Program alumnus who has shown exemplary leadership at the university in one or more areas: leadership of organizations, departments or teams; leadership of projects, programs and/or research; fiscal management and/or fundraising; or student instruction.

Each year, the award recipient is recognized at a luncheon ceremony, which features a lecture on a key leadership topic, at Denver's Brown Palace Hotel. This year's event is set for April 22.

For Matusik, the path to a deanship was never a conscious goal. As a first-generation college student, her focus as a Colby College undergraduate was to complete a degree that would give her job opportunities.

"I don't know that I had especially high aspirations. I wanted to be able to get a good job so I could support myself," she said. "I didn't have financial support from my parents as a safety net."

She chose to double major in Economics and English, a track she felt would empower her to earn a living and nurture her interest in business and love of literature.

After graduating, she worked for seven years in consulting before returning to school to earn her Ph.D. in strategic

management from the University of Washington. Her decision to enter academia was informed by a confluence of factors.

As she looked over her career, she discovered a deep curiosity for understanding why some businesses succeeded and others failed. She also enjoyed conducting trainings whenever she had the opportunity, making teaching a natural draw. Underlying all that was a hard-fought respect for the opportunity and challenge of earning an education.

“It was hard for me to afford a college degree,” Matusik said. “I had to drop out for a semester to work, so I think because of that I have always valued education very highly.”

After earning her Ph.D., Matusik taught at Rice University in Houston before coming to the Leeds School as an assistant professor in 2004.

For CU Boulder Provost Russell Moore, who nominated Matusik for the Excellence in Leadership Award last fall, her commitment to students, faculty and staff is clear.

Moore eagerly pointed out that, in addition to her duties as the Leeds School dean and the numerous initiatives she has led, Matusik co-chaired the systemwide strategic plan process[9] and is currently co-chairing the search for a new dean for Boulder’s College of Arts and Sciences.

“She has shown to be really, really effective under incredibly trying circumstances,” Moore said. “She does it all, and she does it spectacularly.”

That’s exactly what Moore saw when he selected Matusik to serve as the Leeds School’s interim dean in January 2017. The school was undergoing a turbulent transition, and Matusik’s dedication to learning combined with a clear commitment to openness and adaptability were the exact qualities Leeds needed at that time.

“What Sharon did is she, by brute force, led the school with kindness,” Moore said.

Her first order of business was to find out what the school needed from the people who had the most experience.

“She was intensely focused and organized, going on a listening tour and listening to the concerns of the students, faculty and staff in the Leeds School of Business,” Moore said. He explained that Matusik set up “office hours” in the school’s common areas, where anyone could sit down and talk to her about their challenges and concerns.

With these insights, Moore says she identified the common values among the stakeholders and the most pressing pain points. This information empowered her to steer Leeds in a constructive direction and create an environment where students and faculty could be heard and thrive.

“There was this incredible blend of kindness, compassion and strength of leadership — which, that’s a very rare quality to have in a leader and I think she exemplifies that.”

After five months as interim dean, Matusik was officially named dean of the Leeds School. During her first year, she set out on three large-scale initiatives.

First, she proposed partnering with CU’s College of Engineering Applied Science[10] to create physical space and curricular opportunities to collaborate their knowledge and experience.

This partnership was about more than adding bells and whistles — both schools had pressing needs that required focused solutions. Among them, Leeds was running out of space and the College of Engineering needed auditorium space to accommodate large classes and presentations that draw wide audiences.

Additionally, the partnership created new opportunities to broaden each school’s curriculum, combining emerging technology with business know-how, as well as peer-to-peer learning and networking opportunities to overcome the barriers of unfamiliarity and misunderstanding between the disciplines.

“It’s sometimes referred to in the innovation literature as ‘productive collisions,’” Matusik said. “On the one hand, we had this set of needs; on the other hand, they had this complementary set of needs.”

Last year, the newly constructed Rustandy Building connecting Leeds with the College of Engineering celebrated its official opening[11]. The building is named for Leeds alumnus and contributing donor Tandean Rustandy[12], an Indonesian businessman and fellow first-generation college student, who values the opportunities offered by Leeds and its mission to align business with new technology.

“He’s incredibly thoughtful about integrating economic and social values through his company,” Matusik said. Rustandy, whose company manufactures ceramic tiles, has made it a point to establish work sites outside the population hub of Jakarta, bringing work opportunities and government infrastructure to less-populated regions.

Perhaps most astounding, the $43.5 million project is being largely funded by donors like Rustandy. Trisha McKean, assistant dean for advancement at Leeds, has worked alongside Matusik to conduct this massive fundraising objective, and said she respects Matusik’s ability to engage with people on a personal, practical level.

“She stands out just in terms of her ability to connect with all sorts of people,” McKean said, explaining that Matusik meets people where they are, demystifies academia’s issues and processes and builds informed confidence in the projects and initiatives they’re seeking to fund.

Matusik’s second priority focuses on addressing the core professional skills[13] — communication, emotional intelligence, critical thinking and more — that lead to long-term career success but can be overlooked in academic programs that focus exclusively on content knowledge.

Third, she put deliberate emphasis on gender parity issues in business by attracting and developing more women leaders at Leeds, through special programming and events for prospects, students and alumnae. As a result of Matusik’s efforts, applications from women have increased, and these women go on to create demonstrable impact at work through the world-class education they receive at CU Boulder.

In addition to these initiatives, she is focused on the fundamentals; she improved student success measures such as retention and four-year graduation rates at the Leeds School, and also is looking long-term to develop the pipeline of faculty who will lead our institution in the future. For example, her collaboration with the university’s Denver and Colorado Springs business schools to introduce first-generation and underrepresented undergraduate students to what a Ph.D. is — and what they can do with it — aims to bring new perspectives to business scholarship. “It’s so important long-term for the development of higher ed,” Matusik said. “We need all sorts of people in higher ed, including people who are coming from underrepresented and first-gen backgrounds.”

Together, these initiatives and accomplishments are strengthening the Leeds School, as well as its ties to the Boulder campus and the entire CU system.

“She has been able to incorporate the Leeds School of Business into the fabric of the campus, even more than it was before,” Moore said, explaining that many prestigious business schools at public universities work to distinguish — even separate — themselves from their home campuses. Leeds doesn’t do that.

“As an integral piece of the fabric of the campus, I think the campus is better off for it, and the business school is much better off for it,” he said.

Beyond these foundational priorities, Moore and McKean keep coming back to the common thread in Matusik’s leadership style. From the listening sessions she engaged in at the beginning of her tenure to her commitment to securing scholarship and research funding, she prioritizes the students, faculty and staff of Leeds.

“Really, the feeling from her is, if you can get into the Leeds School of Business, we want to figure out how we can make it financially feasible for you,” McKean said.

Speaking to her now, it's clear how energized Matusik is by being around students and faculty — and being in a position to address their needs.

"I feel very grateful to be part of a university where I feel like there's very deep levels of care and commitment for each other," she said. "I think we've seen that more than ever over the last 24 months."

Matusik joins the ranks of many esteemed CU leaders who have received the ELP Award[8] over the years. She will be honored at an award ceremony attended by her fellow Excellence in Leadership Program alumni and CU leadership April 22 at the Brown Palace in Denver.

Delivery of essential tax forms to CU employees underway[14]

Essential tax forms for 2021 are on their way to University of Colorado employees.

As of Jan. 31, all 2021 W-2s have been sent to the mailing address University of Colorado employees have on file in the employee portal. All 1095-C forms will be mailed by March 2 to those eligible for health benefits last year. Both forms will be available in the portal shortly after they are released.

Anyone who doesn't receive their W-2 in the mail should visit the Tax Forms webpage[15] to see what to do.

How to access the W-2 electronically
Log in to the **employee portal**[16]. Select the **CU Resources** tab (CU system employees can skip this step). Open the **CU Resources Home** dropdown menu at the top, center of the page and select **My Info and Pay**. Choose the **W-2** tile. You will be prompted to verify your identity upon accessing the form.
Accessing in the ADP portal
Follow these instructions[17] to register for an ADP account.
What if I see two W-2s in my portal?

Employees with two W-2s may have earnings as a CU and CUR employee or may have worked from two different states during the year. Employees must submit both W-2s when filing a 2021 tax return.

About Form 1095-C

Form 1095-C is sent annually, providing information regarding employer-provided insurance coverage. The form indicates which months during the year the employee/dependents were eligible for health care coverage and the employee-required contribution for the elected coverage.

When completing a federal tax return, individuals are required to indicate whether they had qualifying health coverage for all of 2021 or whether they qualify for a health coverage exemption. Per the IRS, individuals are not required to submit this form with their 2021 tax filing. However, it's advisable to keep this form with tax records.

If you have questions, reach out to a qualified tax adviser.

How to access Form 1095-C electronically
Log in to the **employee portal**[16]. Open the **CU Resources Home** dropdown menu at the top center of the page. Click the **Benefits and Wellness** tile. Choose the **Benefits Notices** tile and click the **View Form 1095-C** tile.
International employees

Nonresident alien taxpayers whose wages are eligible for a tax treaty exemption, or who are recipients of non-qualified scholarship, will be issued a 1042-S form. Individuals with more than one type of 1042 reportable income will receive more than one 1042-S. The IRS requires 1042-S forms to be mailed no later than March 15, but Employee Services

strives to mail forms well in advance of that deadline to allow taxpayers as much time as possible to prepare their personal income tax returns. Forms for tax year 2021 will be mailed in early February.

Nonresident employees will receive form W-2, as well, reporting their taxable (non-treaty exempt) wages, if any. Individuals should wait to receive all applicable tax reporting forms before filing their income tax returns to avoid the need to amend an incomplete return. If you expect a 1042-S but have not received your form by the third week of February, submit a secure electronic 1042-S Reissue Request Form[18] to Employee Services.

2021 W-4 exemptions expire soon

2021 W-4 tax exemption status will expire Feb. 15. Employees will need to enter a new W-4 to continue their exemption. Otherwise, the tax status will revert to “single,” the highest withholding status, for 2022.

Follow these steps to update Form W-4:
Log into the portal[16]. Click the **CU Resources** tab. (CU system employees can skip this step.) From the top center dropdown menu, select **My Info and Pay**. Click the **W-4** tile. You'll be asked to verify your identity. To claim the exemption for 2022, follow the instructions under **Claim Exemption from Withholding** near the bottom of the page. Make sure the year field in this section is set to “2022.”

University Risk Management’s Peet to retire after 30 years with CU[19]

Longtime University of Colorado staff member Carolyn Peet, director of University Risk Management[20] (URM), will retire after a 30-year career with CU Boulder and system administration.

Her roles at the university include working in the CU Boulder registrar’s office, career services office and the Boulder campus Risk Management department. After serving at almost every position within URM, she was promoted in 2017 to director of the Boulder office.

Peet thrived at providing outstanding customer service, always seeking enhanced ways of offering solutions and service to the campus and community. She met every challenge and difficult situation with a smile and genuine desire to help.

In 2003, Peet was awarded the Staff Council Service Excellence Award. She enjoyed serving in the University Perspective Program and served as a member of many campus committees.

“My time at CU has been amazing, challenging and so very rewarding,” Peet said. “Most importantly are the campus partners I’ve worked with over the years. There are so many to thank for their insights and collaboration as we worked and strived to keep the university, its employees and students safe in an ever-changing world.

“I’m looking forward to spending time with my family and friends and pursuing new opportunities. I am so fortunate to have spent most of my working career at CU and URM. Go Buffs!”

Peet’s upbeat attitude and smile will be sorely missed by the university community, but we wish her well in her next journey.

Chadd Medina, associate director of the Boulder URM office, now is serving as interim director. A formal search for the director position is underway.

As tensions in Ukraine increase, researcher worries for its people[21]

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Campus roars back onto airwaves and digital spaces with 'Possibilities Endless'[24]

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ps://www.colorado.edu/today/2021/01/25/connecting-business-and-engineering-rustandy-building-officially-opens[12] h

[13] https://www.colorado.edu/business/business-at-leeds/career-impact[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/delivery-essential-tax-forms-cu-employees-underway[15] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/payroll/get-tax-forms[16] https://my.cu.edu/[17] https://www.cu.edu/docs/adp-portal-registration-instructions[18] https://www.cu.edu/docs/w-21042-s-reissue-request-form[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/university-risk-management-s-peet-retire-after-30-years-cu[20] https://www.cu.edu/risk[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/tensions-ukraine-increase-researcher-worries-its-people[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/january-town-hall-updates-increased-covid-19-precautions-salary-raises-and-more[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/sustainable-campus-cu-denver-adds-composting-bins-buildings[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/campus-roars-back-airwaves-and-digital-spaces-possibilities-endless[25] https://connections.cu.edu/people/soares-becomes-co-director-lgbtq-studies-cu-boulder[26] https://connections.cu.edu/people/messersmith-named-chief-medical-officer-oncology-services-uchealth[27] https://connections.cu.edu/people/memoriam-jack-sherman[28] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/colorado-faces-long-between-period-covid-19-becomes-part-normal-life[29] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/understanding-universe-work-ball-aerospace-other-boulder-county-companies-play-key-role-james[30] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/news-literacy-election-year