Megan Bell blazes trails for future higher education leaders[1]

[2]

As a first-generation student herself, Megan Bell can empathize with a student's first-year hardships and challenges.

"I didn't have a lot of knowledge of what to do with college," Bell said. "Education was really valued in my family. School was a priority. My family was really supportive. However, I didn't have the knowledge of what to do when it came to college, such as admissions and student loans."

Drawing from that experience, Bell's career path has been demarcated with milestones of guiding students toward success.

Bell is the recipient of the 2018 Excellence in Leadership Award[3]. Given to an alumnus of the systemwide Excellence in Leadership Program[4] (ELP), the award recognizes 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; and student instruction.

Bell, a 2018 ELP graduate, was recognized for her leadership as the executive director of community learning and assessment and as an assistant professor at the College of Education at UCCS.

Bell's doctorate research encompassed multiracial identities, mentoring and college student development. In her work at UCCS, she has been instrumental in growing and improving campus life for students.

After being named executive director of the Community Learning and Assessment Division, Bell was concerned about first-year students living on campus during their freshman year who were leaving the university at a higher rate than off-campus students. She then spearheaded development of on-campus retention programs to meet these students' needs.

One achievement is the Academic Learning Commons within the Housing Village. While UCCS offers five academic learning centers, they close in the evenings when students most often wished to study. Working with multiple campus partners, Bell oversaw the development, design and implementation of the Academic Learning Commons study areas this past fall.

Bell also helped to design learning communities where students with similar interests and backgrounds live on the same floor to find a sense of community. She collaborated with multiple UCCS departments to create targeted experiences for first-year students including on-campus communities for criminal justice majors and education majors.

The Mountain Lion 360 Summer Bridge Program students were retained at 74 percent this year. Freshmen in the Education Learning Community and the CJ Learning Community had similarly high retention rates.

"Much of the success of the learning communities is due to Megan's collaborative leadership style. She brings all constituencies to the table and helps them develop a shared vision, with shared responsibility," said Barbara Gaddis, senior executive director of student support and student retention.

Along with being an administrator, Bell teaches leadership courses to provide the same quality mentoring she received as an undergraduate.

"I love working with the students," Bell said. "I love seeing them figure out what they want to do. I teach first-semester freshman all the way to graduate students. I just feel like I was mentored when I was an undergraduate, and this is my way of giving back."

Her mentorship has clearly been appreciated.

“I owe much of my higher education knowledge to Dr. Bell,” said K. Anja Wynne, Ph.D., CHRO and ADA Coordinator at UCCS Human Resources. “She took it upon herself to coach me through the nuances of this industry, introduce me to her vast network of CU leaders and served as my accountability partner as we both persisted through our dissertations.”

Bell was part of a School of Education female faculty team that created a minor in Student Affairs in Higher Education. This minor builds future student affairs professionals in higher education through leadership, communication and diversity courses. Introduced in 2017, this minor already has two graduates and dozens more on the way.

“The thing that I love the most is to teach,” she said. “I think that it’s an amazing opportunity as a full-time administrator and a faculty member. I just love that I am more in touch with the students. I believe it makes me a better administrator since I am more connected with the students.”

Bell teaches what she preaches. In each leadership classes, she offers a word of advice that has helped her in higher education leadership.

“Personally, the two important characteristics of a great leader are self-awareness and reflection on yourself,” Bell said. “I really believe that you have to work on yourself and figure out your strengths and where you can continue to learn.”

CU for Colorado showcases outreach programs via new interactive map[5]

[6]

CU for Colorado – the website showcasing the University of Colorado’s outreach, patient care and impact – has relaunched with a new interactive map that demonstrates the value the four campuses bring to the entire state.

The new site[7] allows users to search nearly 800 outreach programs by county, Congressional Districts, state legislative districts, keywords and broad categories. CU for Colorado also lists details on CU’s presence in each county, including the number of students, degrees granted, transfer students, new freshmen, alumni, CU Advocates, patients served and more.

The centerpiece map provides a visual demonstration of the wide array of service and outreach efforts from CU’s four campuses. Some are targeted programs or services offered in specific communities, while others are broad statewide programs that any community may access. Individual program entries provide links to other CU sites for more information.
[8]

CU for Colorado’s relaunch is an evolution of the site that debuted more than five years ago. President Bruce Benson sought to tell the story of how the state’s flagship university complements its campus-based teaching and research mission by sharing the expertise and resources of faculty and students with communities large and small across Colorado.

Such outreach also includes more than 500 health care locations where CU physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and physical therapists (among others) provide care.

The Office of Academic Affairs, along with University Relations, has worked with the campuses to identify programs listed on the site; faculty and staff are encouraged to add to the database by filling out this form.[9]

For more information, see http://cuforcolorado.cu.edu/[7].

Three systemwide policy changes took effect Jan. 1[10]

The Office of Policy and Efficiency (OPE) has announced changes to three administrative policy statements (two revisions and one new) from the Administrative/General and Information Technologies areas.

Revisions
2006-Retention of University Records 2022-Colorado Open Records Act (CORA)
New
6011-Digital Accessibility
These changes, which were reviewed by the campus chancellors and approved by President Bruce Benson, became effective on Jan. 1, 2019.

For more detailed information, go to https://www.cu.edu/ope/policy/aps-changes[11]. For more information on system policies, go to: http://www.cu.edu/ope[12].

CU Tuition Assistance Benefit applications open[13]
[14]

University of Colorado faculty and staff who want to save money on their or their dependent's summer tuition bill may begin by submitting the Tuition Assistance[15] application through the employee portal[16]. If a dependent will be using the benefit, the employee must submit the application on their behalf.

Submit the tuition assistance benefit application by the deadline for the campus the employee or dependent will attend:
CU Boulder[17] – Feb. 1, 2019 CU Denver | Anschutz[18] – Feb. 6, 2019 CU Colorado Springs[19] – Feb. 6, 2019
Benefit details: CU's tuition assistance benefit provides benefits-eligible employees, their spouses or dependents with tuition assistance in order to curate and sustain continuous learning.

Employees can receive nine waived credits per academic year for eligible undergraduate or graduate courses at any CU campus.

Dependents have two options: Attending a CU employee's home campus and receiving nine waived credit hours or attending a different CU campus and receiving tuition assistance of $270 per credit hour, up to nine hours. (Dependents of CU Boulder employees receive a 30 percent tuition discount when attending CU Boulder.) An employee must waive their benefit for the academic year if they wish to give it to a verified dependent to use.

Employee Services offers step-by-step videos to guide employees through completing for the benefit for themselves [20], for a dependent using Option A - Home Campus[21], for CU Boulder dependent using Option A - Home Campus [22] and for a dependent using Option B – Other Campus[23].

NOTE: The Tuition Assistance Benefit applies only to the cost of credit hours. Employees and dependents are responsible for all non-waived tuition, campus student fees and taxes.

To learn more about the Tuition Assistance, policies and upcoming deadlines, visit the Employee Services website.[15]

Omada wellness program expands offerings for Type 2 diabetics[24]
[25]

The CU Health Plan's Omada program now has options for people who have Type 2 diabetes and are not currently taking insulin.

Omada, a cutting-edge digital behavioral transformation program, is dedicated to the fight against chronic illnesses like Type 2 diabetes and heart disease.

Chronic disease[26] is responsible for seven out of 10 deaths in America. Just over 50 percent of Americans live with chronic conditions, yet over 85 percent[27] of health care spending is devoted to patients with one or more chronic conditions. The CDC labels chronic disease[26] the "public health challenge of the 21st century."

Omada has risen to meet the public health challenge. Merging science, technology, education and community, the innovative program is designed to help build sustainable healthy habits.

"When we first launched the program, health plan members who already had Type 2 diabetes were not eligible to join. We were recently able to change that," said Felicity O'Herron, chief human resources officer and associate vice president of Employee Services.

If you are at risk for Type 2 diabetes or heart disease — or if you have Type 2 diabetes — and you're a CU Health Plan member, the Omada program is available to you at no cost. The program provides tools, resources and smart technology at no out-of-pocket cost, including:
a wireless scale pre-synced to a password-protected account a specialized health-related curriculum on-demand access to a personal health coach a like-minded online peer network for support
Omada recently relaxed the requirements for program acceptance, so even if you have applied in the past, we encourage you to reapply. Take control of your health by completing the one-minute risk screener[28].

Boettcher Early Career Investigator application deadline approaching[29]

Applications for the 2019 Boettcher Foundation Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards[30] program will be due to the campus grants offices according to the following campus-specific instructions:
University of Colorado Boulder[31]University of Colorado Colorado Springs[32]University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus[33]
The Boettcher Foundation established the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards program, which will provide up to five grants of $235,000 each covering up to three years of research activity with the intent to provide independent research opportunities to promising and talented early career investigators. Awardees will carry the title of Boettcher Investigator in acknowledgement of the prestigious award. Eligible faculty researchers from all four CU campuses are encouraged to apply.

Video[34]

For purposes of this program, an eligible early career investigator (ECI):
Is within four years of appointment to his/her career-track academic position (i.e., whose career-track appointments began no earlier than Jan. 1, 2014); Has not previously received a major independent research award; Has received a terminal degree or completed his/her medical residency within the 10 years preceding the application (i.e., on or after January 1, 2008); and Is either a U.S. citizen or a permanent resident.
Since the first awards granted in July 2010, the Boettcher Foundation has awarded CU's 39 Boettcher Investigators[35] more than $9 million. For more details, go to: http://www.cu.edu/bfww/eligibility[36].

Gov. Polis donating congressional papers to CU Boulder [37]

Carnegie promotes UCCS to research university in new classification[38]

NSF funds study of housing recovery after Hurricane Harvey[39]

Research initiative uses Big Data to improve patient care[40]

Is social media replacing traditional advertising?[41]

Pollyea, Pietras earn endowed chairs in hematology research[42]

Plati Honored With FWAA Lifetime Achievement Award[43]

Gessner named president, CEO of University of Colorado Hospital[44]

In memoriam: Kathy Arnold[45]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/megan-bell-blazes-trails-future-higher-education-leaders[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/uccs_bell_feat.jpg[3] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/uccs-bell-wins-excellence-leadership-award[4] http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/leadership/elp[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-colorado-showcases-outreach-programs-new-interactive-map[6] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/cu4co_image.jpg[7] http://cuforcolorado.cu.edu/[8] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/cu4co_site.jpg[9] https://www.cu.edu/forms/submit-your-outreach-program[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/three-systemwide-policy-changes-took-effect-jan-1[11] https://www.cu.edu/ope/policy/aps-changes[12] http://www.cu.edu/ope[13]

https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-tuition-assistance-benefit-applications-open[14]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/es_tuition-benefit_top.jpg[15] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/dependent-options[16] https://my.cu.edu/[17]
https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/cu-boulder[18]
https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/cu-denveranschutz[19]
https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/uccs[20]
https://vimeo.com/306041536[21] https://vimeo.com/306041387[22] https://vimeo.com/306041440[23]
https://vimeo.com/306041471[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/omada-wellness-program-expands-offerings-type-2-diabetics[25] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/omada_feat.jpg[26]
https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/pdf/2009-Power-of-Prevention.pdf[27]

[28] https://go.omadahealth.com/deployments/cuhealthplan[29] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/boettcher-early-career-investigator-application-deadline-approaching[30] http://www.cu.edu/bfww[31] https://www.cu.edu/doc/bfww-applicantinstructions-cu-boulder.pdf[32] https://www.cu.edu/doc/bfww-applicantinstructions-uccs.pdf[33]
https://www.cu.edu/doc/bfww-applicantinstructions-cu-denver-amc.pdf[34] https://vimeo.com/189663981[35]
https://www.cu.edu/bfww/cu-investigators[36] http://www.cu.edu/bfww/eligibility[37]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/gov-polis-donating-congressional-papers-cu-boulder[38]
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https://connections.cu.edu/people/memoriam-kathy-arnold