

[Your New Year's resolution: Learn and grow with CU on Coursera](#)<sup>[1]</sup>

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Written by Christopher Haynes and Jaimie Henthorn; graphic by Josephine Koch

Meet your personal and professional goals in 2020 with CU on Coursera, a free online learning program for the University of Colorado.

CU on Coursera is a suite of over 150 online courses taught by faculty from across the University of Colorado. These courses are available at no cost to faculty, staff, students and alumni from all four campuses and the system offices.

Many of the CU on Coursera opportunities are short, three- to six-week courses taken at your own pace. For each course you complete, you earn a verified and shareable certificate of achievement. Courses are offered online and feature interactive videos, readings and resources alongside practice exercises and graded assessments to provide feedback about your learning.

CU on Coursera offerings also are available to supplement on-campus teaching and learning and as a way to connect students on one campus with faculty on another. For instance, CU Boulder faculty could include content from courses at CU Anschutz, or CU Denver students could expand their cybersecurity skills with the extensive offerings at UCCS.

Many at CU already are enrolling in and completing courses for personal enrichment and professional development through programs like the Effective Communication specialization from CU Boulder or Become an EMT through CU Anschutz.

CU on Coursera is a space for exploration. You can find new lines of academic inquiry such as Medical Cannabis: The Health Effects of THC and CBD from CU Boulder, open up new spaces for inclusion with CU Denver's Queering the Identities: LGBTQ+ Gender and Sexual Identities, or gain comprehensive understanding of Homeland Security and Cybersecurity through UCCS's volume of courses on the subject.

Over 1,000 faculty, staff and students across all CU campuses enrolled in Coursera courses in 2019.

A medical animator and illustrator at Children's Hospital Colorado, **Jodi Slade** completed the Preventative Healthcare for the Newborn Baby course led by Dr. Dan Nicklas of CU Anschutz and Children's Hospital. To keep her certification, Jodi needed to obtain continuing education units (CEUs) from an approved institution and in a course that includes feedback and evaluation. "I thought I would just have to push through getting my continuing education, but the lecturers for the CU course on Coursera actually made the topic interesting and engaging," she said. "I stuck with the course because the instructors were engaging and thorough and kept the material relatable and interesting." In her role, Slade creates animations, illustrations and interactive materials to explain complex surgeries and ease patient anxiety about upcoming or past procedures for the Surgeon in Chief Program. She looks forward to using what she learned in the CU on Coursera course for her job. "I gained a functional knowledge of basic newborn care that I can use to help create visuals to teach new parents," she said. "Having taken this course, I feel I can now distill down the most important concepts so new parents don't feel so overwhelmed with information."

**Margarita Lavrouk**, an accounting and finance professional in Academic Affairs at CU Boulder, recognized the value of the Teamwork Skills: How to Work Effectively in Groups course taught by CU Boulder professor Matt Koschmann. "From my experience, I realized how a lack of communication and teamwork could potentially create conflict, misunderstanding and poor performance in the workplace," Lavrouk said. The course answered questions "that were really important for me." She wanted to improve her teamwork skills as well as extend and improve her vocabulary because she is not a native English speaker. "I believe that I can apply concepts of group development at my workplace to improve the performance of my team," she said. The most important thing she took from the course? "I became more confident in professional communication."

**Frank Leresche**, a postdoctoral researcher in CU Boulder's Department of Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering, completed the course Water in the Western United States, taught by CU Boulder's Anne Gold, director of CIRES' Education and Outreach program. "Coming from Switzerland, which has abundant water like the eastern U.S., I was interested to learn how the water scarcity was managed in the West," said Leresche, adding that he "learned about things that will be useful to me in the future and were not covered in my curriculum. I feel that the Coursera courses will help me to find new work opportunities." In CU on Coursera, Leresche found an important opportunity for continual learning and growth. "I can pass my evenings watching some TV or reading a good book but I also enjoy to take a moment to learn something new. I appreciated that you can follow a course at your own pace and the readings suggested at the end of each lecture to further investigate a particular aspect of the course."

Popular courses on CU on Coursera [2]

Many learners in the program are seeking data analysis skills (Introduction to Data Analysis for Business, Introduction to Clinical Data Science) and personal and professional development (Business Writing, Giving Helpful Feedback). CU on Coursera provides resources for these personal learning plans.

Beyond these, new courses are being added to the program on a rolling basis, like Queering the Schoolhouse: LGBTQ+ Inclusion for Educators from CU Denver and course sequences in Digital Advertising Strategy, Mind and Machine, and Leading Sustainable Community Transformation from CU Boulder.

### **How to get CU on Coursera:**

You can access CU on Coursera in two ways:

Head directly to the [CU on Coursera program](#)[3] welcome page Log into your campus portal and access "Training Resources" (or search for "Coursera" in BuffPortal), then click the tile or link.

At the program welcome page, click "Join for Free" and then "Log in with University of Colorado."

**CU on Coursera** is sponsored by the [Provost's Office for Academic Innovation](#)[4] at CU Boulder and the [Office of Digital Education and Engagement](#)[5] at the University of Colorado system.

### [CU Regents Express Support for President Kennedy and Bipartisan Efforts to Advance CU](#)[6]

The CU Board of Regents published an [opinion piece](#)[7] in The Denver Post on Sunday discussing their working relationships and the search that led to the hiring of President Mark Kennedy in May. The piece came in the wake of media reports and editorials after a list of some 30 candidates for the position was leaked anonymously to [The Colorado Independent](#)[8].

The Post opinion piece, signed by all nine regents, outlined how the regents worked productively and collaboratively through the search process. It also expressed their bipartisan support for Kennedy and his efforts to advance strategic planning, diversity and inclusion, outreach and online education, among others. The board noted that media is quick to focus on areas where they sometimes disagree, but don't often cover areas where they agree. In the past two years, the board has unanimously supported paid parental leave, increased pay for graduate students who teach, enhanced access and support services for veteran students, and policies protecting academic freedom and freedom of expression, among other bipartisan initiatives.

The board also noted it had not conducted the presidential search in "secret," as alleged in some opinion pieces. The regents wrote that "both Colorado law and our policies require confidentiality for anyone who has not been named as a finalist, and we promised the candidates that we would honor those policies." The regents observed that the disclosure of the candidates' names not only violated the promise of confidentiality but placed some of the candidates' current employment in jeopardy.

The piece also pointed out that the practice of a single finalist is the norm in executive searches, where competition for top talent is fierce and accomplished candidates often will not participate in searches where they are one of a slate of

finalists. The past four CU presidential searches have taken the approach, as have recent searches at Colorado State University, the University of Northern Colorado, Metropolitan State University of Denver and others around the country.

The regents' piece also noted that as part of the university's ongoing policy review, it had scheduled a review of executive-level search processes and will consult with external advisor on how it can best conduct searches that will provide the high-level leadership CU needs to meet its mission.

#### [Marcy and Bruce Benson honored as Citizens of the West](#)<sup>[9]</sup>

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Marcy and Bruce Benson on Monday received the prestigious [Citizen of the West award](#)<sup>[11]</sup> for 2020 from the National Western Stock Show.

The honor recognizes those who best embody the spirit and determination of Western pioneers and perpetuate the West's agricultural heritage and ideals. A committee of community leaders selects recipients.

CU's president emeritus and former first lady worked tirelessly during Bruce Benson's 11-plus years at the helm, advancing the university and the state.

Beyond CU, the Bensons are respected leaders in the business, education, civic, political and philanthropic communities. Together they have made a lasting impression through their tireless advocacy and fundraising efforts for issues and institutions they hold in high regard.

"I'm pleased to see that Bruce and Marcy Benson are being jointly honored as Citizens of the West," said Philip Anschutz, 2014 recipient of the Citizen of the West award. "It is a well-deserved honor for their many contributions in the fields of education, philanthropy and business in our community and state."

Proceeds from Monday's award dinner at the National Western Events Center in Denver support 100 scholarships awarded annually by the National Western Scholarship Trust to colleges and universities in Colorado and Wyoming.

Marcy Benson also recently was saluted by the University of Colorado Board of Regents, which bestowed upon her an honorary degree. [Read more here](#)<sup>[12]</sup>.

Marcy and Bruce Bensons chaired CU's \$1.5 billion Creating Futures fundraising campaign, which exceeded its goal in donations raised to support scholarships, academic research projects and capital improvements across CU's campuses. It was the second billion-dollar-plus fundraising campaign they chaired for CU.

Last summer, Bruce Benson retired as president of CU, where he served for more than 11 years, the longest-serving leader of the institution in the past 65 years. During his tenure, CU's research funding reached record levels, supporting the university's strengths in biotechnology, health care, renewable and sustainable energy, and aerospace engineering. He led efforts to promote cross-campus collaboration that have resulted in cooperative academic programs and initiatives, most notably CU's BioFrontiers Institute, led by Nobel Laureate Tom Cech.

President Benson championed free speech and open inquiry on CU's campuses, stressing the need to teach students how to think, not what to think. He was instrumental in furthering CU Boulder's Center for Western Civilization, Thought and Policy, as well as its signature Visiting Scholar in Conservative Thought and Policy position, now in its seventh year. To recognize his efforts, the campus renamed the program the Bruce D. Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization upon his retirement from the university. He has noted that fostering cultural change at CU is one of his proudest accomplishments.

Before CU, Bruce Benson was a successful businessman, active in a variety of educational, civic and political activities at the state and national levels. In 1965, he founded Benson Mineral Group, an oil and gas exploration and production

company. Since then, his business interests expanded to include banking, mortgage servicing, real estate development and management, geothermal power, manufacturing, trucking, restaurants and cable television.

He has served on the board of directors of several leading companies, including United States Exploration, American Land Lease Corporation, Western Capital Investment Corporation and First Interstate Bank of Denver. In 2009, he was inducted into the Colorado Business Hall of Fame.

Three Colorado governors have named him to educational initiatives and governing boards, all of which he chaired: The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (1985-89), Metropolitan State College Board of Trustees (2003-07), P-20 Education Coordinating Council (2007-08) and the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel for Higher Education (2001-03).

Outside Colorado, he was board chair of the Berkshire School in Massachusetts (1984-94) and also served on the board of Smith College (1988-95). Nationally, Benson served on the Board of Directors of the National Park Service and was confirmed by the U.S. Senate as a member of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Bruce Benson has dedicated much of his time to many civic organizations, most notably chairing and initiating reforms at the Denver Public Schools Foundation, Denver Zoo and Boy Scouts. He also served as chairman of the Colorado Republican Party from 1987 to 1993, then 2002 to 2003, and he was the Republican nominee for Colorado governor in 1994.

Marcy Benson has applied her time and talents to a range of activities in Washington, D.C., and Colorado, from serving presidents of the United States to volunteering at leadership levels in health care, education, the arts and civic activities.

In Washington, D.C., she worked in a variety of capacities for Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush. From 1987 to 1992, she was director of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships, a leadership program in which outstanding people from the private sector, state government and the military are chosen to spend a year working as an assistant to a senior White House staff member or a member of the cabinet. She also served as executive assistant to the Assistant to the President for Political and Governmental Affairs, was White House Liaison for Presidential Scheduling for the Reagan-Bush 1984 campaign, and worked in the White House Offices of Political Affairs and Presidential Advance. She also spent seven years in a variety of capacities at the Federal Judicial Center.

In Colorado, Marcy Benson served on the Board of Directors of Children's Hospital Colorado for more than a decade and was co-chair of the campaign that built the new hospital on the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. She also served as chair of The Children's Hospital Foundation for three years and has been a member of that board since 1998. She has been engaged with a number of civic and cultural organizations, including service as a board member of the University of Northern Colorado, the Denver Public Library Commission and the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District. Recently, she was one of 10 business and community leaders recognized by the Girl Scouts of America Denver Chapter as a Woman of Distinction.

As CU's first lady, she devoted much of her time to fundraising and was actively involved with CU's Alzheimer's Research Center and the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center.

Maria Garcia Berry, founder of CRL Associates Inc. and a long-term National Western adviser said, "Bruce and Marcy Benson embody the values of the West by exhibiting a can-do attitude, successfully scaling mountains of challenges, and refusing to take no for an answer – all the while forging wide and diverse relationships with individuals from all walks of life for the betterment of Colorado and the West."

The Bensons have three children and 10 grandchildren. They live in Denver and enjoy their family ranch on the Blue River.

[Regents focus on respect at retreat](#)<sup>[13]</sup>

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The University of Colorado Board of Regents spent the bulk of its winter retreat last week exploring the issue of respect, in terms of how board members work with one another and the administration, as well as how it oversees the university and runs its meetings.

“This is one of the most important discussions we will have as a board, and it should be a frank and honest discussion,” said Regent Sue Sharkey, chair of the board’s Governance Committee, which plans the retreat. Participants of the Jan. 9-10 event at the Gaylord Rockies Resort and Convention Center in Aurora also included the four campus chancellors, President Mark Kennedy and his executive staff. The topic of respect was agreed upon months ago and honed by the governance committee in anticipation of the retreat. The regents enlisted the help of two facilitators to guide separate discussions of the issue.

Chris Chopyak of the management consulting firm Arlosoul walked the board through some basic concepts of respect, focusing on defining the term, finding common ground and understanding how the brain processes information. She asked the board to focus on the governance outcomes it seeks, how it is optimizing to achieve those outcomes, and identifying barriers.

After extensive discussion, the board members arrived at four big-picture principles to guide them in their work: Always focusing on how the board can foster the success of the university, its students and the state; Striving to define common ground and patiently working to get there; Making their best effort to learn to disagree without being disrespectful; And focusing on common values and beliefs, particularly those that advance the university. The board also discussed the importance of working with President Mark Kennedy to find common ground and achieve common goals.

“I believe Mark is the right person to lead us in those discussions and we need to support him,” said Regent Irene Griego.

Day two of the retreat was led by Dr. Cathy Trower, author of “The Practitioner’s Guide to Governance as Leadership” and “Govern More, Manage Less.” She worked to build on the understandings reached during day one and extend them.

“The issues facing the president and Board of Regents are multi-layered, complicated, nuanced, and include history, structure, culture and personalities,” she said.

Trower suggested that the board had two primary tasks to achieve out of the retreat discussion: to determine ways to support the president and to build a culture of excellent governance where the regents focus on issues of strategic significance to CU’s long-term success. Trower also articulated some principles of good governance, including creating policy through committees, speaking with one voice and engaging in collaborative policy setting with university constituents. While CU’s board and administration have had some success in those areas, they need to identify the gaps between the ideal and the reality and bridge them, she said.

One example that generated lots of discussion was the occasional practice of some regents to bring forward resolutions the day of meetings (or in meetings), which surprised their colleagues and inhibited discussion of issues. President Mark Kennedy said it would be productive for the regents to engage the administration early on issues so he and his team could work to suggest good solutions.

“Bring issues to us and let us see if we can move them in a direction where we can get more buy-in,” he said. “It takes time and work and it doesn’t come spontaneously.”

After extensive discussion and interactive exercises, Trower led the board to agree on tactics to start, stop and keep as it moves to better governance. Among the issues to start were using committees to vet issues in advance, creating a culture of inquiry on the board, fostering accountability, being open-minded, and furthering transparency. Among the issues to stop were bringing resolutions from the floor during meetings, doing end-runs on president and

administration, violating confidentiality, and viewing governance through a political lens. Issues to keep included having the chair and vice chair from separate political parties, working on effective governance, and finding win-win situations for the board and administration.

Regents and administrators finished the two-day sessions on an optimistic note, agreeing to work together in the best interests of the university.

"I think we made some real progress," Sharkey said.

#### [Regents celebrate leaders with degrees, awards, medals](#)<sup>[12]</sup>

The University of Colorado Board of Regents has announced its selection of this year's recipients of honorary degrees, Distinguished Service Awards and University Medals.

Upon the recommendation of the Regents' Awards Committee, the board in November approved the 2020 nominees. Each award recipient has been invited to attend a campus commencement ceremony to accept his or her award; the dates and locations are to be announced.

The 2020 recipients are:

#### **Honorary Degree**

##### **Marcy Benson (Doctor of Humane Letters)**

Marcy Benson has applied her time and talents in a variety of capacities, from serving U.S. presidents to volunteering at leadership levels in education, health care, the arts and civic activities. She has demonstrated unparalleled leadership and commitment to CU, volunteering in many capacities, including co-chairing two fundraising campaigns – Creating Futures (2006-13) and Total Learning Environment-Beyond Boundaries (1996-2003) – raising more than \$1 billion. She has served as a member and chair of the CU Foundation's Board of Trustees, the Board of Directors of the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center, and the Development Committee for the University of Colorado Denver. She helped to better the state of Colorado serving as an active community volunteer, including her involvement with the Denver Zoological Foundation, the Denver Public Schools Foundation, Children's Hospital Colorado Board of Directors, The Children's Hospital Foundation, the Denver Public Library Commission and the Scientific and Cultural Facilities District. Marcy Benson served as the first lady of CU for more than 11 years and, through her role, was instrumental in elevating CU's engagement, philanthropic success and reputation. She has created a legacy of philanthropic impact.

##### **Tilman "Tillie" Bishop (posthumous) (Doctor of Humane Letters)**

Tilman "Tillie" Bishop served 28 years in the Colorado General Assembly and 38 years overall as an elected official, becoming the fourth-longest serving elected official in the history of the Colorado legislature, and the longest serving senator from Western Colorado. He was president pro tem of the Senate for six years, served 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources and Energy Committee, served on the Legislative Audit Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee, the Business Affairs and Labor Committee. Tillie Bishop was a Mesa County commissioner, a University of Colorado regent, a Colorado Mesa University trustee, and chairman of the Colorado Tourism Board. Sixty-two percent of the 736 bills Tillie Bishop introduced during his time at the Capitol passed, including a 1979 bill that released ski areas of legal responsibility for skier injuries while also placing certain safety requirements on the ski industry. The bill became a model across the country. He was named Legislator of the Year by 11 entities, received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Northern Colorado, and has a college campus and wildlife area named for him in Mesa County. Tilman "Tillie" Bishop, died June 16, 2019, in Grand Junction. He was 86.

##### **Richard Monfort (Doctor of Humane Letters)**

Richard Monfort has demonstrated philanthropic leadership and dedication to the state of Colorado – both personally and through Monfort Family Foundation – at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, the University of Northern Colorado and Colorado State University. His gifts included \$20 million-plus to cancer research at the CU Cancer Center and Children's Hospital Colorado. He has served on numerous boards in higher education and hospital administration,



including UCHHealth, University of Colorado Hospital and University of Northern Colorado. Richard Monfort served as chairman of the Colorado Economic Development Commission, which resulted in improved health and quality of life for individuals and families in urban and rural communities. Including his investments such as in Coors Field, he has demonstrated the vision, drive and commitment to community required to create flourishing sports enterprises in Colorado and accelerate the economic development in LoDo and the Denver Ballpark District. He has been recognized with accolades including the United Way of Weld County Humanitarian of the Year Award in 2008, and honorary degrees from Colorado State University and Johnson & Wales University.

**Joanne Posner-Mayer (Doctor of Humane Letters)**

Joanne Posner-Mayer graduated from CU's Physical Therapy Program in 1973 and became an entrepreneur in the fitness market starting Ball Dynamic International and Fitball. Now a dedicated philanthropist, her leadership and generosity have had an impact throughout Colorado with the establishment of the Posner Center for International Development. She has served as a trustee for the Colorado Ballet and supported the Be Beautiful, Be Yourself program of the Global Down Syndrome Foundation and the Denver Art Museum. Her dedication to the University of Colorado is evident, having served on the CU School of Medicine Physical Therapy Program's Scholarship Endowment Advisory Board, CU Denver's Advisory Council for the Jake Jabs Center for Entrepreneurship, and the CU Foundation Board of Trustees. She was integral in establishing an endowed diversity scholarship at the CU School of Medicine, and made a \$2 million commitment to help create the first physical therapy endowed chair at CU Anschutz, which allowed the School of Medicine to recruit a highly successful leader in physical therapy.

**Paul and Katy Rady (Doctor of Humane Letters)**

Paul and Katy Rady are generous philanthropic leaders whose investments in the higher education in Colorado will pay dividends for decades to come. Their impact has been significant and multifaceted across the CU system and higher education in Colorado. Examples include: CU Boulder, more than \$1 million for the Interactive Geology Project (2004-23, K-12 education and public outreach), as well as the previous EMARC research consortium (2008-12)? CU Boulder, \$5 million endowed chair in Geological Sciences, 2018 CU Boulder, \$5 million gift for Engineering, 2018 for capital support, 2018 CU Anschutz Medical Campus, two \$1.5 million endowed chairs, 2017 Western Colorado University, endowed chair in geology, 2001 Western Colorado University, \$80 million to establish the Paul M. Rady School of Computer Science Their leadership and the philanthropy helped establish a new engineering partnership program in collaboration with Western Colorado University, Paul Rady's alma mater, creating a productive and vibrant partnership between Western State and CU. Distinguished Service Award

**Rio de la Vista**

For nearly four decades, Rio de la Vista has been active in spearheading initiatives devoted to the conservation and preservation of Colorado's biodiverse wetlands, landscapes and cultural resources. Her 40-plus year career in conservation includes positions as the director of the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center at Adams State University, commissioner for Rio Grande Natural Area Commission, associate director for Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust, coordinator of the Rock Creek Heritage Project, and more. Rio de la Vista's approach to working with local communities in Colorado and the Mountain West is grounded in the tenets of approaching problems comprehensively. When she engages with people, communities and organizations, she balances and integrates ecological principles and ideals with economic realities, enabling her to work effectively with politicians, ranchers, scientists, funders and others.

**Barbara Weiske**

Barbara Weiske is a leader with vision, mastering collaborative skills and a sense of humility in leading the Auraria Higher Education Center 2009-19, managing growth among three different institutions of higher education. She demonstrated an ability to bring competing factions together; to be tireless in her quest to overcome obstacles; and to be tenacious in moving local, state and federal bureaucracies to respond positively to crucial campus issues such as public safety, traffic and pedestrian conflicts. Her leadership resulted in multiple – often unknown and untold – benefits to CU, including her introduction of the Campus Neighborhood Concept, which transferred significant authority and responsibilities regarding campus design, construction and management from the Auraria Board of Directors to the University of Colorado. She is highly regarded for her thoughtfulness, her gracious contributions to the unique and diverse legacy of the campus community, and her humble and enthusiastic service that strengthened CU Denver, the Auraria Campus, the city of Denver and the state of Colorado. University Medal

**Donna Boucher**

Donna Boucher's lifetime of dedicated service to the state, the University of Colorado and the Colorado School of Public Health has had a significant impact. Her extensive contributions include serving on the Colorado School of Public Health Advisory Board, 2011-current, and as board chair 2013-17; the National Institutes of Health Council of Councils Advisory Council, 2017-19; the Colorado Coalition for the Medically Underserved 2003-05; the CITAP Denver Police Force-Strategic Planning Committee, Administrative Committee Chair January 2004 through September 2005;

the Colorado State Mental Health Planning and Resource Council, Chair Resource Committee, member July 1994-1997; the University of Colorado Foundation Board of Directors 1989-96, executive committee, investment, nominations, and capital campaign; and the University of Colorado Leeds School of Business, Boulder campus, chair 1987-89, Advisory Board member 1987-93. She played a critical role as a member of the School of Public Health Initiative, Fitzsimons campus, in the CU, CSU and UNC collaborative startup committee 2005-07. She rallied key decision-makers for the creation of the School of Public Health, the first school of public health in the Mountain West, in 2008. More recently, her support of the MPH program in Population Mental Health and Wellbeing and her ongoing work to raise public awareness of the challenges facing our society and our health care systems reflect the work and character that have provided Donna Boucher an enduring legacy.

**Patricia Crown**

Patricia Crown served for more than a decade on the Crown Family Philanthropies' Health and Human Services and Global Health Committees, and has been a longtime advocate and supporter of Project PAVE, a nonprofit that provides violence prevention education through school-based therapy and family advocacy. In February 2019, she made a significant commitment to CU Boulder to endow the Renee Crown Wellness Institute. The institute will conduct research on the social and emotional wellness of children and youth, and will serve as a hub for research-practice partnerships to promote the wellness of young people and the systems and adults. Her vision of supporting wellness in students, educators, schools and communities has led to invaluable partnerships that benefit Colorado and add to research and resources in the field of youth, family and school wellness.

**Mary Krugman**

Mary Krugman's accomplishments include a distinguished career in nursing as a scholar and leader in clinical settings, and significantly furthering the excellence of nursing practice at the University of Colorado Hospital and CU Nursing. She was a key leader in developing the University Health System Consortium, American Association of Colleges of Nursing Post-Baccalaureate Nurse Residency Program, now in 64 sites nationwide. Mary Krugman served on the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education, writing national residency program accreditation standards that resulted in the UCH program becoming one of the first in the nation to receive national accreditation. She epitomized outstanding leadership in both the practice and academic environments as she continually strived to blend partnerships between nursing service and the University of Colorado College of Nursing. Her contributions have a positive impact on professional nurse entry into practice and nurse retention at UCH and across the country.

**Jeannie and Jack Thompson**

Jeannie and Jack Thompson have contributed significant philanthropic gifts to all four CU campuses to name endowed programs, provide named capital spaces, support students and faculty, and more. Jeannie Thompson is a tireless advocate for CU having served on the advisory board of the BioFrontiers Institute and its predecessor, the Colorado Initiative in Molecular Biotechnology (CIMB). She has served on the CU Foundation Board of Directors, the CU Boulder Alumni Association Board of Advisors, the Center of the American West Board of Directors, and as an active member of CU Advocates. Jack Thompson has been active as a board member for CU Boulder's College of Arts and Sciences and its Center of the American West. He served as a professor of history at the University of Michigan and Northwestern University, and later as a professor and dean at both Northwestern and Oakton Community College in the Chicago suburbs.

Together, Jeannie and Jack Thompson are proud University of Colorado graduates and loyal CU supporters who have drummed up excitement for the ENT Center for Performing Arts at CU Colorado Springs; exposed others to the promise of medical research at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus; and supported the students at CU Denver in their fundraising efforts for the health and wellness building. They followed CU Boulder's athletic teams, generated interest in the CU Boulder's music programs and supported the BioFrontiers building and program.

**[Champions of open educational resources eligible for new award](#)**[15]

Do you have a teacher or colleague who has creatively implemented or adapted open educational resources in their class? Do you have a teacher or colleague who has authored and shared high quality open educational resources?

If so, consider nominating them for CU-wide recognition.

The Office of Academic Affairs and the Open CU Steering Team are accepting nominations for the inaugural Open



Educational Resources (OER) Champion Award, sponsored by the Office of Digital Education and Engagement.

The award celebrates four University of Colorado educators, one from each campus, who contribute to the open educational movement, increase campus and system awareness of OER, and/or galvanize interest in exploring, adopting and creating OER to benefit University of Colorado students. The prize includes a one-time cash award of \$500.

Open Educational Resources (OER) are “teaching, learning and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits their free use and repurposing by others.” (From The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.)

OER include digital learning materials such as open textbooks, courses, syllabi, lectures, assignments, quizzes, lab activities, games and simulations. Preference will be given to educators who emphasize the use of open-licensed or public domain materials.

All members of the CU educational community are eligible for the award. Nominations will be reviewed by the Open CU Steering Team and the CU system Office of Academic Affairs. Selections will be based on criteria such as educational impact and innovation toward a culture of open knowledge sharing and access.

Nominations will be accepted [via this online form](#)[16] through Feb. 5. Awardees, one from each campus, will be notified by Feb. 15 and presented with their award, a digital badge, and a \$500 honorarium. Awardees who can attend will be honored at an OER award luncheon the first week in March.

[Innovation and Efficiency Awards shine light on employee ingenuity](#)[17]  
[18]

The 2020 CU Innovation and Efficiency Program is underway and in search of great new ideas.

The mission of the program, sponsored by the Office of University Controller, is to recognize and reward exceptional employee innovation. We invite employees with proven track records for creating efficiencies, improving business processes and saving time and money, to share their ideas at <https://www.cu.edu/controller/innovation-efficiency-awards>[19]. Just look for the link to “Tell Us What You’ve Done,” fill out the online submission form, and wait for acknowledgement that the submission has been received. Once vetted, submissions are posted to the Innovation and Efficiency website and entered into consideration for prizes.

The program awards five cash prizes – the Controller’s Award for Excellence, \$1,500, and four additional prizes of \$1,000 each – to the year’s top submissions. Additionally, all submissions that pass the vetting process will be posted online for sharing with CU colleagues; even if your submission doesn’t win a cash prize, you have the gratification of knowing that other campus organizations might benefit from your knowledge and expertise.

Submissions for this year’s program will be accepted through Feb. 29. Submissions selected to advance to the finals will be filmed and featured on our website. An expo showcasing our finalists is set for May 11 at 1800 Grant St., where awards will be presented.

Institutions of higher learning grow stronger by sharing ideas and moving forward. Help us grow momentum and strength by sharing your innovations now.

[In the hands of these actors, theater builds bridges](#) [20]

[Photo Feature: President Kennedy takes in UCCS basketball victories against Fort Lewis](#)<sup>[21]</sup>

[Fall 2019 Commencement honors graduates, faculty award recipients](#)<sup>[22]</sup>

[State of the School of Medicine: Strong upward trend continues](#)<sup>[23]</sup>

[Pape joins UCCS as director of Career Services and Student Futures](#)<sup>[24]</sup>

[As CU Nursing's Meek retires, students recall powerful influence](#)<sup>[25]</sup>

[Guinness publishes first book on the art of Rosemarie Trocke](#)<sup>[26]</sup>

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## Links

[\[1\] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/your-new-year-s-resolution-learn-and-grow-cu-coursera](https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/your-new-year-s-resolution-learn-and-grow-cu-coursera)<sup>[2]</sup>  
[https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/coursera\\_topics-graphic.jpg](https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/coursera_topics-graphic.jpg)<sup>[3]</sup> <https://coursera.org/programs/cu-on-coursera-sgyue><sup>[4]</sup> <https://www.colorado.edu/oai/><sup>[5]</sup> <https://www.cu.edu/oaa/office-digital-education-engagement><sup>[6]</sup>  
<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-regents-express-support-president-kennedy-and-bipartisan-efforts-advance-cu><sup>[7]</sup>  
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