Five questions for Kimberly Slavsky[1]

Kimberly Slavsky serves as operational data lead in the Department of Psychiatry, School of Medicine, at CU Anschutz. It's a job that didn't exist before she took it on just over five years ago.

"I had been in my current role for 10 years and I was looking to transition into something different," Slavsky said. "My (director of finance and administration) wanted to modernize processes and have better tracking metrics. That was something I had enjoyed doing, especially after working on my master of science in organizational leadership, so I was very fortunate to have a position created for me."

She describes the core of her role as process development, implementation and improvement through a program called Smartsheet.

"It's a great program with lots of helpful features," she said. "I also manage the department's intranet and distribution lists."

Another key role of Slavsky's: co-chair of the University of Colorado Staff Council[2] (UCSC), the systemwide shared governance group representing employees from the four campuses and system administration.

She devotes some of her free time to a passion for history, focusing between the turn of the 20th century and the beginning of the Cold War.

"I like learning about the social aspects more than the battles," she said. "However, I have watched many a documentary or read a book that covered military tactics."

She also enjoys spending time with family and listening to music.

1. How did you get involved with the CU Anschutz Staff Council and the University of Colorado Staff Council?

I started serving on my campus council in December of 2019. I tell people that I worked at CU for over eight years before I even knew what Staff Council was. A colleague of mine who was leaving mentioned it in a meeting, so I asked her about it afterwards. Once I heard about it, I knew I wanted to participate.

My first meeting was a Q-and-A session for a previous president search, which I thought was amazing. Ever since that day, I was hooked. I was given the opportunity to serve on UCSC starting in August of 2020, and it has been one of the best experiences that I have ever had professionally.

2. Why is participating in shared governance important to you?

I participate in shared governance to ensure staff perspectives are heard in decisions that affect policies, resources and workplace culture. It's about advocating for fairness and inclusivity for staff.

Shared governance also strengthens transparency and trust. We're helping to create policies that align with both staff needs and organizational goals. I believe it fosters a sense of belonging and shared responsibility. We are a part of shaping a positive environment for faculty, staff and students.

3. You are serving as co-chair of UCSC with JáNet Hurt. How do you share responsibilities?

We split the duties evenly, taking turns at presentations for the Board of Regent meetings, attending meetings of the campus councils, and we attend meetings together as much as possible. We discuss what the best path forward would be.

My main goal is to work with Ja'Net, my co-chair, in building stronger relationships and being the voice of the staff – for

all matters that come to our attention – to the best of our abilities.

4. What issues do you consider the top priorities for UCSC this year?

There has been a significant amount of unrest with the federal transitions, state and federal budget shortfalls, the increased cost of living, etc. There sadly isn't much we can do with that. However, all of this can have a detrimental effect on staff. So, I feel that our most important priorities are to show staff that we exist, that we are here for them and we want to help.

We are incredibly lucky at CU to have supportive leadership, and they are willing to help where they can. I think that is also important, that we help staff to see that they are more than a warm body and that people at all levels are working for them.

5. What's your favorite thing about working at CU Anschutz?

I have two favorite things, the first one being the fact that I work on a campus that is making medical breakthroughs for patients not only locally but internationally. We are training future doctors, dentists, nurses and a whole host of other providers and scientists to change the world, all through what they learned here. It's pretty cool.

The other one, and I know it sounds cliché, but it's the people. From my colleagues in the Department of Psychiatry, to other staff and faculty members, and all the way through to our senior leadership team, we all have a similar goal, and we strive to work toward it.

Learn more: To watch a brief video overview of the University of Colorado Staff Council, click here[3].

To learn more about each campus Staff Council, including how to get involved at your campus, visit the websites below. Each site includes a link to a campus-specific video.

CU Boulder:https://www.colorado.edu/staffcouncil/[4]

UCCS:https://staff.uccs.edu/[5]

CU Denver:https://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty-staff/staff-council[6]

CU Anschutz:https://www.cuanschutz.edu/offices/staff-council[7]

CU partnership in Google AI initiative helping to deliver career-boosting credentials to learners[8]

The CU system recently renewed its participation in the National Association of Higher Education Systems (NASH[9]) Microcredentials Community of Practice [10](CoP), an initiative of the Google AI for Education Accelerator.

NASH – a first-in-the-nation partnership with Google modeled after the University of Texas Texas Credentials for the Future[11] initiative – brought together 11 higher education systems, 88 institutions and over 100 faculty members and leaders to deliver Google Career Certificates and AI training, either as co-curricular offerings or embedded into academic programs.

In its inaugural year, the CoP reached nearly 15,000 learners.

The Google AI for Education Accelerator provides essential skills-based certificates to students, faculty and staff across the CU system at no cost, including:
Google Career Certificates: Industry recognized certificates[12] that equip students with job-ready skills in cybersecurity, data analytics, IT support and more. An employer consortium[13] of over 150 top companies, including

Google, use these certificates for hiring or upskilling. To date, the program has helped over 1 million people gain training for higher-paying jobs. Over 70% of certificate graduates report a positive career impact within six months of completion. **AI Essentials:** Google's AI training[14] teaches foundational AI skills, effective prompting techniques and responsible AI usage. Students also learn how to use AI tools for academic and career-related tasks, such as creating study guides, building resumes and practicing for interviews. **Gemini and NotebookLM through Workspace:** Institutions have enterprise access to Gemini and NotebookLM, including data protections, through Google Workspace for Education Fundamentals.
Impact at CU campuses:

Janice Thorpe, teaching professor, UCCS: "UCCS is making Google Career Certificates available to students across disciplines with a two-pronged approach. First, faculty are integrating modules and micro?specializations directly into credit?bearing courses, so students earn industry?recognized credentials as part of their normal learning pathway. Additionally, the certificates are available through our Career Center for students to complete alongside their coursework."

Sarah Trzeciak, assistant vice chancellor, career development and immersive learning, CU Denver: "Employers want a degree and experience when they're hiring entry-level positions now. These certificates are perfect for students who may not be able to complete an internship, are working full-time already, caretaking or just busy. Being able to complete a self-paced, industry-recognized certificate is a great way to stand out in the job market."

Randall Fullington, assistant vice provost and executive director of academic and learning innovation, CU Boulder: "We see these certificates serving a couple of needs on campus. First, we find that students are hungry to add additional credentials to their resumes as they start looking for jobs. These certificates provide students with industry-recognized skills in verified badges, which is something employers are eager to see. Second, we're seeing students interested in adding interdisciplinary elements to their majors. These certificates allow students to add business, computing and AI skills to their primary areas of interest, which opens up new avenues for creativity and innovation in their work."

"Every student deserves access to the AI skills needed to succeed in today's job market," said Lisa Gevelber, founder of Grow with Google. "We are proud to partner with the CU system and NASH to provide students with our most advanced AI products and training, ensuring they know how to make the most of the technology in the classroom and beyond. This program builds on years of us working together with universities to help students prepare for exciting careers."

To expand access to microcredentials and AI skills to more students across the country, participating systems and institutions in the CoP receive:
Targeted technical assistance and professional development from the University of Texas System, select experts, NASH and Google, including implementation plan support, PD sessions and ongoing coaching to ensure successful program delivery Networking and collaboration opportunities with other participating systems, including access to virtual and in-person convenings about microcredentials, AI and the future of work Access to resources and promising practices, including playbooks, case studies and marketing collateral Opportunities for sharing best practices and driving sector-wide progress $15,000 stipend per system to be used flexibly to support action-oriented outcomes
To learn more about the Google AI for Education Accelerator, visit: https://grow.google/certificates-academic-institutions/[15]

To learn more about the NASH Microcredentials Community of Practice, visit: nash.edu/nash-google-microcredentials-partnership/[10]

Important 2025 tax forms arriving soon [16]

Regents elect new leadership, set committee assignments for coming year[17]

The University of Colorado Board of Regents recently elected members Ken Montera as chair and Callie Rennison as vice chair in a regular leadership election for the coming year. In addition, new regent committee assignments were made.

Regent law dictates that the chair and vice chair role cannot be held by two individuals of the same political party. Regent law also directs that the board leadership elections must occur via secret ballot if regents nominate more than one individual to assume the role of chair and vice chair.

Montera[18], a Republican representing the 5th Congressional District, served previously as vice chair. He first was appointed to the Board of Regents by Gov. Jared Polis in December 2021, then won election in 2022 for the remainder of the term and for a full term in 2024. Montera spent over 30 years as a senior executive in four Fortune 200 companies leading strategy, multi-billion-dollar budgets, and had direct responsibility for over 40,000 associates. The Pueblo native graduated from CU's Leeds School of Business in 1979.

"We all know the critical contributions CU makes to the success of individual lives, advancing research and creative endeavors, in health care provision and to our state and national economy," Montera told the board following his election. "Each one of you understands that impact and feels the weight of ensuring that impact grows through your leadership efforts."

Rennison[19], a Democrat representing the 2nd Congressional District, first was elected to the board in 2020 and is a professor emerita and former associate dean of faculty affairs at the University of Colorado Denver School of Public Affairs. She also served as the director of the Office of Equity and Title IX Coordinator for CU Denver and CU Anschutz.

"I want to celebrate the fact that a strength of our board is that we act in a bipartisan, collaborative way that puts CU's interests first. We are pragmatic and strive to build bridges to the benefit of CU," Rennison said. "I'm anxious to keep working for the benefit of all our faculty, staff and students as CU continues to add value to the state of Colorado, our nation and our world."

The CU Board of Regents consists of nine members serving staggered six-year terms, one elected from each of Colorado's eight congressional districts and one from the state at large. The board is charged constitutionally with the general supervision of the university and the exclusive control and direction of all funds of and appropriations to the university, unless otherwise provided by law.

Regent committees are the starting point for policy debate before being considered by the full board. Here's a look at new committee assignments for 2026:

Governance Committee

Elliott Hood, chair; Frank McNulty, vice chair; Ray Scott, Callie Rennison

Finance Committee

Nolbert Chavez, chair; Ray Scott, vice chair; Ilana Dubin Spiegel, Ken Montera

University Affairs Committee

Mark VanDriel, chair; Ilana Dubin Spiegel, vice chair; Elliott Hood, Frank McNulty

Audit Committee

Frank McNulty, chair; Callie Rennison, vice chair; Mark VanDriel, Nolbert Chavez

Other committee representation

Regents also serve in liaison roles on the following committees:

Investment Advisory Committee (IAC): Nolbert Chavez

CU Foundation: Ilana Dubin Spiegel

Auraria Board of Directors (AHEC): Callie Rennison

Colorado Trustee Network (CTN): Mark VanDriel

2025 W-4 exemptions will expire Feb. 15 [20]

CU Boulder receives prestigious community engagement honor[21]

UCCS receives Open Educational Resources funding for books and course materials [22]

The power of design: Architecture's role in helping people heal [23]

Gut microbiome, intermittent fasting and weight loss: Seeking a link [24]

Federal update: FY26 Appropriations, AHEAD Committee Consensus, more[25]

From Jan. 16, this update from CU Federal Relations and Counsel includes information on FY26 Appropriations, AHEAD Committee Consensus, SAMHSA Grant Cancellation Reversal, DOE Grant Cancellation Ruling, Student Visa Revocations, State Visa Processing Halt and WH Health Care Priorities.

Click here to read the post.[26]

For the latest communications and federal memos, please visit the CU System Federal Updates and Actions[27] page.

Thomas wins career honor from International Water Association [28]

Harris brings community-centered approach to campus safety [29]

Ceal Barry Plaza to be dedicated Sunday[30]

Business Buzz: CU Denver launches sustainability challenge to tackle Denver's urban issues[31]

Who were CU Law's first Black students? A librarian is on a quest to find out[32]

CU Anschutz Teams up With a Local Retirement Home for Colorado's First 'Living Lab'[33]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/five-questions-kimberly-slavsky[2] https://www.cu.edu/ucsc[3] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n1DNkrwu1Ss[4] https://www.colorado.edu/staffcouncil/[5] https://staff.uccs.edu/[6] https://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty-staff/staff-council[7] https://www.cuanschutz.edu/offices/staff-council[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-partnership-google-ai-initiative-helping-deliver-career-boosting-credentials-learners[9] http://nash.edu[10] http://nash.edu/nash-google-microcredentials-partnership/[11] https://www.utsystem.edu/sites/texas-microcredentials[12] http://grow.google/certificates[13] http://grow.google/employers[14] http://grow.google/students[15] https://grow.google/certificates-academic-institutions/[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/important-2025-tax-forms-arriving-soon[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-elect-new-leadership-set-committee-assignments-coming-year[18] https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fregents.cu.edu%2Fmeet-the-regents%2Fken-montera&data=05%7C02%7Cmichele.ames%40cu.edu%7Cfc41d6240b164a1026f608de54742050%7Ce889e28f74d447f287e853732cbbe7ec%7C0%7C0%7C639041055190891486%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=OAX76jbvPFrkuk5lgpYOoAcqBfkCXfyzpcvQlwy7tSA%3D&reserved=0[19] https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fregents.cu.edu%2Fmeet-the-regents%2Fcallie-rennison&data=05%7C02%7Cmichele.ames%40cu.edu%7Cfc41d6240b164a1026f608de54742050%7Ce889e28f74d447f287e853732cbbe7ec%7C0%7C0%7C639041055190871417%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=qTs9fF16HFHJ%2FJX4aN9M3YaulT5FE469W0VKJUBydNY%3D&reserved=0[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/2025-w-4-exemptions-will-expire-feb-15[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-receives-prestigious-community-engagement-honor[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-receives-open-educational-resources-funding-books-and-course-materials[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/power-design-architecture-s-role-helping-people-heal[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/gut-microbiome-intermittent-fasting-and-

weight-loss-seeking-link[25] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/federal-update-fy26-appropriations-ahead-committee-consensus-more[26] https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/federal-government-update-11626[27] https://www.cu.edu/office-government-relations/federal-relations/federal-updates-and-actions[28] https://connections.cu.edu/people/thomas-wins-career-honor-international-water-association[29] https://connections.cu.edu/people/harris-brings-community-centered-approach-campus-safety[30] https://connections.cu.edu/people/ceal-barry-plaza-be-dedicated-sunday[31] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/business-buzz-cu-denver-launches-sustainability-challenge-tackle-denvers-urban-issues[32] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/who-were-cu-law-s-first-black-students-librarian-quest-find-out[33] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/cu-anschutz-teams-local-retirement-home-colorado-s-first-living-lab