CU Denver program helps incarcerated learners reach milestone[1]
[2]

A CU Denver partnership with the Colorado Department of Corrections (DOC) recently celebrated a milestone, holding "graduation" ceremonies for incarcerated learners who completed a seven-class sequence leading toward a Certificate in Strategic Communication.

The Dec. 15-16 events recognized students who are incarcerated at the DOC's Territorial Correctional Facility in Canon City and Sterling Correctional Facility.

Led by Stephen Hartnett, professor from CU Denver's communication department, CU's Prison Education program[3] offers college communication classes aimed at giving prisoners the skills and confidence to return to their communities.

"Everybody knows education reduces recidivism," Hartnett said. "It's the elevator to justice. It reduces burdens on the taxpayer. There's a lot of good."

The December events inspired strong emotions from the students and their family members present, Hartnett said. He and other CU colleagues were moved, too.

"These guys have lived really hard lives," Hartnett said of the students. "They've done damage to their families and communities. And they know it. There's not a whole lot of victories. So on a day like that, where we're celebrating each other and handing out certificates and they feel a sense of accomplishment, it was really sweet.

"You know, we kind of take that stuff for granted – we do (commencement) three times a year on our campus. But for those guys, that's one of the most special days they've had in decades. So is it gratifying? You bet it is. For the students, they've had so few wins. So anytime they get one, it's amplified."
[4]

Building on years of CU Denver classes taught in the prison system, the Prison Education program began accelerating in 2020 through a CU working group inquiring into the university's use of the Colorado Correctional Industries. CU Regent Sue Sharkey, who just recently departed the board after serving for 12 years, also lent vital support.

"Kudos to Regent Sharkey for putting her name and her reputation out there to support this work," Hartnett said. "The support from President Todd Saliman, (Academic Affairs) Vice President Michael Lightner and the Faculty Council all have been fantastic."

The program will continue to evolve in the spring semester, Hartnett said, with one class being offered to the existing cohort at Sterling, two classes and the recruitment of new students at Territorial, and one class for a new cohort of students at Four Mile Correctional Facility in Canon City. At the request of students, a class from CU Denver's School of Business also is being added to the curriculum.

Another key step for the program is its pursuit of being named a Pell Grant-eligible institution by the Colorado DOC and the Federal Department of Education. If successful, that would mean CU Denver and other higher education institutions across the country will be able to offer college in prison where tuition is paid with Federal Pell Grants, starting as soon as next fall. That in turn could lead to students who are now earning certificates moving forward as bachelor's degree-seeking students.

"This is the hard work of making democracy work," Hartnett said. "The bigger picture is that we're bringing communities that have been excluded from the process into the process. We want these students not only to get their degrees, but we're training them to be civic leaders when they get back to their communities."

Bird flu surveillance aims at keeping human risk low [5]

Call for nominations: Open Educational Resources Champion Awards [6]

The annual Open Educational Resources (OER) Champion Award nomination process is now open, with the Office of Academic Affairs and the Open CU Initiative Committee accepting submissions via this online form[7].

The award celebrates four educators – one from each CU 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 honor includes a one-time cash award of $500 added to the recipient's monthly salary.

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 re-purposing 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 members of the Open CU Initiative Committee. 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[7] through Feb. 9, 2023. Awardees, one from each campus, will be notified by Feb. 16, 2023, and presented with their award, a digital badge and a $500 honorarium.

Awardees who are able to attend will be honored by CU President Todd Saliman and members of the CU OER community at an in-person award event March 10.

Watch for crucial tax forms arriving in the mail[8]

University of Colorado employees can expect 2022 W-2 forms to be sent by Jan. 31 to the mailing address they have on file in the employee portal. Additionally, the 1095-C form reflecting their health care coverage 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[9] to see what to do.

How to access the W-2 electronically
Log in to the **employee portal**[10]. Select the **CU Resources** tab (CU System employees can skip this step). Open the **CU Resources Home** dropdown menu at the top left 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.
W-2 access for former employees

Former employees can access their W-2 digitally by using the third-party ADP portal. Follow these instructions[11] 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 2022 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 2022 or whether they qualify for a health coverage exemption. Per the IRS, individuals are not required to submit this form with your 2022 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**[10]. Open the **CU Resources Home** dropdown menu at the top left 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 we strive 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 2022 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[12] to Employee Services.

2022 tax exempt status will expire

For employees who filed a 2022 W-4 to claim tax exempt, their status will expire on **Feb. 15**. Employees will need to submit a new W-4 to continue their exemption. Otherwise, their tax status will revert to "single," the highest withholding status, for 2023.

Follow these steps to update Form W-4:
Log into the portal[10]. Click the **CU Resources** tab. (CU System employees can skip this step.) From the top left 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 2023, 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 "2023."
New Colorado tax deduction for 2023

Colorado-based CU faculty and staff should be aware of an additional state tax of 0.45%, beginning in January 2023, to fund the state's new FAMLI program[13]. This paid family leave program will provide all Colorado workers a portion of their weekly salary for 12-16 weeks for illness or family care-related absences, starting in 2024.

Reminder: Register for CU Social Justice Summit, happening Tuesday [14]

African and African American studies center grand opening set for Wednesday [15]

UCCS online programs recognized in latest U.S. News & World Report rankings[16]

CU Denver professor co-leads study on treating late-stage cancer patients with psilocybin-assisted therapy[17]

Hettich named first UCCS Director of DEI Strategic Initiatives[18]

Photos: Celebrating MLK Day 2023 [19]

In memoriam: Chas Wetherbee [20]

CU Boulder engineers developing ‘smart’ walking stick with help of AI [21]

Perspective | How the way we talk and listen to each other can prevent discrimination[22]

Live Well: Stop using dream dictionary, says Colorado Springs author in new book about dreams[23]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/cu-denver-program-helps-incarcerated-learners-reach-milestone[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/doc-certificates_page_diploma-gown.jpg[3] https://www.cu.edu/regents/news/prison-ed-enables-former-inmates-assimilate-thrive-society[4] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/doc-certificates_page_group.jpg[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/bird-flu-surveillance-aims-keeping-human-risk-low[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/call-nominations-open-educational-resources-champion-awards[7] https://forms.gle/LjTj2qH2f8MYerdj9[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/watch-crucial-tax-forms-arriving-mail[9] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/payroll/get-tax-forms[10] https://my.cu.edu/[11]

https://www.cu.edu/docs/adp-portal-registration-instructions[12] https://www.cu.edu/docs/w-21042-s-reissue-request-form[13] https://www.cu.edu/blog/work-life/state-famli-program-expands-paid-leave-all-workers-2024[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/reminder-register-cu-social-justice-summit-happening-tuesday[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/african-and-african-american-studies-center-grand-opening-set-wednesday[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-online-programs-recognized-latest-us-news-world-report-rankings[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-denver-professor-co-leads-study-treating-late-stage-cancer-patients-psilocybin-assisted[18] https://connections.cu.edu/people/hettich-named-first-uccs-director-dei-strategic-initiatives[19] https://connections.cu.edu/people/photos-celebrating-mlk-day-2023[20] https://connections.cu.edu/people/memoriam-chas-wetherbee[21] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/cu-boulder-engineers-developing-smart-walking-stick-help-ai[22] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/perspective-how-way-we-talk-and-listen-each-other-can-prevent-discrimination[23] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/live-well-stop-using-dream-dictionary-says-colorado-springs-author-new-book-about-dreams