Five questions for Chad Marturano[1]

Chad Marturano's career began in government and public policy, with roles in the Colorado Department of Higher Education, the Colorado Department of Education and the Governor's Office of State Planning and Budgeting. He developed a front-row perspective on how financial decisions shape outcomes for communities across the state.

Marturano[2] joined CU system administration in 2014 and has served as CU vice president and chief financial officer since 2022. He advises system leadership, campus CFOs, state agencies and the Board of Regents on complex choices that influence CU's mission of educating students, advancing research and delivering life-changing health care.

Marturano also is serving as co-chair of the systemwide strategic planning process, which is developing CU's second Strategic Plan. It's due for arrival in the summer.

A Colorado native, Marturano earned a master's degree at CU Denver. He also has family ties to CU Boulder, where his dad was one of the original handlers of Ralphie.

1. What originally brought you to CU, and what has kept you here?

I came to CU because I had the chance to work for someone I admired: University of Colorado President Todd Saliman. At the time, he was CU's CFO and was already known as an incredible leader in higher education and state government. I thought, "If I get the opportunity to work for him and at a place like CU, why wouldn't I take it?" And I'm glad I did, because this really is the best CFO job in higher ed in Colorado.

What keeps me here is the impact. CU isn't just an institution. We educate more than 68,000 students, employ over 33,000 people, conduct groundbreaking research and provide health care that literally saves lives. Being part of something bigger than myself matters deeply, and CU gives me that every day.

2. How would you describe your leadership style?

My leadership philosophy is summed up by a simple principle: "Nothing about us without us." Before making decisions, I want to understand the perspectives of the people who will be affected by them. I don't want anyone waking up to a surprise announcement and thinking, "No one talked to me about this."

I also see CU as a network of subject matter experts, not a hierarchy. My job is to bring smart people together, listen and collaborate so that decisions reflect collective wisdom, not one person's point of view. When people feel included, they feel ownership. That's how progress happens.

3. What does it mean to serve as CU's system CFO, and what do you find most meaningful about the role?

There's plenty of analysis, of course, but the biggest surprise is how relationship-based the job is. Half, if not more, of my day is spent talking with campus CFOs, chancellors, regents, state agencies, legislators and others. My work often looks more like diplomacy than math.

Budgets aren't just numbers — they're value statements. Every dollar we spend reflects who we are and what we stand for. I regularly ask a simple question that is simultaneously the easiest and hardest one: What are we getting with the dollars we're spending? If the answer doesn't connect to our mission, we need to rethink it.

That's where the meaning comes in. CU changes lives, sometimes in dramatic ways. Our faculty generate new knowledge, solve problems that have existed for generations and push humanity forward. Our graduates transform communities. Our health providers save lives. Being part of that ecosystem is humbling, and it reinforces why the work matters.
[3]

4. With the state Legislature reconvening next week to tackle a tight budget – including higher education funding – what are you watching most closely, and how is CU preparing?

We're watching everything, because all state agencies and programs are competing for the same General Fund dollars that support essential services across Colorado. State support is critical for CU. It affects our ability to provide compensation increases for faculty and staff, as well as our ability to keep college within reach for Colorado students and families by keeping tuition in check.

We're preparing the way we always do, by planning for multiple budget scenarios through the budget process with the CU Board of Regents.

5. Who are you outside the CFO role? How do you unwind?

I'm a husband and a dad to three kids, which means many evenings resemble the invasion of Normandy – staging backpacks, lunches and clothes for the next day. During the workday, I try to block my lunch hour so I can take a walk and make calls. It's the perfect mix of productivity and stress relief.

I love running and hiking, especially at Mount Falcon in Jefferson County. It's a low-key hike with incredible views and a quirky backstory: A wealthy landowner once planned to build a "White House of the West" there. It burned down, but the ruins make the hike unforgettable.

I also have a strange superpower: I can quote "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" and "Caddyshack" line for line. I don't know why my brain stores that instead of something more useful.

Once a year, I reread "Man's Search for Meaning." It flips the question of life's purpose back onto you: What meaning are you going to create? It's a powerful reminder, both professionally and personally.
[4]

An Emergency Department leader on what 'The Pitt' gets right – and wrong [5]

Robotics, AI, drones and data analytics are shaping the future of the construction industry [6]

Help shape CU's next Strategic Plan by completing survey [7]

An important stage in the development of CU's Strategic Plan 2.0 continues with the current survey of all members of the CU community.

Faculty, staff and students are encouraged to respond to the survey, which was sent via email on Wednesday. (Community members who completed the survey after receiving the initial email in November did not receive the followup email.) The survey asks all recipients to voice their thoughts on the future direction of the university.

To take the survey:
Use the unique URL sent to you via email, with the subject line "Share Your Voice on CU's Future," to respond. This link is unique to you and can't be shared. Plan to spend about 10 minutes to complete.
As added encouragement to respond, the campus with the highest completion rate across faculty, staff and students

will win a $1,000 donation to the campus food pantry.

“This survey is designed to gather perspectives on university priorities, performance and opportunities for improvement,” President Todd Saliman said in his email launching the effort. “The insights you provide will help shape our next Strategic Plan as we work to continue delivering for our community.”

Feedback from faculty, staff and students will be essential in shaping a strategic direction that reflects the values and aspirations of the entire community, said Strategic Planning Co-Chairs Lynn Vidler, provost at UCCS, and Chad Marturano, vice president and chief financial officer for the CU system.

CU’s next Strategic Plan will succeed the existing five-year plan at the end of this academic year. A draft plan is due to President Saliman by June, with the final Strategic Plan 2.0 slated for presentation to the Board of Regents in the summer.

Learn more about the strategic planning process.[8]

Changes to systemwide administrative policy statements took effect Jan. 1[9]

The Office of Policy and Efficiency (OPE) has announced updates to several administrative policy statements from the Academic Affairs and Employee Services areas. The revisions took effect Jan. 1, 2026.

For more detailed information, go to https://www.cu.edu/ope/aps/latest-changes[10]. For additional information on systemwide APSs, go to: http://www.cu.edu/ope[11].

Academic Affairs
1019-Degree Program Review
Edits were made to ensure alignment with recently approved updates in Regent Policy 4.B: Academic Planning and Accountability, including the addition of periodic independent audits of campus degree review processes relative to APS 1019. Approved changes also clarify requirements for the systemwide annual degree program review report, including that goals and plans for degree programs must be approved by the dean, provost and chancellor.
1038-New Degree Program Approval
Edits were made to ensure alignment with recently approved updates in Regent Policy 4.B: Academic Planning and Accountability, including the addition of periodic independent audits of campus degree review processes relative to APS 1038 requirements. There are also changes to the structure of the systemwide annual new degree report along with minor clarifying edits throughout the APS.
1043-Independent Teaching, Independent Scholarly/Creative Work, and Academic Freedom (formerly, Independent Teaching and Scholarly/Creative Work)
Minor updates were made to the policy title and in the policy to clearly connect the focus of this APS to academic freedom. Also, reference to “independent” scholarly/creative work has been added for purposes of clarity.

Employee Services
5001-Equal Employment Opportunity and Affirmative Action
Changes were made to comply with federal law.
5009-Performance Evaluations for University Staff (formerly, Performance Ratings for University Staff)
Revisions to this policy remove the required rating scales and definitions and instead provide basic instructions and changes the requirement to the campus HR offices to maintain their own campus policy.
5013-Acting and Interim Appointments for University Staff Positions
Minor updates were made to comply with the Colorado Equal Pay for Equal Work Act – by updating the temporary period from six months to nine months in section II.C.2.
5023-Letters of Offer for University Staff
No revisions were proposed. The policy was reviewed as part of the periodic review schedule.
5026-Alternate Work Arrangements for Classified Staff and University Staff

Minor modifications were made to add “alternate modality” which includes definitions of hybrid and remote work arrangements.
5050-Background Checks
Minor modifications were made to add definitions for two additional background checks – one for misconduct and the other for fingerprint checks.
5054-Hiring Retirees to Work in Staff or Faculty Positions
Minor modifications were made to change the outdated term “ORP” to “401(a)”; expand language on requirements around PERA retirees acting as Independent Contractors; remove specific process language for PERA 140-day retirees (as the university has to follow PERA’s rules that periodically change); and clarify work restrictions for tax-deferred early retirement incentive agreements.
5056-University Employment Postings
Minor modifications were made to update the policy based on the Equal Pay for Equal Work Act by changing the interim basis from six months to nine months; and adding language around the compensation range within the posting. In addition, the nondiscrimination statement (II.B) was updated to be consistent with Article 9: Nondiscrimination of the laws of the regents.
5062-Leave
While sections of APS5062-Leave have been reviewed and updated over the past few years, a full review of the full policy was due. As part of the full review, the following sections of the policy have been updated (the detailed changes can be found here[12]):

Section 1: Vacation Leave

Section 2: Sick Leave

Section 3: Administrative Leave

Section 4: Bereavement Leave

Section 5: Court and Jury Leave

Section 6: Furloughs

Section 8: Leave Sharing

Section 10: Military Leave

Section 11: Parental Leave
5066-Employment and Non-Employment at the University
This new administrative policy statement (APS) outlines different employment roles and nonemployment roles within the University of Colorado. These definitions will assist in understanding the differences between roles as well as additional resources for each role.

Boettcher early career investigator application deadline nears[13]

CU faculty researchers are reminded to apply for 2026 Boettcher Investigator status.

New this year is an Intent to Apply form, which is due this Friday (see details below).

Applications for the 2026 Boettcher Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards[14] program will be due to the campus grants offices according to the following campus-specific instructions:
University of Colorado Boulder[15]University of Colorado Colorado Springs[16]University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus[17]

The Boettcher Foundation established the Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards program, which will provide up to five grants of $250,000 each covering up to three years of research activity, 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.

Since the first awards granted in July 2010, the Boettcher Foundation has awarded CU's 75 current Boettcher Investigators[18] more than $17.6 million.

Eligible faculty researchers from all four CU campuses are encouraged to apply. For purposes of the 2026 award year, an eligible early career investigator (ECI):
Is an investigator who is four years or fewer from their initial career-track academic appointment as of Jan. 1, 2026 (i.e., whose initial career-track appointments began no earlier than Jan. 1, 2022); Has not previously received a major independent research award; Is an investigator who received a terminal degree or completed their initial medical residency within 10 years of Jan. 1, 2026 (i.e., on or after Jan. 1, 2016); and Is an investigator who is either a U.S. Citizen or Permanent Resident, as of date of application in 2026.
For more details, go to: http://www.cu.edu/bfww/eligibility[19]

INTENT TO APPLY (New for 2026)

To ensure that the award selection panel has the expertise needed to review submitted applications, we are requesting that each potential 2026 Boettcher Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards applicant complete an Intent to Apply form. Submissions are requested by Friday, Jan. 9.

INTENT TO APPLY[20]

Do not contact the Boettcher Foundation directly.

Call for nominations: 2026 Staff Excellence Awards[21]

The University of Colorado Staff Council (UCSC) invites nominations for the 2026 Staff Excellence Awards, which recognize staff members who have gone above and beyond their job duties, have surpassed expectations and embody what makes CU excellent.

All CU staff members – classified staff, university staff, research professionals and professional research assistants – from the four campuses and system administration are eligible to be nominated for this prestigious award. Faculty, temporary staff, student workers and medical trainees are not eligible.

Two winners from each campus and system administration will be chosen, totaling 10 winners. Each winner will receive a $250 award at a Staff Excellence Award ceremony scheduled for April 24.

Deadline for nominations is 5 p.m. Jan. 30. Winners will be notified by mid-March.

Nominations can be submitted through this link[22].

For more information and questions, please email UniversityofColoradoSC@cu.edu[23].

Three CU CPE webinars slated for January[24]

The CU CPE (Continuing Professional Education) program is offered at no cost to current CU employees. Employees

who don't need formal CPE, but who are seeking affordable professional development, also may access courses.

The Office of University Controller has been offering the CU CPE Program since 2011. Sponsored through the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy, the program provides relevant, timely courses to help CU CPAs meet their continuing educational requirements – and to help all employees understand and fulfill their roles and responsibilities**.**

Upcoming webinars are scheduled for Jan. 14, 20 and 27. For details and to register, go to: https://www.cu.edu/controller/schedule-and-registration[25]

PACES to host CU Boulder's first-ever Community Engagement Week [26]

Event recap: 17th Annual Mountain Lion Research Day 2025 [27]

Federal update: NDAA, NSF NCAR Rescope, more[28]

From Dec. 19, this update from CU Federal Relations and Counsel includes information on NDAA, NSF NCAR Rescope, AHEAD Workforce Pell Consensus, WH Travel Ban, WH Space Superiority EO, NSF Organizational Realignment, NSB Merit Review Report, NASA Administrator Confirmation, CO H-1B Lawsuit, WH Cannabis Reclassification EO, and HHS Gender-Affirming Care Policy Announcement.

Click here to read the post.[29]

Also from Dec. 19, this monthly update from CU Federal Relations includes information on FY26 Appropriations, FY26 NDAA, ED Negotiated Rulemaking, Competitiveness Forum, and more.

Click here to read the post.[30]

For the latest communications and federal memos, please visit the CU System Federal Updates and Actions[31] page.

Lovo named Director of Athletics [32]

Borgelt named Executive Vice Chancellor[33]

Kendi to keynote MLK Convocation Jan. 15 [34]

AI and astronauts: How one CU Boulder researcher is helping prepare humans for Mars[35]

'Dressing Out Loud' is the perfect opening act for DCPA shows[36]

UCCS students traveling to Africa to bring clean water, career aspirations to local communities[37]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/five-questions-chad-marturano[2] https://president.cu.edu/university-leadership/chad-marturano[3]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/cdc_meeting3ga_chad_justin_spotlight_01-08-2026.jpg[4]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/chad_family_pic_600x600_spotlight_01-08-2026.jpg[5]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/emergency-department-leader-what-pitt-gets-right-and-wrong[6]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/robotics-ai-drones-and-data-analytics-are-shaping-future-construction-industry[7]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/help-shape-cu-s-next-strategic-plan-completing-survey[8]
https://www.cu.edu/strategic-planning[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/changes-systemwide-administrative-policy-statements-took-effect-jan-1[10] https://www.cu.edu/ope/aps/latest-changes[11] http://www.cu.edu/ope[12]
https://www.cu.edu/sites/default/files/aps/182974-APS%205062%20-%20Leave/justification/5062justification.pdf[13]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/boettcher-early-career-investigator-application-deadline-nears-3[14]
http://www.cu.edu/bfww[15] https://www.cu.edu/doc/bfww-applicantinstructions-cu-boulder.pdf[16]
https://www.cu.edu/doc/bfww-applicantinstructions-cu-colo-springspdf[17] https://www.cu.edu/doc/bfww-applicantinstructions-cu-denver-amc.pdf[18] https://www.cu.edu/bfww/cu-investigators[19]
http://www.cu.edu/bfww/eligibility[20] https://www.cu.edu/bfww/intenttoapply[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/call-nominations-2026-staff-excellence-awards[22] https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cu.edu%2Fucsc%2Fucsc-staff-excellence-award&data=05%7C02%7Cdedrick%40cu.edu%7C9aa204a7025440d512bb08de310a6b09%7Ce889e28f74d447f287e853732cbbe7ec%7C0%7C0%7C639002117976463955%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=u9m%2BOtvArJhzmTCheFmHvWilKK7mPoAlf4a%2Fh%2BpjOuQ%3D&reserved=0[23] mailto:UniversityofColoradoSC@cu.edu[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/three-cu-cpe-webinars-slated-january[25] https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cu.edu%2Fcontroller%2Fschedule-and-registration&data=05%7C02%7Cdedrick%40cu.edu%7Cc083a5b658704f7a102f08de39afa358%7Ce889e28f74d447f287e853732cbbe7ec%7C0%7C0%7C639011623685975009%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=RYZfMOnANHkvVUj1VZ1V3E3aFh0gMPXxkchTQGj9oS8%3D&reserved=0[26] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/paces-host-cu-boulder-s-first-ever-community-engagement-week[27]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/event-recap-17th-annual-mountain-lion-research-day-2025[28]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/federal-update-ndaa-nsf-ncar-rescope-more[29] https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/federal-government-update-121925[30] https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/cu-federal-relations-monthly-update-121925[31] https://www.cu.edu/office-government-relations/federal-relations/federal-updates-and-actions[32] https://connections.cu.edu/people/lovo-named-director-athletics[33]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/borgelt-named-executive-vice-chancellor[34] https://connections.cu.edu/people/kendi-keynote-mlk-convocation-jan-15[35] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/ai-and-astronauts-how-one-cu-boulder-researcher-helping-prepare-humans-mars[36] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/dressing-out-loud-perfect-opening-act-dcpa-shows[37]

https://connections.cu.edu/itn/uccs-students-traveling-africa-bring-clean-water-career-aspirations-local-communities