Kilkenny’s four-decade career built on service to others

Regina Kilkenny, Ph.D., is, at heart, a public servant.

From acting as a legislative intern for state Rep. Federico Pena in 1980, to joining CU’s Office of the President in 1988 and her accomplished position as associate vice chancellor of academic resources and services at CU Denver’s Anschutz Medical Campus from 2011-2016, her drive to help others has been the hallmark of her career.

“Serving others keeps me humble and reminds me that we all need each other,” she said. “There are so many gifts I receive by serving others, including the gratitude of those who have lifted me up along the way.”

Kilkenny is one of two 2019 Excellence in Leadership Award recipients. Given to an alumnus of the systemwide Excellence in Leadership Program (ELP), the award recognizes exemplary leadership at the university in one or more areas including: leadership of organizations, departments or teams; leadership of projects, programs and/or research; fiscal management and/or fundraising; and student instruction.

Kilkenny, a 2015 ELP graduate, was recognized for her leadership and dedication to CU as chief of staff for CU Denver Chancellor Dorothy Horrell. She has worked in the Office of the Chancellor since 2016, supporting initiatives and projects to meet strategic campus priorities and to improve the student experience.

However, a lifetime of public service marks her career.

Kilkenny was first introduced to the university while a lobbyist to the Colorado General Assembly as a part of a three-person government relations team. Her team was tasked with “reorganizing” University Hospital from a state-owned and -controlled entity to an independent University Hospital Public Authority. This work is now the basis for the governing structure of UCHealth’s University of Colorado Hospital on the Anschutz Medical Campus.

“She helped the two campus administrations that were not necessarily comfortable with the consolidation not only get along, but also work well together,” said Richard D. Krugman, M.D., Distinguished Professor of pediatrics and former vice chancellor for health affairs and dean at the CU School of Medicine. Krugman and Kilkenny worked closely together during the merge.

Kilkenny helped create and coordinate the School of Medicine Council of Advisers, a group of high-level regional business and civic leaders committed to providing strategic direction and advice to the dean.

“I’m proud to carry those lessons learned at CU Anschutz into supporting an amazing group of students, faculty and staff at CU Denver who work extra hard to strive for a better future for them and their loved ones,” Kilkenny said.

The theme of connecting others rings true in her multiple negotiations and projects. She spearheaded a negotiation with a college dean and legal counsel for a renewed memorandum of understanding with China Agricultural University, CU Denver’s International College of Beijing partner. She also brought together associate and student affairs deans to create policies and student programs centered on student success as associate vice chancellor of academic resources and services at CU Anschutz.

“Regina is a connector,” said Carl Johnson, director of student engagement at CU Anschutz. “She has the unique
ability to see the best in others and connect them to like-minded people. She has an outgoing, charismatic personality, which allows her to form strong relationships, which then allow for the great work of the university to become an exciting adventure and work becomes opportunity for connection.”

Even in her personal life, public service is at its apex. She has held multiple leadership positions on community boards including the Denver School of Science and Technology and the Colorado Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She is an active book club member and hopes to teach her children that showing respect for others will never disappoint.

“Seek first to understand. Once that has happened, then seek to be understood,” Kilkenny said.

With over four decades of public service and leadership under her belt, she is far from slowing down.

“CU has made a lasting imprint on me for four decades,” Kilkenny said. “I’m now wondering what my imprint will be on CU. What lasting impact can I have on my teammates, students, systems and culture that will be meaningful for years to come? How can I share my privilege to construct a platform for the overlooked, the unseen and the undervalued people?”

2020 legislative session begins

As the 2020 state legislative session convened at the Capitol on Wednesday, CU’s Government Relations team re-engaged with state legislators on ways to support higher education and advance CU’s legislative priorities.

President Mark Kennedy, campus chancellors and the Government Relations team have spent the interim meeting with individual legislators and members of the executive branch to prepare for and advocate on key issues of importance to CU.

During the 120-day session, expected legislation proposals include mental health, funding for pre-K, early childhood and rural teacher shortages as well as interim committee bills that address access to higher education.

Key legislative focuses for CU include:
- Funding for higher education Supporting capital requests from the campuses Supporting scholarships for minority students to pursue health care careers as well as expanding the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative fund
- Teacher preparation endeavors for rural and early childhood education Access to mental health care for students

Launch of CU Online Store promises improved credit card transactions

In your role at CU, have you wanted to be able to process incoming online credit card payments easily, securely and efficiently?
The Office of the Treasurer is pleased to announce the recent launch of the CU Online Store, a comprehensive framework for processing online transactions within a secure, compliant portal.

Departments at the University of Colorado can request StoreFronts for event registration, invoiced payments, digital products, lab services and many other online offerings. StoreFronts and products can be public facing, like the CU Anschutz Medical Campus Division of Dermatology, or accessed only via a link to the customer, like the CU Boulder Campus Department of Transportation. There are nearly 20 StoreFronts in some phase of development with the capacity for many more.

CU departments have been requesting a solution for credit card payment applications, customizable to their needs. Led by the Office of the Treasurer, the process to bring the Online Store to culmination took nearly two years, following vendor selection, security team approval, campus portal demos, contract negotiation and execution by the Procurement Service Center, website creation, and portal design.

While online payment processing requests continue to grow, it can be a liability for the university if done without the proper controls and procedures, in addition to potential fee assessment by the credit card brands.

The CU Online Store is powered by Touchnet Marketplace, a leader in credit card processing for higher education institutions. Touchnet Information Systems Inc. is a validated payment application, approved by the PCI (Payment Card Industry) Security Standards Council. Touchnet uses a flexible database and integrated inventory management system to provide robust reporting functionality and reconciliation to the university’s finance system. All transactions post as a separate payment or refund into the department’s general ledger Speedtype and account code by order number.

StoreFront managers and assigned users are granted access to the portal to review transactions, run reports and reconcile payments. University departments must do their part to secure transactions by having each customer use their computer device or mobile phone for accessing the site and processing the payment.

For more information, please review the Online Store website, www.cu.edu/store. Questions can be sent via e-mail to OnlineStore@cu.edu.

Boettcher Early Career Investigator application deadline nears

Applications for the 2020 Boettcher Webb-Waring Biomedical Research Awards program are due to the campus grants offices in February. For exact dates, refer to the following campus-specific instructions:

University of Colorado Boulder
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus

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, to provide independent research opportunities to promising and talented early career investigators. Awardees carry the title of Boettcher Investigator in acknowledgement of the prestigious award. Eligible faculty researchers from all four CU campuses are encouraged to apply.

For purposes of this program, an eligible early career investigator (ECI):
Is within four years of appointment to their career-track academic position (i.e., whose career-track appointments began no earlier than Jan. 1, 2015); Has not previously received a major independent research award; Has received a
terminal degree or completed their medical residency within the 10 years preceding the application (i.e., on or after Jan. 1, 2009); 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 44 Boettcher Investigators[22] more than $10 million.

For more details, go to: http://www.cu.edu/bfww/eligibility[23].

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