Chancellor Horrell leaves her mark in the city[1]

[2]

CU Denver Chancellor Dorothy Horrell on Tuesday officially retired from the university. Under her leadership, the campus evolved from successful to significant; from an urban university to a thriving asset to the city of Denver.

“It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your chancellor for the past four and a half years. I’m so proud of all that we’ve accomplished together in defining and fulfilling our role as Colorado’s public urban research university,” Horrell wrote in an introduction to her video farewell[3]. “I’m grateful for the opportunity to have contributed to the CU Denver legacy, one whose momentum I’m confident will build under the capable leadership of Dr. Michelle Marks[4]. I trust that you will extend the same grace, friendship, and willing spirit to her that you have shown me.”

President Mark Kennedy has noted the special affinity he shares with Horrell, both having grown up in small towns (she is the pride of Holyoke, Colorado) and both benefiting from deep involvement with 4-H as youths.

“Dorothy has not only been an exceptional leader of energy and passion at CU Denver, she also has had a remarkable and successful career in many educational endeavors,” Kennedy said.

The president elaborated in an email to the CU Denver community, excerpted here:

One of the most disappointing impacts of COVID-19 is that it doesn’t allow us to celebrate Dorothy’s successes in person, surrounded by her family, friends and colleagues, as she deserves. One of her particular strengths is how she connects personally with people. Yet Dorothy leaves a lasting legacy that is both personal and professional.

When she took the helm of CU Denver nearly five years ago, Chancellor Horrell articulated a dynamic vision to grow the campus and its prominence by focusing on student success, academic excellence, community engagement, diversity and inclusion, and financial sustainability. Under her leadership, CU Denver has cemented its status as a premier urban public research university. Chancellor Horrell breathed new life and meaning into the “CU in the City” slogan, making it synonymous with academic excellence in an urban environment. She transformed the student experience through academics, research, capital construction and programs such as the signature CityCenter facility, built to foster partnerships, share knowledge and develop solutions to some of our most urgent issues. She enhanced fundraising, including enthusiastic faculty and staff giving campaigns that support scholarships and other critical funds. She cultivated a diverse and inclusive culture and community.

While Chancellor Horrell’s many achievements at CU Denver are impressive, I’m most struck by her unwavering belief in the power of education and her dedication to the success of our students. As a fellow first-generation college student from a small, rural community, I, too, have experienced firsthand the transformative power of higher education. Dorothy and I share a deep conviction that equitable access to quality education is a fundamental step in creating a balanced and just society. Like you, I will miss interacting with her, but I celebrate the indelible mark she is leaving on this campus and community.

CU Denver recently took stock of the many honors Horrell has received[5] in recent weeks, and collected images to illustrate her impact[6] on the campus.

As President Kennedy thanked and celebrated Chancellor Horrell, he also welcomed Chancellor Michelle Marks, who officially joined the university on Wednesday. CU Connections next week will feature more on CU Denver’s new leader.

Consolidation of conduct policies now in effect[7]

A comprehensive review of university conduct policies has resulted in some revisions, reorganization and consolidation of the regent conduct policies.

The Board of Regents on June 18 officially approved the new Article 8: Conduct of Members of the University Community and Policy 8: Conduct of Members of the University Community to create a single law and policy to address conduct-related policies, which previously were located in various sections of the regent laws and policies.

The new Article 8 includes nondiscrimination, ethical and professional employee conduct – previously located in Articles 1.D, 3.E, 10 and 11.D.

The new Policy 8 includes principles of ethical behavior and professional conduct for university staff, including conflict of interest, outside consulting and service on external boards.

For more detailed information on the changes, go to https://www.cu.edu/regents/rlpreview#tabs-2[8].

Changes to Regent Law (Article) 2.B and Policies 13.G and 14.A – effective June 18

The Board of Regents also approved changes to Article 2.B: Meetings and approved staff recommendations for no changes to Policy 13.G: Contractual Indemnification of Contractors and Policy 14.A: Use of University Seal.

For more detailed information, go to https://www.cu.edu/regents/rlpreview#tabs-2[8].

Short-term disability benefits for Classified Staff have changed[9]
[10]

Short-term disability benefits for University of Colorado Classified Staff have changed, as of July 1, with updates to how paid leave factors into the benefit.

Eligible Classified Staff members are automatically enrolled in short-term disability, effective on the first day of their benefits eligibility. Premiums are paid by CU, and the income provided by the benefits is taxable when employees file a claim.

This benefit pays 60% of the first $3,850 of an employee's weekly pre-disability earnings, up to a maximum weekly benefit of $2,310 before reduction of deductible income for a total of 180 days, minus a 30-day waiting period.

Changes to the state of Colorado's short-term disability benefits necessitated corresponding changes to the university's short-term disability benefits for classified staff.

Changes:
During the 30-day waiting period before short-term disability benefits begin, employees are required to use accrued leave, including the use of accrued annual (vacation) leave once accrued sick leave has been exhausted. Employees no longer need to exhaust their sick leave to begin receiving the short-term disability benefit. When an employee is receiving disability payments, they may choose to augment the short-term disability benefit payment with accrued sick leave first, then annual (vacation) leave to make themselves whole, earning 100% of pre-disability earnings.
If an employee has been placed on furlough and is not eligible to use their sick or annual (vacation) time while furloughed, the waiting period will be 30 days, regardless of the employee's accrued leave balance(s).

Review the plan document for details.[11] For more information on short-term disability, visit the disability webpage for Classified Staff[12].

Regents races come into focus following Tuesday's primary[13]

Tuesday's statewide primary election narrowed the field of candidates competing for seats on the CU Board of Regents, which will welcome three new members to be chosen by voters in November's general election.

Based on unofficial election results[14] from the state, Democrat Callie Rennison will take on Republican Dick R. Murphy in District 2; Democrat Ilana Spiegel will go up against Republican Richard Murray in District 6; and Democrat Nolbert Chavez runs unopposed in District 7.

The most votes were cast in District 2, where the Democratic ballot also included Dave Gross and Aaron Harber. Murphy was unopposed on the Republican side.

Rennison,[15] resident of Superior, is running for the seat held by Linda Shoemaker, D-Boulder, who is not seeking a second six-year term. A professor in the School of Public Affairs at CU Denver, Rennison received endorsements from Shoemaker and Regents Irene Griego, D-Jefferson County, and Lesley Smith, D-Boulder. As of Wednesday morning, her total was 72,280 votes; Gross, 36,811; Harber, 26,701.

Murphy received 61,030 votes. The Lafayette resident hasn't listed a website with the Secretary of State.

District 2 consists of much of the northwestern metro area and Front Range, including Boulder, Northglenn, Thornton, Westminster, Loveland and Fort Collins. It also includes the mountain towns of Vail, Grand Lake and Idaho Springs.

In District 6, Spiegel[16] was the only Democrat on the ballot and received 99,687 votes. The Englewood resident has a long career in public education. Her endorsements include Regents Jack Kroll, D-Denver; Griego, Shoemaker and Smith.

With 38,848 votes, attorney and CU Boulder graduate Richard Murray[17] defeated Priscilla Rahn, who had 20,683, for the Republican nomination in District 6. Among those endorsing Murray, a Highlands Ranch resident, are current Regents Heidi Ganahl, R-Superior; Chance Hill, R-Colorado Springs; and Sue Sharkey, R-Castle Rock.

Spiegel and Murray are vying for the seat currently held by John Carson, a Highlands Ranch Republican first elected in 2014 and not seeking reelection. The 6th Congressional District encompasses a wide swath of the north, east and south metro area.

Nolbert Chavez[18], a Lakewood Democrat, was the only candidate on the District 7 ballot. He received 112,246 votes in the race for the seat now held by Irene Griego, D-Jefferson County, who is not running for reelection. Griego was appointed to the Board of Regents by Gov. John Hickenlooper in 2011 and was elected twice to represent her district.

The Chief of External Initiatives and Executive Director of CityCenter at CU Denver, Chavez served in the state Legislature 1995-2002. His endorsements include Regents Griego, Kroll, Shoemaker and Smith.

District 7 covers much of the north and west metro area, including all or portions of Northglenn, Thornton, Westminster, Arvada, Lakewood and Golden.

Regents announce committee assignments for 2020-21: CU Board of Regents Chair Glen Gallegos and Vice Chair Lesley Smith this week announced committee assignments for the 2020-21 year. All board members except the chair serve on committees.

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:
Lesley Smith, Chair Heidi Ganahl, Vice Chair John Carson Irene Griego

UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS:
Sue Sharkey, Chair Jack Kroll, Vice Chair Linda Shoemaker Chance Hill
FINANCE COMMITTEE:
Jack Kroll, Chair Heidi Ganahl, Vice Chair Irene Griego Chance Hill
AUDIT COMMITTEE:
Heidi Ganahl, Chair Lesley Smith, Vice Chair Linda Shoemaker Sue Sharkey
The board's summer retreat is set for Wednesday.

Parking fees can now be deducted pretax from your paycheck[19]
[20]

Parking fees can now be deducted pretax as of July 1.

This year, new legislation was passed allowing employers to offer pretax parking for commuters. Now, the university will begin deducting these payments before taxes.

This change will affect the employee's parking deductions beginning with the first paycheck issued after July 1. Pretax deductions lower your taxable income, and thus your tax liability, by the amount of the deduction, similar to health and retirement deductions.

Employees who pay for parking will receive an email from their campus's parking authority about campus-specific processes, deductions suspended during COVID-19 and more.

If you do not want pretax deductions for your July paycheck, you have the option to opt-out and continue having fees taken out after taxes. Employees can always switch between pretax and after-tax per your campus parking guidelines. To switch between post-tax and pretax deductions, you must request that change by the deadline set by your campus for it to take effect for the next deduction.

Please keep an eye out for this email, and contact your campus parking authority to learn more and opt out.

'The Marriage of Figaro' reborn [21]

UCCS, PPCC finalize pair of cybersecurity articulation agreements for transfer students[22]

CU Denver launches redesigned university and student services websites [23]

Providers, patients find 'silver lining' in rapid COVID-era telehealth transition[24]

Richards named Associate Vice Chancellor of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community Engagement[25]

Jakosky to join National Space Council Users' Advisory Group [26]

Christensen, provost, to return to the classroom in 2021 [27]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/chancellor-horrell-leaves-her-mark-city[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/horrell_feat_0.jpg[3] https://www1.ucdenver.edu/about/leadership/chancellor/communications/communiques/2020/thank-you-and-farewell-6-24-2020[4] https://www.cu.edu/news/cu-selects-marks-next-chancellor-denver-campus[5] https://news.ucdenver.edu/chancellor-horrell-day-and-other-honors/[6] https://news.ucdenver.edu/chancellor-horrells-impact-on-cu-denver-in-photos/[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/consolidation-conduct-policies-now-effect[8] https://www.cu.edu/regents/rlpreview#tabs-2[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/short-term-disability-benefits-classified-staff-have-changed[10] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/st-disability01.jpg[11] https://www.cu.edu/docs/cu-short-term-disability-classified-staff[12] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/disability-insurance/classified-staff[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-races-come-focus-following-tuesday-s-primary[14] https://results.enr.clarityelections.com/CO/103901/web.255599/#/summary?category=C_4[15] https://callie4cu.com/[16] https://www.ilana4regent.com/[17] https://www.murrayforcuregent.com/[18] https://www.chavezforcu.com/[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/parking-fees-can-now-be-deducted-pretax-your-paycheck[20] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/parking_top.jpg[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/marriage-figaro-reborn[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-ppcc-finalize-pair-cybersecurity-articulation-agreements-transfer-students[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-denver-launches-redesigned-university-and-student-services-websites[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/providers-patients-find-silver-lining-rapid-covid-era-telehealth-transition[25] https://connections.cu.edu/people/richards-named-associate-vice-chancellor-diversity-equity-inclusion-and-community-engagement[26] https://connections.cu.edu/people/jakosky-join-national-space-council-users-advisory-group[27] https://connections.cu.edu/people/christensen-provost-return-classroom-2021