

[CU community celebrates Juneteenth, Pride Month](#)<sup>[1]</sup>

[2]

Members of the CU community gathered in Denver's historic Five Points neighborhood on Saturday, June 15, to join the city's parade commemorating Juneteenth.

The holiday, officially observed on Wednesday, June 19, celebrates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans and marks the anniversary of Union Army General Gordon Granger's announcement of General Order No. 3 on June 19, 1865. This historic moment, occurring more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation, symbolizes freedom and the ongoing fight for equality and justice.

The Juneteenth celebration drew a diverse crowd of students, faculty, staff, leaders and mascots from CU's four campuses and system administration. Among the CU leaders participating were President Todd Saliman and Regent Wanda James.

Juneteenth is a day of profound historical significance. In 2021, Juneteenth was established as a federal holiday. It always has and continues to serve as a reminder of the resilience and strength of the African American community.

Participants walked through the vibrant streets of Denver, celebrating with music, dancing, cheering, and a strong sense of togetherness. The parade concluded with a festive atmosphere featuring food, live music and booths showcasing merchandise and small businesses.

Read "[Five things to know about Juneteenth](#)" in [CU Boulder Today](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

CU is also set to celebrate Pride Month as the university sponsors Denver Pride once again this year. The CU community is invited to participate in the June 22-23 event, demonstrating support for the diverse identities within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Community members will participate in several events this weekend for Denver Pride's 50th anniversary edition. The Pride 5K race will take place on Saturday, while the Pride Parade runs on Sunday. CU will have a booth staffed by volunteers on both days of PrideFest, providing information, resources, and a welcoming space for all attendees.

CU's active participation in Juneteenth and Denver Pride underscores its ongoing commitment to celebrating diversity, promoting inclusion and building a stronger, more unified community.

[Faculty Council Awards celebrate contributions to shared governance](#)<sup>[4]</sup>

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Faculty Council came together May 23 for an in-person meeting at 1800 Grant St. and celebrated four winners of the annual [Faculty Council Awards](#)<sup>[6]</sup>.

Faculty Council Chair Alastair Norcross presented three awards to those who were able to attend: Ravinder Singh and Monica Yoo, both honored for Distinguished Service, and Maria Lewis, Administrator of the Year. Outgoing CU Boulder Chancellor Phil DiStefano also will receive the Administrator of the Year Award at a later date.

Ravinder Singh, Ph.D., is an associate professor in Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology at CU Boulder, serving for over 20 years. He has served faculty governance in leadership roles including chair of Faculty Council and the council's Educational Policy and University Standards (EPUS) Committee.

In its resolution, the Faculty Council praised Singh for being outstanding in his ability to build consensus with faculty and administration; for being a steward of the principles of academic freedom, creating a more inclusive campus for all students, faculty and staff; and for making significant contributions to shared governance and university policy, benefiting the entire CU community.

Monica Yoo, Ph.D., is an associate professor of teaching and learning in the College of Education at UCCS with 13 years of service. A member of Faculty Council since 2016, she was recognized for the quality and integrity of her commitment to faculty rights and responsibilities. She has been a member and president of the UCCS Faculty Assembly, and a member of the Faculty Council Bylaws Revision Committee and the CU Diversity and Excellence Grants Awards Committee.

The council's resolution called her a steward of the principles of academic freedom, creating a more inclusive campus for all students, faculty and staff, and praised her for making significant contributions to shared governance and university policy, benefiting the entire CU community.

Maria Lewis, MPA, is Faculty Council administrator in the Office of Academic Affairs. She has served in that role and as graduate assistant for the past four years. The council's resolution said she has worked tirelessly to support the work of Faculty Council, which relies on her expertise. She was praised for exhibiting grace, competence and diligence, earning the admiration and gratitude of Faculty Council members and leadership.

CU Boulder Chancellor Phil DiStefano, who is concluding 15 years at the post this summer, was recognized for his 50 years of service at the campus. The council's resolution stated he has embodied the best of administration with his effective and positive leadership and vast knowledge of institutional operations.

It goes on to praise him for demonstrating care and understanding for the needs of faculty and staff, consistently going above and beyond the duties of the position to foster relationships across CU Boulder and the CU system. DiStefano has cultivated a culture of excellence in service and is an inspiration for collaborative work between administration and faculty, and he has significantly contributed to the success of shared governance at CU through his outstanding support to the Faculty Council.

[7]

[New self-service portal allows you to apply for leave, track your request status and more](#) [8]

[Join CU community for celebration at Denver Pride](#)[9]

CU is excited to sponsor Denver Pride again this year. The CU community is invited to participate in the June 22-23 event as we celebrate and support the diverse identities within the LGBTQIA+ community.

There are several ways to get involved with the 50th anniversary edition of [Denver Pride](#)[10]:

Saturday, June 22: Pride 5K - Run, Walk, Roll, or Sashay! Saturday and Sunday, June 22-23: Volunteer at CU's booth at PrideFest. Two-hour shifts run from 8 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Sunday, June 23: Join the Pride Parade, 9:30 a.m.-12:30

p.m., walking alongside faculty, staff and students from across the CU system.

To sign up to participate, please complete this [Qualtrics form](#)<sup>[11]</sup> by Sunday, June 16. Spots are available on a first come, first served basis. If we run out of spots, we will add you to a waitlist and will notify you if additional spots become available.

[Regents University Affairs Committee gives initial approval to new degrees, certificate](#)<sup>[12]</sup>

Plans for three new degrees and a new certificate received approval from the [Regents University Affairs Committee](#)<sup>[13]</sup> during its June 4 meeting, held via Zoom.

The proposals are scheduled to be included on the consent agenda at the next meeting of the full Board of Regents, set for June 20-21 in Pueblo.

At the School of Medicine on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, a current track within an existing master's degree program would become its own freestanding master's degree in immunology. Workforce demand in Colorado's bioscience sector is one driving factor, said Rod Nairn, executive vice chancellor for academic and student affairs. The change also aims to provide more advanced specialized training and boost the program's visibility.

At UCCS, visual art is currently a track of the bachelor's degree in visual and performing arts. The proposed change would create a new bachelor's degree in visual art, increasing visibility and clarity for current and prospective students. UCCS also plans a new master's degree in aerospace engineering. The existing aerospace minor is popular with students, and demand from the aerospace industry, which has a strong presence in Colorado Springs, also is driving the creation.

A new undergraduate certificate in applied skills for democracy is designed for incarcerated learners as part of the [college in prison program](#)<sup>[14]</sup> at CU Denver's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Stephen Hartnett, professor from CU Denver's communication department, noted the goal of having students become not only scholars, but citizen contributors to society. "We want to help them fall in love with education, to have a love of citizenship and a love of democracy," he said.

The Regents University Affairs Committee last week also delayed possible action on a civics resolution first passed by the Board of Regents in February 2020. Committee Chair Lesley Smith said information on the matter would be brought before the full board for discussion.

The committee advanced to the full board a proposal to amend [Regent Policy 14.I](#)<sup>[15]</sup> regarding weapons control. The change would ban concealed carry on CU campuses, aligning with the [new state law](#)<sup>[16]</sup> banning the carrying of firearms in sensitive spaces, effective July 1. The proposal is scheduled to be discussed and voted on by the full board at its June 20-21 meeting in Pueblo.

[Gov. Jared Polis signs quantum industry bill on campus](#)<sup>[17]</sup>

[Office of Inclusive Services awarded National Program Accreditation](#)<sup>[18]</sup>

[CU Denver's Office of International Affairs helps bring a global perspective to CU Denver](#) [19]

[CU Anschutz researchers offer new understanding of how antidepressants work](#) [20]

[Reilly led an era of remarkable growth at CU School of Medicine](#) [21]

[Leeker receives Fulbright to study African descendants' achievements in STEM](#) [22]

[Turner receives 2024 Dana Crawford Award for Excellence in Historic Preservation](#) [23]

['A moral obligation': DiStefano reflects on 15 years as CU Boulder chancellor](#) [24]

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[CU and USAFA forge research and mentorship partnership](#) [26]

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