## Faculty Council celebrates annual award winners[1]
[2]

Faculty Council wrapped up its meeting schedule for the academic year by celebrating the winners of its annual awards.[3]

The governance group honored council members Cindy O'Bryant and Vicky Grove with awards for Distinguished Service, while Anne Fleming received the award for Administrator of the Year. The three received their awards from Faculty Council Chair Alastair Norcross during the May 15 meeting at 1800 Grant St.

O'Bryant, immediate past chair of Faculty Council in 2024-25, is associate dean for academic and faculty affairs and professor in the Department of Clinical Pharmacy at the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus.

Grove, secretary of Faculty Council in 2024-25, is a Teaching Professor of Distinction in the Russian and Nordic programs at CU Boulder's College of Arts and Sciences.

In the Office of Academic Affairs, Fleming is administrator for the Faculty Council Grievance Committee.

The Faculty Council Distinguished Service Award recognizes the service of faculty to CU, and celebrates contributions through participation in faculty governance, particularly through activities in Faculty Council and its committees.

The Faculty Council Administrator of the Year is given in recognition of significant contributions to the university, to Faculty Council and/or to shared and faculty governance.

## CU in D.C.: Colorado Capital Conference participants engage with nation's leaders[4]

President Saliman and other CU leaders joined nearly 100 Coloradans in Washington, D.C., June 24-26 for this year's Colorado Capital Conference, a longstanding tradition unique to the Centennial State.

The conference – cohosted by Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper, CU and Colorado Mesa University – gives Colorado residents the opportunity to interact with legislators and leaders in our nation's capital and gain key insights into how our federal government works. Participants are selected through a competitive application process.
[5]

"By providing insight into our democratic process and making space to engage around our shared values as Coloradans and Americans, the Colorado Capital Conference goes a long way in bringing us together," said Saliman, who was joined at this year's conference by CU Regents Nolbert Chavez, Elliott Hood, Frank McNulty, Ken Montera, Ray Scott and Mark VanDriel, in addition to CU Denver Chancellor Ken Christensen, CU Anschutz Chancellor Don Elliman, School of Medicine Dean John Sampson and UCCS Chancellor Jennifer Sobanet. Students from each CU campus also attended.

The 2025 conference included panel discussions with experts and policy makers on topics ranging from AI in health care to navigating global challenges, a keynote lunch focused on bipartisan insights from Colorado chiefs of staff, a presentation by House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, a tour of the U.S. Capitol led by Rep. Joe Neguse, and numerous opportunities to interact with other members of Colorado's congressional delegation.

For more information about the Colorado Capital Conference,

visit https://www.coloradomesa.edu/capital-conference[6].
[7]
[8]

## Staff Council sets leadership for 2025-26[9]
[10]

The University of Colorado Staff Council (UCSC)[11] recently completed the election of its next Executive Committee, including current co-chairs Ja'Net Hurt, CU Denver, and Kimberly Slavsky, CU Anschutz, who will continue to share the responsibilities of leading UCSC in 2025-26.

The UCSC serves staff on the four campuses, system administration and the CU Foundation office. The governance group's staff representatives share a common goal of helping the entire university community, especially fellow staff, and being a voice that resonates across the CU system. To learn more, go to www.cu.edu/ucsc[12].

Executive Committee members for 2025-26 are:
Co-Chairs – Ja'Net Hurt and Kimberly Slavsky (two-year terms)  Vice Chair – Deann Barrett (one-year term)
Treasurer – Jan Owens (one-year term)  Secretary – Natalie Schaffer (one-year term)  Comms Officer – Gwendolyn "Gwen" D'Elia (one-year term)  Parliamentarian – Jennifer D'Angelo Dekker (one-year term)
**JáNet Hurt**, co-chair; operations and events manager, School of Education and Human Development (SEHD), CU Denver

Ja'Net Hurt is serving her second term as co-chair of UCSC, bringing over two decades of experience, leadership and advocacy to her role. Hurt has worked in the SEHD for over 21 years, previously serving as executive assistant to the dean. In her position, she plays a pivotal role in managing strategic operations, event planning and administrative functions for the school.

A passionate and long-serving staff leader, Hurt has been involved in staff governance since 2012. Her leadership spans numerous roles on the CU Denver Staff Council and UCSC, including serving as chair of the UCSC Personnel and Legislation Committee, vice chair of the Campus and Community Engagement Committee and parliamentarian. She also chaired high-impact events including CU Day at Elitch Gardens. She also manages campus-wide efforts like the annual Coats for Colorado drive and serves on CU Denver's Strategic Plan Engagement and Advocacy Committee (SPEAC).

**Kimberly S. Slavsky,** co-chair; operational data lead, Department of Psychiatry, CU Anschutz Medical Campus

Kimberly Slavsky is starting her second year as co-chair of UCSC and is a 15-year member of the CU community. She is based at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus in the Department of Psychiatry, providing support with operational data management and process improvement.

Slavsky has been a member of shared governance since 2019. She has held the roles of vice chair on the CU Anschutz Campus Council since 2021, and communications officer, vice chair and now co-chair starting in 2022. She is passionate about shared governance and the opportunities it gives to support professional development, mentorship, connection and community for all of CU.

**Deann Barrett**, vice chair; human resources director, College of LAS, UCCS

With over five years as HR director at UCCS in the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, Barrett is passionate about supporting staff and fostering a positive campus environment. As the current UCCS Staff Council president, she is deeply committed to staff advocacy and values UCSC's meaningful impact on the university community.

**Jan Owens**, treasurer; administrative assistant, Center for Student Involvement, CU Boulder

Owens began her journey at CU Boulder in July 1999 as a temporary employee and transitioned to a full-time role in February 2000. She currently serves as administrative assistant to the director of the Center for Student Involvement. As a dedicated Student Life staff member, Owens is passionate about supporting students and helping them have a meaningful and positive experience at CU Boulder.

**Natalie Schaffer,** secretary; admissions manager, Academic Services, School of Education and Human Development (SEHD), CU Denver

Schaffer has been with CU Denver since 2015 and has spent nearly a decade working in admissions. She is currently the graduate admissions manager for SEHD and enjoys facilitating an exceptional admissions experience for graduate students. She has been a CU Denver Staff Council member since 2017 and joined UCSC in 2021. Schaffer has served in several leadership roles, including chair of the Professional Development Committee and secretary for CU Denver Staff Council and UCSC.

**Gwendolyn "Gwen" D'Elia**, communications officer; senior training specialist, CU Advancement training and outreach, CU system

D'Elia joned CU in November 2021 and joined the System Staff Council in February 2022; she has been chair of System Staff Council since August of the same year. She loves the Staff Council because it has been a great way to connect with staff across departments, especially since she joined CU during the pandemic. Staff Council makes her feel connected to CU's mission in many ways, and it's the biggest reason she encourages staff to consider getting involved with their campus councils.

**Jennifer D'Angelo Dekker,** parliamentarian; senior HR operations analyst, Employee Services, CU system

Dekker is beginning her second year as parliamentarian and chair of the Policy Committee, representing system administration, where she is in her second term as vice chair of the System Staff Council. She has worked for CU for seven years and is passionate about Staff Council because it provides a meaningful way to connect with and advocate for colleagues. She believes staff voices are essential to shared governance and is committed to ensuring those voices are heard and respected. Dekker is working on her master's degree in management through CU Denver, utilizing the expanded Tuition Assistance Benefit.

New benefits plan year begins July 1 [13]

CUriosity: Are sharks really as scary as their reputation? [14]

Protecting Childhood: UCCS to host national voices on Preventing Exploitation Through Awareness and Education [15]

Groundbreaking study by CU Denver, MIT shows impact of air pollution on women's health [16]

40 years of preventing and conquering cancer [17]

Federal transition update: Reinstated NIH Grants, Association Lawsuit Against DOD F&A Cap, more[18]

From June 20, this update from CU Federal Relations and Counsel includes information on Reinstated NIH Grants, Association Lawsuit Against DOD F&A Cap, DOJ Lawsuit Regarding In-state Tuition for Undocumented Students, DOE Updated Civil Rights Regulations, Extension of Block on Proclamation Banning Foreign Students at Harvard, Resumption of Visa Interviews and Social Media Screening for Student Visa Applications, and Gov. Polis' Release of Dashboard on Canceled and Frozen Funds.

Click here to read the post.[19]

From June 13, this update from CU Federal Relations and Counsel includes information on the 15% DoD Indirect Cost Rate, JAG Indirect Cost Models Proposal, NIH Rescinding of DEI Terms and Conditions, CDC Vaccine Advisory Board Reconstitution, WH Memo on Medicaid State-Directed Payments, Tennessee HSI Lawsuit, CO Joining of Harvard Lawsuit Against Federal Fund Cancellations, and WH EO on Cybersecurity.

Click here to read the post.[20]

From June 10, this update from CU Federal Relations includes information on the House passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1).

Click there to read the post.[21]

For the latest communications and federal memos, please visit the CU System Federal Transitions Updates[22] page.

Díaz Bonacquisti joins Prosperity Denver Fund board of directors[23]

Judi Díaz Bonacquisti, vice president for collaboration at CU system administration, is a new appointment to the board of directors of Prosperity Denver Fund, a nonprofit that champions postsecondary education access for Denver students.

Prosperity Denver Fund[24] provides financial reimbursements to eligible Denver nonprofits, increasing access to college, apprenticeships and other credential programs for Denver students. Since 2018, the fund has supported programs working with more than 37,000 students and reimbursed $48 million to nonprofits in Denver.

“Our mission at Prosperity Denver Fund is to ensure that every student in Denver can access the resources they need to get to and succeed in postsecondary education,” said Rebecca Arno, CEO of Prosperity Denver Fund. “Dr. Díaz Bonacquisti’s extensive experience in higher education and commitment to equity will be invaluable to our work.”

Díaz Bonacquisti[25], whose nomination was advanced by Denver Mayor Mike Johnston and approved by City Council, will serve on the board through April 2028.

For more than 25 years, Díaz Bonacquisti has developed programs and policies to expand college access and advance students toward college-degree completion. She has served as senior student affairs officer, senior enrollment officer and senior diversity officer. She has a track record for advancing equity in education, particularly for students of color, first-generation students, undocumented students and students from low-income backgrounds.

Díaz Bonacquisti has served at public and private colleges and universities with a range of academic offerings, admissions selectivity and student populations. She was appointed by then-Gov. Hickenlooper to serve on the Educational Leadership Council and was nominated and jointly appointed by the State Board of Education and the Colorado Commission on Higher Education to serve on the Educational Success Task Force.

A native of Pueblo, Díaz Bonacquisti earned a doctorate in education in leadership for educational equity from CU Denver, a master's in business administration from UCCS and a bachelor of science in civil engineering from Colorado State University. She earned certificates from Harvard's Institute for Management and Leadership in Education and Leadership in Enrollment Management from the University of Southern California.

Denver voters in 2018 passed a ballot initiative known as Prosperity Denver, calling for a 0.08% sales tax (less than one cent on $10) dedicated to support Denver students as they pursue college and career opportunities after high school. Prosperity Denver Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, manages and distributes this funding, contributing millions each year to eligible organizations.

Meza wins New Investigator Competition [26]

Greene named interim VCAF at UCCS [27]

University of Colorado professor describes what it's like to have family back in Iran[28]

CU Boulder team deploys sensors in Boulder Creek to enhance water quality monitoring [29]

Something to bee-lieve in: UCCS Farm expanding its beekeeping program through new student club[30]

**Links**
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/faculty-council-celebrates-annual-award-winners[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/faculty_council_group_shot_1228x600_web_06-26-2025.jpg[3] https://www.cu.edu/faculty-council/about-awards[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-dc-colorado-capital-conference-participants-engage-nation-s-leaders[5] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/todd_cap_conf_crop_06-26-2025.jpg[6] https://www.coloradomesa.edu/capital-conference[7] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/cmu_cu_group_cap_conf_06-26-2025.jpg[8] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/neguse_capitol_tour_cap_conf_crop_06-26-2025.jpg[9]

https://connections.cu.edu/stories/staff-council-sets-leadership-2025-26[10]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/staff_council_collage_600x600_web_06-26-2025.jpg[11]
https://www.cu.edu/ucsc[12] http://www.cu.edu/ucsc[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-benefits-plan-year-begins-july-1[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/curiosity-are-sharks-really-scary-their-reputation[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/protecting-childhood-uccs-host-national-voices-preventing-exploitation-through-awareness-and[16]
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https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/federal-government-transition-update-62025[20]
https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/federal-government-transition-update-61325[21]
https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/federal-update-house-passes-one-big-beautiful-bill-act[22]
https://www.cu.edu/federal-transition-updates[23] https://connections.cu.edu/people/d-az-bonacquisti-joins-prosperity-denver-fund-board-directors[24] https://www.prosperitydenverfund.org/[25] https://president.cu.edu/university-leadership/judi-diaz-bonacquisti-edd[26] https://connections.cu.edu/people/meza-wins-new-investigator-competition[27]
https://connections.cu.edu/people/greene-named-interim-vcaf-uccs[28] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/university-colorado-professor-describes-what-it-s-have-family-back-iran[29] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/cu-boulder-team-deploys-sensors-boulder-creek-enhance-water-quality-monitoring[30] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/something-bee-lieve-uccs-farm-expanding-its-beekeeping-program-through-new-student-club