

[CU goes to Washington: Colorado Capital Conference offers insight into federal policy and democratic process](#)<sup>[1]</sup>  
<sup>[2]</sup>

From its mountains to its plains, Colorado is renowned for its incredible views. Lesser known are the views into our democratic process a longstanding Colorado event provides each year.

The annual Colorado Capital Conference – the result of a collaboration between the University of Colorado, Colorado Mesa University, Colorado State University and Colorado’s U.S. Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper – takes participants to Washington, D.C., where they interact with the nation’s leaders while hearing from various policy experts.

This year’s conference, held June 11-13, had nearly 100 participants selected through a competitive application process. President Todd Saliman and Regents Nolbert Chavez, Glen Gallegos, Frank McNulty and Ilana Spiegel were part of a contingent from CU, along with students from all four campuses.

“The bipartisan Colorado Capital Conference is one of my favorite events as it allows participants to directly engage with policymakers and provides valuable insight into our democracy,” President Saliman said. “This year’s conference was a tremendous success thanks to the excellent work of CU’s Government Relations team, which collaborated with our partners at CMU, CSU and the offices of Sens. Bennet and Hickenlooper in developing the conference and managing its many logistics. I’m also incredibly grateful to Sens. Bennet and Hickenlooper for co-hosting all of us in D.C.”

Highlights of the 2024 conference included a discussion between UCCS Chancellor Jennifer Sobanet and U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy focused on the devastating effects of loneliness; a panel Sen. Bennet moderated with journalists from The New York Times, POLITICO and Colorado Public Radio about media coverage of Capitol Hill and the evolution of news; and a guided tour of the U.S. Supreme Court.

For more information about the Colorado Capital Conference, visit <https://www.coloradomesa.edu/capital-conference>  
<sup>[3]</sup>.

[Essential CU, largest fundraising campaign in university history, concludes with \\$4 billion in donor generosity](#)<sup>[4]</sup>

Donors showed their enduring and passionate commitment to what’s meaningful to them, investing \$4 billion in CU to successfully conclude Essential CU, the most ambitious fundraising campaign in university history.

More than 380,000 donors contributed more than 650,000 gifts to support a broad range of university priorities, including student scholarships and fellowships, faculty research and recruitment, health care, academic programs, creative endeavors and other initiatives that improve lives in Colorado and around the world.

“Thanks to our extraordinary donors — and former CU President Bruce Benson, who set it in motion — the Essential CU fundraising campaign achieved a historic level of success,” President Todd Saliman said. “We’re incredibly grateful to the CU alumni, parents, faculty, students, staff, everyday Coloradans and local companies and foundations who contributed gifts of all sizes in support of the university. Donors have a significant impact on CU and the great state of Colorado, as they support student success, transformative research and innovation, advances in health care and so much more. Their generosity ensures CU continues to find strategic solutions to today’s most urgent challenges.”

Essential CU reached its goal in December. Its successful closure was first announced to members of the Benson Society, a community of CU’s most generous philanthropists, during a gala in late April.

CU publicly announced the campaign in January 2019 after a silent phase that began counting gifts in late 2013. It eclipsed the Creating Futures campaign that ended in 2013 with \$1.5 billion in philanthropy.

All gifts, no matter their size, are critical sources of support for CU. Approximately 83% of gifts during Essential CU were less than \$1,000 each. Others were transformational, with 633 gifts of more than \$1 million, 21 of which were more than \$15 million. CU must use every gift how donors intend and can't redirect them to other priorities.

Significant gifts made during Essential CU benefited a vast number of areas and often coalesced around some of society's most critical needs. Mental health concerns, for instance, galvanized many of CU's most generous donors and resulted in transformational gifts across all four campuses, including these:

An institute dedicated to children's mental health and wellness was established at CU Boulder through an endowed gift in 2019. Research programs in the Renée Crown Wellness Institute focus on the study of mindfulness, compassion, belonging, and the voice of young people, families, teachers, schools and communities. Faculty researchers at the institute aim to address Colorado's high prevalence of mental health problems and inadequate access to mental health care. A gift from Lyda Hill established the National Institute for Human Resilience in 2020 at UCCS in Colorado Springs — later renamed the Lyda Hill Institute for Human Resilience. It focuses on advancing human resilience to adversity through research, therapy, community training and education. Through March, the institute's GRIT (Greater Resilience Information Toolkit) program had trained more than 3,500 resilience coaches and provided emotional and mental health support to hundreds of thousands of people in all 50 states and 36 countries.

The Anschutz Foundation made several significant gifts during the campaign. This included a transformational investment in 2018 to support mental and behavioral health, the recruitment and retention of top faculty talent, research, innovative procedures, more effective medicine, industry partnerships and technology transfer at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. The gift also led to the construction of the 396,000-square-foot interdisciplinary Anschutz Health Sciences Building that opened in 2021. The building is a nexus for personalized clinical care, the Colorado Center for Personalized Medicine, the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute and other key areas. A gift from the Salazar Family Foundation supported the construction and ongoing operation of the Lola & Rob Salazar Student Wellness Center, CU Denver's first named building. The facility — which includes reflection spaces, a climbing wall, a three-court gym, and a six-lane pool, among other amenities — promotes multiple dimensions of student health and wellness, including programs that address students' emotional, social, spiritual and physical well-being. The 85,000-square-foot center opened in 2018.

Examples of other notable gifts during Essential CU included:

A lead gift from The Anschutz Foundation helped fund the construction of the new Anschutz Engineering Building at UCCS to expand research and academics in aeronautic sciences. Katy and Paul Rady invested generously across CU and Colorado. A transformational gift in 2018 strengthened the partnership between CU Boulder and Western Colorado University with the construction of a state-of-the-art engineering building at Western. Completed in 2021, the Paul M. Rady Building is a key fixture for Western students earning mechanical engineering and computer science degrees from CU Boulder. A separate gift from the Radys in 2022 established the Katy O. and Paul M. Rady Esophageal and Gastric Center of Excellence at CU Anschutz to advance research, clinical trials, screening, surveillance and treatments for esophageal and gastric cancers, as well as recruit leading experts in the field. The Jake Jabs Center for Entrepreneurship at CU Denver was established through a gift by the Colorado businessman to stimulate collaboration among students and entrepreneurs and provide mentoring services, among other initiatives. Large gifts from multiple donors provided continued support for the Benson Center for Western Civilization at CU Boulder to promote intellectual diversity on campus.

Donors also rallied around each campus during the COVID-19 pandemic, giving generously to support students, faculty and staff who needed financial, physical and emotional assistance. Funds like CU Denver's Loving Lynx Emergency Fund, CU Boulder's Student Emergency Fund, UCCS' Community Support Scholarship Fund and CU Anschutz's Student Support Fund provided emergency relief. At CU Anschutz, donors also gave to help mitigate the emotional, financial and physical toll on caregivers, as well as to a research fund that helped combat COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

Donors also invested in the future, giving \$754 million during Essential CU to the university's endowment, which distributes donors' gifts over the long term for CU's benefit. At the start of the campaign, CU's endowment was valued at \$885 million. By the end of the campaign, it was \$2.1 billion. Donors also gave \$622 million in estate and other planned gifts during Essential CU.

[Board of Regents approves \\$6.28 billion budget for CU](#)[5]

PUEBLO – The CU Board of Regents on Friday approved a \$6.28 billion budget for the CU system's 2024-25 fiscal year, an increase of 3.5% over fiscal year 2023-24.

Of CU's approved [budget for fiscal year 2024-25](#)[6], over \$2.2 billion of expenses are tied to instruction and educating students, \$1.5 billion is related to clinical health care, and over \$1.1 billion to research activities.

The budget also includes salary and benefit increases for faculty and staff at CU's four campuses and system administration, institutional financial aid for students, deferred facility maintenance and campus budget initiatives.

"This budget allows us to keep tuition in check for students and their families while also investing in our faculty and staff," said CU President Todd Saliman. "We're grateful to state leaders for their increase in funding for higher education this year, which allows us to deliver on our mission of excellence in education, research and health care."

The state's operating increase of \$107 million for higher education in 2024-25 equals a 9.3% increase. CU will receive \$30.1 million of the total, equal to an operating increase of 9.5%. The state is also increasing financial aid for students by \$23.1 million, or 9.3%; CU's share is \$5.8 million.

As approved by the Board of Regents in April, tuition for undergraduate resident students is slated to increase 3% at CU Denver and UCCS, and for new incoming students at CU Boulder. Continuing CU Boulder undergraduate students will see a 0% change over last year, based on the campus's four-year tuition and fee guarantee. Fees as approved vary by campus.

Resident undergraduate nursing tuition at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus will rise 1.9%.

Also in April, the Board of Regents approved compensation increases for faculty and staff.

Compensation for classified staff across the system will increase 3%, adhering to the state requirement, and non-classified staff merit pools vary by campus.

Also at last week's meeting in Pueblo, the Board of Regents re-elected Callie Rennison as chair and Ken Montera as vice chair for the coming year.

[Rennison](#)[7], a Democrat representing the 2nd Congressional District, was elected chair in 2023 and first was elected to the board in 2020. She is a professor and former associate dean of faculty affairs at the CU Denver School of Public Affairs. She also served as the director of the Office of Equity and Title IX Coordinator for the CU Denver and CU Anschutz Medical campuses.

[Montera](#)[8], a Republican representing the 5th Congressional District, first was appointed to the board by Gov. Jared Polis in December 2021, then won election in 2022 for the remainder of the term. He first was elected board vice chair in 2022 and re-elected to the position in 2023. Montera spent over 30 years as a senior executive in four Fortune 200 companies leading strategy, multi-billion-dollar budgets, and direct responsibility for over 40,000 associates. He graduated from CU's Leeds School of Business in 1979.

The CU Board of Regents consists of nine members serving staggered six-year terms, one elected from each of Colorado's eight congressional districts and one from the state at large. The board is charged constitutionally with the general supervision of the university and the exclusive control and direction of all funds of and appropriations to the university, unless otherwise provided by law.

[Summer outreach tour kicks off in west-central Colorado](#)<sup>[9]</sup>

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President Todd Saliman and CU leaders began their summer outreach tour with visits to communities throughout west-central Colorado.

Leadership visited the Paul M. Rady School of Computer Science and Engineering June 25-26 as a component of the outreach tour. They joined Western Colorado University President Brad Baca to tour the facility and witnessed a student-led demonstration showcasing cutting-edge projects developed through this unique program.

The CU Boulder College of Engineering and Applied Science and Western Colorado University joined forces to create an unparalleled educational opportunity for engineering students. This innovative partnership, housed at the new Paul M. Rady School of Computer Science and Engineering on Western's campus, allows students to complete their first two years at Western and then transfer to CU Boulder to finish their degree, all while staying in Gunnison.

The Paul M. Rady School of Computer Science and Engineering offers students access to state-of-the-art labs and classrooms. On June 26, President Saliman and other members of university leadership saw firsthand the fruits of this partnership during a demonstration of student projects. These projects reflected the program's emphasis on practical, impactful engineering solutions. They highlighted the students' innovative approaches to real-world challenges.

The partnership with Western Colorado University underscores CU's commitment to regional collaboration and innovation. By combining resources and expertise, the two universities are driving positive change and economic growth in the region. The student projects demonstrate the real-world impact of collaborative efforts in engineering education.

In addition to the engineering partnership, the CU summer outreach tour included meetings with key education figures and community leaders to discuss topics such as K-12 integration and workforce pipeline development. These discussions aimed to shape the future of education in Colorado and foster collaborations that benefit the university and its communities.

The tour's itinerary also featured several opportunities for the public and media to engage with CU leadership and learn more about the university's initiatives and collaborative efforts across the state. Stops also included meetings with

Colorado Mountain College President Matt Gianneschi, Aspen Schools Superintendent Tharyn Mulberry, and representatives from the Aspen Community Foundation. In addition, CU leaders convened with the Center for Education, Engagement and Evaluation in Gunnison.

The summer outreach tours help to reaffirm CU's commitment to excellence in education, research innovation, and community service. Through collaboration, partnership, and engagement, CU continues to drive positive change and progress in Colorado and beyond.

The summer outreach tour will continue in July, with President Saliman and university leadership visiting communities in northwestern Colorado to strengthen ties further and address regional needs.

[10]

### [Transformative technology prominent among 2024 CU Innovation & Efficiency Award winners](#)[11]

Congratulations to the individuals and teams, across all CU campuses, whose submissions were vetted and accepted by the 2024 CU Innovation & Efficiency Awards Program! Voting was recently completed and the winners are:

#### **University Controller's Award for Excellence**

[CU-SIS TDClient Automations](#). [12] For years, the campus Financial Aid offices spent hours each day downloading and processing files from the Department of Education. Recently, the System Administration office of University Information Services (UIS) was able to eliminate such manual processes. Now, at the press of a button, these files are downloaded and processed in Campus Solutions. The team of **Rick Rowcotsky, Rakesh Vangapati, Brad Baker and Mayank Mittal** are thrilled to enable this time savings across the CU campuses. (Project submitted by Rick Rowcotsky.)

#### **CU Innovation & Efficiency Awards (in alphabetical order by submission title)**

[Fund 80 ChartField Setup Automation](#). [13] Given the low variability and highly repetitive nature of setting up Fund 80 ChartFields at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, this task seemed like a perfect candidate for automation. The previously manual process is now accomplished using Microsoft Power Automate (PA), a low-/no-code software kit that allows users to automate processes that they perform on their computers. Now the financial services team – **Hart Jarrell, Patrice Avalos and Zac Gonzales** – can focus on tasks that are more variable and require higher decision-making abilities. (Project submitted by Hart Jarrell.) [Leveraging Automation to Improve the Online Flexible Course Experience](#). [14] Online Flexible is an asynchronous program in the CU Boulder Division of Continuing Education and Professional Studies that allows students to start courses at any time, with six months from their start date to finish. However, instructors had no easy way to verify when students exceeded the time frame for completing assignments or when final grades were due, creating the need for extensive manual administration and negatively impacting student success and retention. A team from Academic Technology Development – **Bryan Melville, Jason Black, Quang Do, Anita Antony Samy and Ahman Woods** – stepped in to develop (1) a custom Canvas integration that calculates and displays the end date and final grade due date to instructors, and (2) an automated email notification that reminds instructors to submit their final grades once a student's end date passes. The team is delighted to be able to deliver a low-cost, straightforward solution for this course modality. (Project submitted by Bryan Melville.) [Multicampus Security Log Monitoring](#).

[15] For some time, information security teams have relied on an automated Security Information and Event Monitoring (SIEM) system to monitor CU IT systems for signs of attacks and potentially malicious behavior. However, the system/processes had become inefficient over time and were in need of replacement. David Capps, System Administration's Chief Information Security Officer, worked with the multicampus CU Security+ group (**Sarah Braun, Scott Maize, John Scudder, Charlotte Russell, Sean Clark, Chris Edmundson, David Capps, Brad Judy, Keith Lehigh, Cindy Kraft, and Steve Thormod**) to select and deploy a new SIEM system. CU Security+ provides a forum for separate security teams to collaborate across campuses, leveraging efficiencies from sharing knowledge and experiences. Since implementing the new system, teams have rolled out new detections that have alerted CU to attacks against employee payroll, VPN services and more. Speed of searches has significantly increased, with results returned in seconds instead of hours. (Project submitted by David Capps.) [ODIN Subscriptions](#). [16] ODIN Subscriptions is new technology developed by the team of **Kevin Sarsen, Faraz Ali and Karthik Chigururu** in the System Administration office of University Information Services (UIS). It allows campus IT

partners to receive and react to changes in CU PeopleSoft databases within seconds of the change as opposed to waiting for nightly updates. The motivation was to address the problem of up-to-the-minute student data being unavailable to campuses during monthly UIS maintenance windows. Campus Solutions student data is now available to campuses via ODIN when Campus Solutions is down. With ODIN Subscriptions, the paradigm for data transfer has been completely transformed. (Project submitted by Al Wirtes.)

Thanks again to everyone who shared projects this year. Your submissions will remain on our [CU I&E website](#)[17] to inspire your colleagues in future years.

We look forward to hearing about your ongoing innovative work when the 2025 CU I&E Awards Program opens next year.

- Submitted by the Office of University Controller

[Get ready for the new benefits plan year on July 1](#) [18]

[Board approves revisions to Regent Laws and Policies](#)[19]

The Board of Regents approved revisions to the following policies on June 20, 2024:

Policy 3.E: Appointments of Officers of the University and Officers of the Administration Policy 3.F: Evaluations for Officers of the University and Officers of the Administration Policy 5.G: Faculty Grievance Policy 5.J: Intellectual Property on Discoveries and Patents for their Protection and Commercialization Policy 5.K: Intellectual Property that is Educational Material Regent committee charters contained in Policy 2.C: Regent Committees, including: 2.C.3 Finance Committee 2.C.4 University Affairs Committee 2.C.5 Audit Committee

The Board of Regents also approved revisions to the following law and policy on June 21, 2024:

Article 2.A.5: Chair and Vice Chair Policy 14.I: Weapons Control

For a more detailed summary of the changes provided in the policy justifications and redline drafts, go to <https://www.cu.edu/regents/rjpreview#tabs-2>[20].

[Updates to systemwide Administrative Policy Statements, effective July 1](#)[21]

The Office of Policy and Efficiency (OPE) announces updates to the following administrative policy statements from the Employee Services and University Information Services areas:

APS5024-Tuition Assistance Benefit

Changes include increasing the benefit from nine credits to 12 credits per academic year (30% to 40% tuition discount for Boulder campus dependents); allowing employees to enroll in courses during normal registration cycle; and allowing dependents and employee to utilize the benefit in the same academic year.

APS6010-Data Governance

Revisions include the establishment of a Data Governance Executive Council, an escalation path for resolution of multi-campus data concerns, and an emphasis on seeking global solutions that benefit all campuses.

APS6011-Digital Accessibility

A new Colorado law on digital accessibility will go into effect on July 1, 2024. To come into compliance with the new law, the university needed to update this policy to ensure the university has the governance structure and compliance mechanisms in place.

These revisions are effective July 1, 2024.

For more detailed information, go to <https://www.cu.edu/ope/aps/latest-changes>[22].

For additional information on systemwide APSs, go to: <http://www.cu.edu/ope>[23].

[Feedback requested on newly drafted Sexual Misconduct Policy](#)[24]

The University of Colorado community is invited to review a newly drafted [Sexual Misconduct, Intimate Partner Abuse, and Stalking policy](#)[25] (APS 5014) and to provide feedback by Friday, July 12, before its final consideration by the campus chancellors and the president. The effective date is Aug. 1, 2024, pursuant to the new [Title IX rules](#)[26].

Led by Valerie Simons, vice president of compliance and equity, a systemwide group of representatives from Equity Offices and Office of University Counsel met this past year in anticipation of the new Title IX rules that were released in April. The working group shared initial drafts with campus stakeholder offices and is now proceeding with review through the system [Office of Policy and Efficiency](#)[27] for stakeholder engagement with students, faculty and staff, campus governance groups and external stakeholders.

The policy was drafted with the following goals in mind:

Ensure compliance with recent changes to Title IX Align the Sexual Misconduct Policy with the new [Protected Class Nondiscrimination policy](#)[28] (APS 5065) (which will also be effective Aug. 1) to ensure continued protections against discrimination and harassment based on sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy and related retaliation as required by federal law under Title IX, Colorado and Regent law Incorporate [Regent Policy 10A](#)[29] Incorporate guidance and resources for reporting options and confidential resources Describe role and jurisdiction of Equity Offices Feedback is requested by July 12 so that the Office of Policy and Efficiency may share it with leadership and the systemwide working group – the link to provide feedback is on the draft policy (<https://www.cu.edu/ope/forms/feedback>[30]). Community input will inform revisions to the draft before its final presentation to the chancellors and the president.

[CU Boulder wins \\$20 million to lead National Quantum Nanofab facility](#) [31]

[UCCS takes first place in cyber competition](#) [32]

[More than a gathering: The reunion at Ninth Street](#) [33]

[CU Anschutz receives \\$2 million from the Céline Dion Foundation to advance autoimmune neurologic disorders research](#) [34]

[Regents name DiStefano chancellor emeritus](#)<sup>[35]</sup>

<sup>[36]</sup>

CU Boulder Chancellor Philip DiStefano last week was named chancellor emeritus in a resolution passed by the Board of Regents.

DiStefano on Sunday will officially retire as chancellor after nearly 15 years in the role and 50 years on campus.

Noted in a [report from CU Boulder Today](#)<sup>[37]</sup>, Regent Frank McNulty commended DiStefano for his leadership.

“The impact you’ve had over the course of 50 years in Boulder is really quite amazing, and the fact that you were able to weather so many storms during that time is a credit to your ability to work with people from different backgrounds and interests, and to manage different situations,” McNulty said.

During DiStefano’s time as chancellor, CU Boulder established the College of Media, Communication and Information, navigated the COVID-19 pandemic and doubled research funding, among many other highlights and challenges.

CU President Todd Saliman expressed his gratitude for DiStefano’s service to the university.

“Phil has been instrumental in positioning CU Boulder as a force for good in the world – an institution that is committed to finding solutions to the challenges we face today,” he said. “I’m honored to have worked with Phil – a stalwart champion for higher education – and am incredibly grateful for his many exceptional contributions to this university.”

DiStefano will return to the School of Education as a faculty member. He also will serve as executive director of the [CU Center for Leadership](#)<sup>[38]</sup>.

“It has been the honor of my life to serve as chancellor of this great university,” DiStefano wrote last month to the CU Boulder community. “Although we will return this fall under the leadership of a new chancellor, I will remain committed to the success of this university – your success – long into the future.”

Read his full farewell communication here: <https://www.colorado.edu/chancellor/newsletter/chancellor/farewell-cu-boulder><sup>[39]</sup>

[Maeda named interim dean of arts and sciences](#) <sup>[40]</sup>

[The impactful work of Renée Wilkins-Clark](#) <sup>[41]</sup>

[CU, ASD speak of challenges, avenues for partnership](#)<sup>[42]</sup>

[Fewer people died in Colorado last year, but state’s death rate remains elevated since pandemic](#)<sup>[43]</sup>



[‘Sunshine Guilt’ Is The Downside Of Summer We Don’t Talk About Enough](#) [44]

[CU community celebrates Juneteenth, Pride Month](#) [45]

[46]

Members of the CU community made strong showings at this month’s Juneteenth and Denver Pride events in Denver, underscoring the university’s ongoing commitment to celebrating diversity, promoting inclusion and building a stronger, more unified community.

The Juneteenth celebration, highlighted by the city’s June 15 parade in the historic Five Points neighborhood, 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.

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.

The holiday, officially observed on 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.

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.

Read "[Five things to know about Juneteenth](#)" in [CU Boulder Today](#). [47]

Read "[CU Denver Celebrates Juneteenth](#)" in [CU Denver News](#). [48]

[49]

Last weekend, CU celebrated Pride Month with the university’s sponsorship of Denver Pride, which celebrated its 50th anniversary. Faculty, staff, students and leadership took part in the June 22-23 event, demonstrating support for the diverse identities within the LGBTQIA+ community.

Among the weekend’s happenings in which CU community members participated: Saturday’s Pride 5K race and Sunday’s Pride Parade. CU volunteers also staffed booths on both days of PrideFest, providing information, resources and a welcoming space for all attendees. CU leaders attending included President Todd Saliman and Regents Lesley Smith and Ilana Spiegel.

Denver Pride is produced by [The Center on Colfax](#). [50] a registered 501-c-3 nonprofit organization that provides year-round programs and services for the LGBTQ+ community. The city’s first Pride Month celebration was one of many commemorations established across the country following the 1969 Stonewall uprising in New York and years of community organizing and activism in response to discriminatory laws and practices against LGBTQ+ individuals.

Read [“CU Denver Lynx Celebrate Pride Month” in CU Denver News.](#)[51]

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## Links

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