

[CU Denver Staff Council seeking members](#)[1]

CU Denver Staff Council is a group of employees who were elected by peers to represent employee views to the chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver, Board of Regents, president of the university, administrative officers and the State Personnel Board. The governance group is seeking nominations for members; deadline is March 15.

Throughout each month, council members work on standing committees. The full council holds monthly meetings from 1 to 3 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. All of its regular meetings are open – staff is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Staff Council is looking for motivated, articulate, dedicated leaders to serve on Staff Council. Be a part of this diverse group composed of employees from many different departments throughout the university who want to make a difference in our campus community.

We offer the opportunity to experience governance, interact with campus and university leadership, and represent staff on a variety of employment topics.

Click here to nominate: [http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty\\_staff/employees/StaffCouncil/Documents/SCElections.pdf](http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty_staff/employees/StaffCouncil/Documents/SCElections.pdf)[2]

[Global study enlightens connection between fructose, obesity](#)[3]

A group of scientists from across the world have come together in a just-published study that provides new insights into how fructose causes obesity and metabolic syndrome, more commonly known as diabetes. In this study, which was performed in lab animals, researchers found that fructose can be metabolized by an enzyme that exists in two forms.

One form appears to be responsible for causing how fructose causes fatty liver, obesity, and insulin resistance. The other form might actually protect animals from developing these features in response to sugar. These studies may provide important insights into the cause of the prediabetic condition known as “metabolic syndrome,” which currently affects more than one-quarter of adults in the United States.

The study, “Opposing effects of fructokinase C and A isoforms on fructose-induced metabolic syndrome in mice,” was published recently in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. Richard Johnson, M.D., the senior author of the study and chief of the [Division of Renal Diseases and Hypertension](#) [4] at the University of Colorado [School of Medicine](#) [5], said the findings are significant because we now have a better understanding of how fructose causes obesity and other illnesses.

“In particular, the identification of contrasting roles for two enzymes that are involved in fructose metabolism was surprising and could be important in understanding why some individuals may be more sensitive to the metabolic effects of fructose than others,” said Johnson.

Previous research has shown that fructose intake in added sugars such as sucrose and high fructose corn syrup is strongly linked to the epidemic rise in obesity and nonalcoholic fatty liver disease. Fructose intake also causes features of metabolic syndrome in laboratory animals and humans. It is known to cause visceral (organ) fat accumulation and insulin resistance compared to starch-based diets even when calories are kept even.

[CU team's efficient, unmanned aircraft jetting toward commercialization](#) [6]

CU-Boulder assistant professor Ryan Starkey, left, with members of his team, looks over engine model nozzles for a first-of-its-kind supersonic unmanned aircraft vehicle, visible in the rendering on the computer screen. From left: Starkey; Sibylle Walter, doctoral student; Josh Fromm, master's graduate; and Greg Rancourt, master's student. (Photo by Glenn Asakawa/University of Colorado)

Propulsion by a novel jet engine is the crux of the innovation behind a University of Colorado Boulder-developed aircraft that's accelerating toward commercialization.

Jet engine technology can be small, fuel-efficient and cost-effective, at least with assistant professor Ryan Starkey's design. The CU-Boulder aerospace engineer, with a team of students, has developed a first-of-its-kind supersonic unmanned aircraft vehicle, or UAV. The UAV, which is currently in a prototype state, is expected to fly farther and faster -- using less fuel -- than anything remotely similar to date.

The fuel efficiency of the engine that powers the 50-kilogram UAV already is double that of similar-scale engines, and Starkey says he hopes to double that efficiency again through further engineering.

Starkey says his UAV could be used for everything from penetrating and analyzing storms to military reconnaissance missions -- both expeditions that can require the long-distance, high-speed travel his UAV will deliver -- without placing human pilots in danger. The UAV also could be used for testing low-sonic-boom supersonic transport aircraft technology, which his team is working toward designing.

The UAV is intended to shape the next generation of flight experimentation after post-World War II rocket-powered research aircraft, like the legendary North American X-15, have long been retired.

"I believe that what we're going to do is reinvigorate the testing world, and that's what we're pushing to do," Starkey said. "The group of students who are working on this are very excited because we're not just creeping into something with incremental change, we're creeping in with monumental change and trying to shake up the ground."

Its thrust capacity makes the aircraft capable of reaching Mach 1.4, which is slightly faster than the speed of sound. Starkey says that regardless of the speed reached by the UAV, the aircraft will break the world record for speed in its weight class.

Its compact airframe is about 5 feet wide and 6 feet long. The aircraft costs between \$50,000 and \$100,000 -- a relatively small price tag in a field that can advance only through testing, which sometimes means equipment loss.

Starkey's technology -- three years in the making at CU-Boulder -- is transitioning into a business venture through his weeks-old Starkey Aerospace Corp., called Starcor for short. The company was incubated by eSpace, which is a CU-affiliated nonprofit organization that supports entrepreneurial space companies. Starkey's UAV already has garnered interest from the U.S. Army, Navy, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and NASA. The acclaimed Aviation Week publication also has highlighted Starkey's UAV.

Starkey says technology transfer is important because it parlays university research into real-life applications that advance societies and contribute to local and global economies.

It also can provide job tracks for undergraduate and graduate students, says Starkey who's bringing some of the roughly 50 students involved in UAV development into his budding Starcor.

"There are great students everywhere, but one of the reasons why I came to CU was because of how the students are trained. We definitely make sure they understand everything from circuit board wiring to going into the shop and building something," Starkey said. "It makes them very effective and powerful even as fresh engineers with bachelor's degrees. They're very good students to hire. That's a piece that I'm interested in embracing -- finding the really good talent that we have right here in Colorado and pulling it into the company."

Starkey and his students are currently creating a fully integrated and functioning engineering test unit of the UAV,

which will be followed by a critical design review after resolving any problems. The building of the aircraft and process of applying for FAA approval to test it in the air will carry into next year.

Starkey's fascination with speed first began to burn inside of him when he visited Kennedy Space Center at age 5.

"When I teach, I tell my class, 'If it goes fast and gets hot, I'm in it.' That's what I want to do. There needs to be fire involved somewhere."

#### [Members of provost search committee chosen; set to meet Monday](#)<sup>[8]</sup>

A 14-member search committee will assist in the selection of a new UCCS provost, Chancellor Pam Shockley-Zalabak announced Friday.

Thirteen faculty and staff members were selected following nominations by campus governance groups. A student representative will be added before the committee's first meeting on Monday. At that meeting, the committee will review a position description and advertising plan.

On Feb. 7, Provost Peg Bacon announced her plan to retire effective July 1 after 34 years of service to the university.

The committee will be co-chaired by Terry Schwartz, associate dean, School of Public Affairs, and Charlie Sweet, executive director, Strategic Planning and Initiatives.

Other committee members are:

Suzanne Cook, instructor, Languages and Cultures Department Andrew Czaplewski, professor, College of Business Julaine Field, associate professor, College of Education Barbara Gaddis, executive director, Office of Student Retention and First Year Experience Tom Hutton, executive director, University Advancement Katie Kaukinen, associate professor, School of Public Affairs Andrew Ketsdever, assistant professor, College of Engineering and Applied Science Tom Napierkowski, professor, English Department Ellen Pettijohn, assistant director, Office of Student Retention and First Year Experience Jevita Rogers, director, Office of Financial Aid and Student Employment Susan Szyrka, senior associate vice chancellor, Administration and Finance

#### [Faculty invited to register for President's Teaching Scholars Conference on Learning and Teaching](#)<sup>[9]</sup>

The University of Colorado President's Teaching Scholars fourth annual Spring Conference on Learning and Teaching will be held 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, March 9, on the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. A social hour with light refreshments will follow from 2 to 3 p.m.

CU faculty are invited to register for the conference. There is no cost to attend, however registration is required for one of 100 seats.

The conference theme takes a broad view of learning and teaching. Aspects of this include examples for the development of learning and problem-solving skills; addressing individual differences in learning; online course learning; classroom pedagogy; research on a particular aspect of learning in one's course (the scholarship of teaching and learning); how to deal with varying degrees of student openness to learning; and other related topics.

To register, visit [the conference website](#)<sup>[10]</sup>. For registration information, please contact

[Andrea.Kragerud@colorado.edu](mailto:Andrea.Kragerud@colorado.edu)[11]. For further conference information, please contact Meg Clarke at [ftcp@colorado.edu](mailto:ftcp@colorado.edu)[12].

[Mostly talk, little action so far regarding PERA changes](#)[13]

[14]

Nine bills pertaining to the Public Employees' Retirement Association (PERA) were introduced in the 2012 legislative session, but so far, all but three have been killed in committee.

The remaining bills are scheduled for discussion today by the House Finance Committee, but they face stiff opposition from a variety of sources including PERA and many of its members and retirees. The bills deal with how retirement benefits are calculated, the membership of the PERA board, and an expansion of PERA's defined contribution plan.

What is certain, however, is that the 2.5 percent PERA contribution shift for University of Colorado employees will end this July. Eric Brown, spokesman for Gov. John Hickenlooper, said another year of the contribution shift was not included in the proposed budget the governor's office sent to the General Assembly.

More than 11,000 CU employees who are PERA members saw a 2.5 percent reduction in take-home pay because of separate state laws passed for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 fiscal years that shifted a portion of retirement fund contributions from the employer to the employee. The shift was an effort to balance the state budget. The law decreased the employer contribution rate in the state and judicial divisions of PERA by 2.5 percent and increased the member contribution rate by 2.5 percent.

Beginning in July 2012, however, the contribution rates will return to 10.15 percent for the university and 8 percent for employees.

Following is a roundup of 2012 PERA legislative bills and their status:

**House Finance Committee:**

**HB 12-1142:** The bill would allow PERA members to enroll in the defined contribution plan instead of the defined benefit plan. Currently only new state and some new university employees may choose between the plans. **Scheduled for discussion today.**

**HB 12-1179:** Currently three members of PERA's Board of Trustees are appointed by the governor. The legislation would allow the governor to appoint an additional four members. Similar bills proposing membership change have been defeated by the Legislature in the past. **Scheduled for discussion today.**

**HB12-1150:** The bill would change the way retirement benefits are calculated. Currently, benefits are calculated using the highest average salary from three years, but the bill would increase the calculation to include seven years for those eligible to retire after Jan. 1, 2013. **Scheduled for discussion today.**

**Legislation that has been killed in committee:**

**HB12-1250:** The bill would have changed employee contributions and eliminated the health care program subsidy for those with Medicare coverage. **Killed by sponsor in House Finance Committee.**

**SB 12-16:** The bill would have allowed local government employers to shift up to 2.5 percent of contributions to employees. **Killed by Senate Finance Committee.**

**SB 12-82:** The bill would have changed the retirement age eligibility for those hired after Jan. 1, 2013, to the same age as those receiving Social Security benefits. **Killed by Senate Finance Committee.**

**SB 12-19:** The bill would have required PERA's Board of Trustees to reduce benefits when the unfunded liability amortization of the plan exceeded 30 years for each division. **Killed by Senate Finance Committee.**

**SB 12-84:** The bill would have made public certain information about PERA's elected officials and cabinet members. **Killed by Senate Finance Committee.**

**SB 12-136:** The bill would have changed the frequency and information contained in the state personnel compensation report. **Killed by Senate Finance Committee.**

For information about this and other legislation, contact CU's [Office of Government Relations](#)[15].

[Professor's study looks at rise in abuse of prescription drugs](#)[16]

Miech

**Richard Miech**, professor of health and behavioral sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Colorado Denver, presented the statistics and analysis of his recent study in a lecture at the Population Center at the University of Texas at Austin.

As reported by [The Daily Texan](#)[18], Miech's study shows marijuana use declining and prescription drug abuse skyrocketing. The study, titled "Trends in Illegal Drug Use Over the Past 25 Years: A Cohort or Period Process?," has revealed a decrease in the use of marijuana and cocaine in every generation since the 1960s, along with a large increase in the abuse of prescription medication by young people. Miech explains that his presentation was a compilation of multiple studies he's submitted separately for peer-review. One paper on marijuana use is scheduled for publication in *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*.

[Survey points to ways of improving professional climate for women faculty](#)[19]

Mary Coussons-Read, associate vice chancellor for Research and Creative Activities, speaks at a workshop, "Gender and Campus Climate."

When it comes to issues of recruitment, retention and promotion of women faculty, there is much being done well but still room for improvement.

That's the takeaway message of a survey that looked into the professional climate on the University of Colorado Denver campus. Mary Coussons-Read, Ph.D., associate vice chancellor for research and creative activities, Research Administration, spoke Monday at a workshop titled "Gender and Campus Climate." The luncheon was hosted by the university's [Women's Issues Committee](#)[21].

A [National Science Foundation](#)[22] grant, administered by the NSF's ADVANCE program, supported a survey to find out how the university supports women faculty in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math).

"We (the ADVANCE project and the Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Faculty Affairs) decided to look at all faculty on campus," Coussons-Read said. "What we found is that we're doing a lot of things really well, and then we

have some opportunities to improve the climate for everybody and that there are some really good practices out there that we can employ to further support all CU Denver faculty and the campus community as a whole."

Tenure and non-tenure track faculty from all schools and colleges on the Denver Campus were eligible to participate – 218 took part -- in the survey, which was conducted from April to the start of June 2011. Coussons-Read went through some of the survey results for the Women's Issues Committee.

Coussons-Read said the grant was awarded to her as a faculty member in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "Although this ADVANCE grant supports efforts focused on the Denver Campus, there are a lot of things that we can learn from this for the entire university."

She said [Institutional Research](#)[23] also is working on the project, working with the ADVANCE project to look at patterns of hiring and promotion among faculty.

"We're also looking at policies that are in existence with the idea that we'll be able to submit an Institutional Transformation proposal to NSF in a couple years," Coussons-Read said. "Such grants are quite large and support institutions in coming at these issues of climate, not just for women faculty, but for all faculty on campus."

She said the next step is to put together a working group to discuss issues related to the grant application.

#### [Transparency legislation advances in House](#)[24]

A bill that would require greater detail in existing reporting of financial information at institutions of higher education advanced this week in the State House.

House Bill 1252, Transparency of Higher Ed Financial Information, initially called for the University of Colorado, Colorado State University, the University of Northern Colorado and the Colorado School of Mines to be added to the statewide financial transparency act. It requires institutions to maintain a searchable database of all revenues and expenditures.

The bill also stipulates that additional information on faculty members – such as number of classes taught, amount of grant money received, reimbursement amounts including travel – be provided in the database.

Before the bill advanced from the House Committee on Education to the House Appropriations Committee earlier this week, it was amended to include all higher ed institutions that receive College Opportunity Fund money, therefore affecting several more four-year and two-year public and private institutions across the state.

The School of Mines has publicly stated that it opposes the measure because of increased costs associated with establishing and maintaining a more complex database.

Vice President of University Communication Ken McConnellogue said CU supports transparency and noted the university already provides a database with much of the information called for in the bill, including faculty and staff compensation. "Our concern is with the fiscal note attached to the bill," he said. Frequent updating and reporting of a more detailed database would require additional resources at CU campuses and throughout the system – up to roughly \$500,000 per school to launch, then up to \$300,000 annually to maintain.

Speaking for themselves rather than the entire board, Board of Regents members Sue Sharkey, R-Windsor, and James Geddes, R-Sedalia, told the education committee on Monday that they support the transparency bill. It's possible that the regents could vote whether to support a resolution in favor of the bill during the board's next meeting, tentatively set for March 14.

[Communication's role in terrorism response discussed by assistant professor](#)[25]

Bean

**Hamilton Bean**, assistant professor, communication, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at CU Denver, served as an invited participant in the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism's (START) two-day workshop, "Setting the Standards: Training Curriculum for Local Officials on Communicating With the Public About Homeland-Security Threats," in Atlanta on Feb. 6-7.

The workshop engaged 25 leading researchers and practitioners in direct conversation about risk communication and community engagement, what difficulties are present in communicating risk, and how we can bring this knowledge together to create more effective risk communication training for local leaders and community officials.

[Women Succeeding a hot ticket in Boulder](#)[27]

Marcy Benson delivers a keynote speech at CU Women Succeeding. (Photo: Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

Dozens listen to Tanya Kelly-Bowry. (Photo: Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

Cynthia Husek talks ethics. (Photo: Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

Alison M. Jaggar speaks. (Photo: Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

President Benson greets symposium attendees. (Photo: Casey A. Cass/University of Colorado)

More than 300 faculty and staff from across the University of Colorado system took part in last week's CU Women Succeeding, the 10th annual professional development symposium presented at CU-Boulder's University Memorial Center by the CU Faculty Council Women's Committee.

Participants chose from more than 20 workshop sessions offered on Friday afternoon, the main event that followed an evening of networking on Thursday. The entire group filled the Glenn Miller Ballroom to hear two keynote addresses: Marcy Benson, who chairs the Creating Futures fundraising campaign with her husband, CU President Bruce D. Benson, spoke in the morning; Alison M. Jaggar, Professor of Distinction in philosophy and women and gender studies at CU-Boulder, gave the afternoon speech and also received the 2012 Elizabeth D. Gee Memorial Lectureship Award.

In between, sessions offered learning and discussion on topics ranging from negotiation and politics to workplace bullying and stress relief techniques.

After an introduction from President Benson, Marcy Benson relayed anecdotes from a 19-year career in Washington, D.C., and more recent civic engagement in Colorado, from extensive work with Children's Hospital Colorado to her current honorary chairing of Be Colorado, the health and wellness initiative for CU employees. [Read more about her speech here.](#)[33]

The Gee Award presented to Jaggar honors an outstanding faculty member for efforts to advance women in academia, interdisciplinary scholarly contributions and distinguished teaching. Jaggar talked about her work as central investigator in “Fempov,” an international research project aimed at establishing a new poverty standard or metric capable of revealing gender-specific aspects of global poverty. She also talked about her own journey from growing up in England to becoming a respected mentor at CU-Boulder.

“Hard work counts, but also good luck,” she said. “I’ve had good health and health care, my university education in England was paid for by the state, I’ve had a good partner and good timing in my career.”

Other symposium highlights:

Peg Bacon, University of Colorado Colorado Springs provost who is retiring this summer, was presented with flowers and recognized by Kathleen Bollard, vice president for academic affairs. “Thank you for all you’ve done to create community at the university,” Bollard said. Regent Irene Griego attended part of the symposium, including a session presented by Tanya Kelly-Bowry, vice president for state and federal government relations, and Dorothy Rupert, former Colorado state senator and representative. Rupert was a mentor of Kelly-Bowry’s when she began her career. Rupert told the audience, “I encourage you to go with the gut, listen to yourselves. Believe what you’re seeing and feeling. Be true to your core.” Cynthia Husek, assistant dean for finance and operations in the College of Arts and Sciences at CU-Boulder, presented “A Field Guide to Everyday Ethics.” She provided tips on avoiding traps that can lead to unethical behavior and stressed the need to talk through dilemmas encountered in the workplace. CU-Boulder faculty members Karen Auvinen, Giulia Bernardini and Beth Stade outlined ways of using art, math and poetry to boost learning beyond those disciplines. Such exercises inspire conversation among students, which transforms the classroom into “an incubator for ideas,” Auvinen said.

[Combined Campaign coordinators mark achievement at governor’s mansion](#)<sup>[34]</sup>

By Tom Hutton

Tina Collins, left, and Iryse Naro, right, celebrate the success of the Colorado Combined Campaign at an event at the governor’s mansion.

**Tina Collins**, executive assistant in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Success and Enrollment Management at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, and **Iryse Naro**, executive assistant, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, attended a Winter Wonderland Celebration Feb. 21 at the governor’s mansion in Denver to celebrate the success of the Colorado Combined Campaign.

Collins and Naro coordinated the campaign for UCCS, which raised \$18,770 to benefit nonprofit organizations in the region.

[Five questions for Philip Zeitler](#)<sup>[36]</sup>



[\[37\]](#)

Although he is an internationally known expert in pediatric endocrinology who has made substantial contributions to the understanding of Type 2 diabetes, Philip Zeitler, M.D., Ph.D., wasn't always interested in the subject. He says it was "a little bit of serendipity and some nagging from a strong-willed Israeli" that sharpened his focus.

Zeitler is a professor of pediatrics and clinical sciences at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, and recently was [honored with the Thomas Jefferson Award](#)<sup>[38]</sup>, one of CU's highest honors. The award acknowledges his community service work as well as excellence in the performance of regular academic responsibilities, of which he has many.

A landmark, six-year, national research study on childhood diabetes that he chaired is in its final phase. And now much of his focus has moved from hands-on research to promoting the research and guaranteeing funding of others in his group. He also is responsible for ensuring that quality care is delivered at Children's Hospital Colorado, where he trains fellows and junior faculty.

While he occasionally misses teaching in the classroom – or seeing patients, which could be seen as a conflict of interest with the research he oversees – he thoroughly enjoys his role as administrator.

"I had a number of mentors who clearly had moved from seeing their primary responsibility as their own research to promoting others," he says. "That's how I see where I am at the moment. It's the most important thing I can be doing."

### **1. How did you become interested in Type 2 diabetes in children?**

I went to med school at Duke and got an M.D. and Ph.D. in physiology. I had an endocrine fellowship in Cincinnati, and in 1993, we had an endocrine fellow from Israel. She was struck by all the obesity we were seeing and noted that we were seeing kids with Type 2 diabetes. Prior to that, Type 2 was considered an adult disease. She sort of nagged me for a while about it, saying there was something going on. Eventually she convinced me that it was worth looking into. We did a review of our new diabetes patients going back to the early 1980s and realized she was correct: There had been a sudden upsurge in cases of Type 2 diabetes in kids related to obesity. It began around 1992 and continued to rise. By 1996, half of teenagers with diabetes had Type 2. This was a huge increase from almost nothing.

We did a pretty extensive study and wrote it up and submitted it to the New England Journal of Medicine. The reviewers said they didn't believe it, and who really cared? We ended up getting published in General Pediatrics and subsequently other sites published the same thing.

We looked at who these kids were -- what kind of families they came from -- and we began to realize they were socially and economically disadvantaged, they had depression, and there was a lot of family breakdown and dysfunction. I moved here in 1996 and discovered the same thing. Then the National Institutes of Health recognized this as a problem. We received a substantial grant in excess of \$5 million to study this population. We developed a 15-site study called TODAY – Treatment Options for Diabetes in Adolescents and Youth. We put together a comprehensive study looking at activity, eating habits, depression, eating disorders, socio-economic issues and cost of care. The study went on for six years and covered 700 kids. We finished it last February. The results are at the New England Journal of Medicine, but I can't reveal the results because it's still embargoed.

### **2. So you are saying that poor diet and inactivity are only two of the factors leading to Type 2 diabetes? What can be done to combat it?**

The reason these kids are so sedentary and their diet is so poor is very complex. We have a lot of data that's not really analyzed, so I can only give you impressions. Only 10 percent of the kids are living with both parents; the median income of kids in the study is \$25,000 for the family; there's low parental education; and at some of the sites, the neighborhood access to food and family support is horrendous. So, yes, the final pathway is inactivity and diet, but it happens because of the environment these kids are growing up in, as well as stress and depression.

This is happening in all developing countries. What you see is that an increase in kids' Type 2 diabetes tends to follow

adult diabetes by about 15 to 20 years. Why is it happening? My impression is this: food is cheaper, especially poor quality food; there's a lot of caloric density in the food they eat; families aren't eating meals together and parents work multiple jobs; there may not be two parents; and kids are home alone, often stopping at fast-food places. You can't point your finger at anything; there's just been a general breakdown in what used to happen in cultures around activity. People aren't active anymore. When was the last time you saw someone carrying a suitcase at the airport?

How to combat it? That's basically a depressing answer. The middle class and upper-middle class are hearing the message and things are changing. People are aware of the bad choices they might be making, but I think we're going to see much more resistance to or many more barriers to change for the socially disadvantaged. You asked about Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign. I think she deserves credit for raising the issue, but look at the resistance she's gotten from folks who talk about the nanny state. They say, "Don't tell us what to eat" and "Worry about your own weight." It's extremely depressing that people don't want to wake up to the fact that this is a public health problem of enormous magnitude.

### **3. What other research are you involved with?**

We've developed a research group around these issues and I believe it's one of the strongest pediatric endocrine programs across the country in areas related to obesity, complications, insulin resistance, lipid abnormalities and Type 2 diabetes. Doctors Kristen Nadeau, Megan Moriarty Kelsey, Christine Chan and Melanie Cree Green all work on related topics and are doing exciting studies looking at the physiology of these kids, using, if you will, kids as experimental models, to look at how their muscles work and how their hearts are working. They are looking at the mechanism behind the diabetes so that some of these kids get it, but others don't, and at levels of obesity.

We have a number of advanced research techniques that no one else does in kids around the country. An example is Dr. Nadeau's work. They've built an apparatus so they can take kids and exercise them in an NMR (nuclear magnetic resonance) magnet that allows them to look at the metabolism of the muscles and they're looking at energy generation and recovery in kids -- lean kids, obese kids, and kids with Type 2 diabetes.

Dr. Kelsey is doing a study looking at potential intervention. The peak incidence for onset of diabetes is actually mid-puberty. Puberty is thought to be a state of insulin resistance and kids are at greater risk of losing control of glucose metabolism then. She is trying to prevent stress that occurs to potentially put them in a better metabolic state as they come out of puberty so that perhaps they'll be able to maintain metabolic control longer into adulthood.

### **4. Congratulations on receiving a 2012 Thomas Jefferson Award, which recognizes excellence in professional duties as well as community service. What does the award mean to you?**

It really was quite a surprise. I was on medical leave, working at my computer at home when I got an email asking me if I was OK with the press release. I said, "What are you talking about?" I hadn't received the nomination and selection letter because I hadn't been at work. My faculty in my section (endocrinology) nominated me for the award. I was stunned. I'm mostly moved by the fact that these guys took time out of their very busy careers to do this.

My wife, Barbara Morris, and I feel strongly about service. We feel incredibly lucky and feel it's important to do community things. It goes back many years and started in Cincinnati when my wife got involved with a domestic violence group trying to start a medical clinic for women living in shelters. When we moved to Denver, she became involved with Family Tree and actually started their medical clinic at one of their shelters. I became involved as a board member of AMEND, a domestic violence organization that works for perpetrators, and eventually became chair of that board. That led to involvement with other nonprofits. We're also involved in Global Volunteers, an organization in Minnesota that sends teams of volunteers around the world to do projects. We've been to Ecuador, Vietnam, and will go to Peru. We don't think our doing service work is special; everybody should do something because this is what it takes.

### **5. What one thing do you want your students to take away from their educational experience?**

One of the things I'm concerned about, because of changes in health care, is I think it's possible to lose sight of why people go into medicine in the first place. I worry about physicians and nurse practitioners becoming factory workers

and losing sight of the great virtues that are the heritage of medicine. I worry about more people going into dermatology and radiology and making lifestyle choices. The more we become factory workers, the more patients see us as providing a service to them as opposed to being their guide or their physician. People are demanding that they get health care the way they want it. For instance, you have hospitals that are gorgeous, but I've also been to hospitals in Costa Rica. There they may have four people in a room, but they're delivering quality care to everyone. Everyone has access. We've lost sight of what it's about and that is providing quality care, not health care in a hotel atmosphere. Medicine is being taken out of the hands of the doctors; it's becoming a business and that's a huge risk for quality of care and the idealism of medical students, which we should be promoting and enthusiastic about.

[Rick Lawrence chosen as CEO of CU Foundation](#)[39]

Lawrence

The [University of Colorado Foundation](#)[41] has named Richard W. Lawrence as its new president and chief executive officer following a national search, the Foundation's board of directors announced Friday.

Lawrence, a six-year CU Foundation veteran who most recently has served as chief operating officer and executive vice president, assumes the role effective immediately. He replaces retiring CEO J. Wayne Hutchens, who will remain through April 1 to assist the transition, and who with Lawrence has led the CU Foundation to its five most successful fundraising years ever.

Lawrence, 54, brings to the role a track record of efficient and effective management, strong university and donor relationships, and a comprehensive understanding of the foundation's operations. He will oversee a staff of 200, CU endowments of approximately \$750 million, and annual fundraising exceeding \$100 million. He is a 1980 alumnus of the University of Colorado Boulder.

"We had an extraordinarily strong pool of applicants, yet our committee was united in believing that Lawrence was the ideal candidate for this critical role," said Margaret Bathgate, chair of the CEO search committee that selected Lawrence from a pool of 98 candidates. "In addition to his clear capabilities, passion and vision, CU Foundation stakeholders and staff have trust and confidence in him, which will be an invaluable asset as we progress toward our goals for the \$1.5 billion Creating Futures campaign."

Said CU President Bruce D. Benson, "Rick Lawrence has been instrumental in building the organizational structure that has led the CU Foundation toward fundraising success. I have every confidence in his ability to step into this leadership role and advance the CU Foundation's ability to attract the private support that adds value to people, programs and places at the University of Colorado."

Lawrence has played a fundamental role in the strategic planning for the Creating Futures campaign, which has generated \$1.1 billion in private support for CU since it began July 1, 2006. Guided by 30 prior years of executive experience at Vectra Bank and Bank One Corporation, Lawrence has helped lead evolutions in the foundation's investment management and real estate foundation structures, and has negotiated critical donor and university-partner arrangements.

"Rick Lawrence has demonstrated outstanding strategic vision in our six years working together at the CU Foundation, and our staff has strong confidence in his leadership," said Wayne Hutchens, who had been foundation CEO since 2006. "CU donors, alumni and friends can be confident that the foundation is in capable hands."

Beyond the CU Foundation, Lawrence is president of the board of directors of Peak to Peak Charter School in Lafayette, and has served on boards of community and industry organizations such as the Boulder Chamber of Commerce, the Boulder Downtown Management Commission and the Colorado Bankers Association, among others.

Besides his CU degree, Lawrence is a 1988 graduate of the ABA Stonier Graduate School of Banking. His wife, Barbara, received a 1996 graduate degree from CU, and together they have two children.

[Boots to Suits: CU Denver program to serve those who served](#)[42]

Having served two tours of duty in Iraq, Tyler Heath has faced—and conquered—the fear of the unknown. Now the University of Colorado Denver senior is facing the unknown again – this time as he prepares to enter the business world for the first time.

“I have the education and I have experience working in a team, but what I don’t have is the knowledge of what it takes to succeed in the business world,” Heath said. It’s for students like Heath that CU Denver has created its new veteran support program, [CU Denver Boots to Suits](#)[43].

Developed in conjunction with the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, CU Denver Boots to Suits helps veterans shift from their roles as service members to students and, from there, to business professionals and leaders in our community.

“While many universities have veteran enrollment programs, CU Denver Boots to Suits is different. We go beyond supporting our veterans while they’re pursuing a degree to helping them transition into the workforce,” said Jerry Wartgow, Ph.D., chancellor of University of Colorado Denver. “The program ensures they have the skills employers are looking for, matches them with a business mentor, offers them opportunities for hands-on work experience and even ‘suits them up’ with the right attire so they can put their best foot forward during the job interview process.”

CU Denver Boots to Suits directly addresses a very real problem: unemployment among Gulf War veterans can be up to double that of the national unemployment rate, according to a recent study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

To better understand local implications, CU Denver and the Denver Metro Chamber conducted a survey of business leaders in the metro area. Of the more than 100 business leaders who responded to the survey, most think veterans hold strong leadership skills, have a high degree of integrity and are adept at leading a team. However, half expressed concerns about hiring a veteran, citing, most prominently, concerns about post-traumatic stress disorder and applicability of skills in a business setting. That said, survey participants who had experience working with or hiring veterans in the past were much more likely to tout the benefits of working with a veteran, rating them 20 percent to 30 percent more positively than respondents with no experience hiring veterans for the attributes they bring to the business environment.

“The chamber is a key player in CU Denver Boots to Suits because the program addresses head on the issues that keep our veterans’ unemployment numbers higher than the average,” said Kelly Brough, president and CEO of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce. “We know that the skills honed serving our country can absolutely benefit our business community. These dedicated Americans deserve more than a heartfelt ‘thank you’ when they return home. They deserve a great career.”

“Once a business person has worked with a veteran, he or she understands the value they bring to the table,” said Bill Lindsay, president, Benefit Group-Denver, Lockton Companies. Lindsay, one of the first local business leaders to become a mentor for the Boots to Suits program and a military veteran himself, says the program “builds a bridge between our military students and our business leaders that will yield multiple benefits for businesses, veterans and the greater community.”

CU Denver Boots to Suits offers several ways for employers to get involved:

**Mentor a Veteran**

This semester-long program matches Metro Denver executives with student veterans in their senior year at CU Denver to help set them up for success in the business world. Business leaders commit to meeting with a student veteran four times to share insights and advice as well as open doors to others within their organization. At the completion of the

mentorship, organizations have the option of purchasing a suit for the student veteran to help him or her in the job interview process. **Offer an Internship**

Employers can recruit student veterans to work on special projects, assist with daily tasks or provide support up to 20 hours per week during the fall or spring semester. Internships benefit both student veterans and employers: students gain experience related to their academic major and career goals while employers benefit from their skills and assistance. **Hire a Veteran**

The CU Denver Office of Veteran Student Services and the CU Denver Career Center work in tandem to match highly trained student veterans with company needs for permanent positions. Potential employers can be confident student veterans are ready for the business world as each veteran is required to complete a program of professional preparation leading to a Certificate of Employability. In addition, companies are provided information about tax benefits they may be eligible for by hiring military veterans. **Suit Up Our Veterans**

Many student veterans went directly from high school into the military and lack business attire to wear to job interviews. With a seed grant from PCL Construction, CU Denver Boots to Suits has created a Suit Up Our Veterans Fund. The program is soliciting donations from organizations and individuals to provide a business suit for each graduating student veteran.

"PCL Construction not only builds communities through complex projects using steel and concrete, but more importantly, PCL builds hope for individuals and families through its many philanthropic efforts that focus on the areas of education, community development, the arts, health and well-being, and the environment," said Trey Nobles, PCL District Manager. "The CU Denver Boots to Suits program has many values, principles, and philosophies in common with PCL; higher education, supporting military individuals, workforce development, mentoring, and internships."

Other Boots to Suits initiatives being developed include mock employment interviews for student veterans and panel discussions tailored to their needs, including CEOs discussing what employers are looking for in today's job market, veteran business owners on how to start a business, and human resources representatives on how to translate military skills to the workforce.

For more information on the CU Denver Boots to Suits initiative, including how to become a mentor or donate, visit <http://www.ucdenver.edu/bootstosuits>[44] or call the CU Denver Office of Veteran Support Services at 303-556-2745.

#### [Nominees sought for Service Excellence Award](#)[45]

The University of Colorado Staff Council (UCSC) is seeking nominations of classified staff and professional exempt employees for the annual Service Excellence Award. The honor is presented to one qualified individual from each campus and system administration who has provided outstanding volunteer service to the campus, community/civic/professional activities, and the university as a whole through involvement in staff issues, committee work, teamwork, professional development of peers, and community relations.

The Service Excellence Award, including a \$1,000 cash prize, will be presented to honorees during the All Staff Council Conference on April 13 in Colorado Springs.

Any active, certified, classified staff or professional exempt employee of the university, excluding the current members of UCSC, is eligible to receive this award. Nominations will be accepted from any staff, faculty, student or administrator within the university.

Nominations will be judged on the candidate's service not directly related to the employee's job duties: Service to the employee's home campus (50 percent), service to the community/civic and professional organizations (30 percent), and service to the university (20 percent).

Nominations packets of no more than 10 pages must be received by Friday, March 9, and must include a completed nomination describing the nominee's service, a description of the nominee's job, and a letter from the nominator and one additional letter of support from a staff member, a faculty member, or an administrator, based on the award criteria.

The nomination form and eligibility and judging criteria can be found on the UCSC website at <https://www.cu.edu/content/2011serviceexcellenceaward>[46]. The staff council will review and verify nomination information before choosing recipients.

Nomination packets should be submitted to UCSC campus representatives:

Boulder: <http://www.colorado.edu/StaffCouncil/>[47]

Colorado Springs: Jen O'Connell, 719-255-4444, [joconne3@uccs.edu](mailto:joconne3@uccs.edu)[48]

Denver | AMC: Deborah Makray, 303-623-1888, [Deborah.Makray@ucdenver.edu](mailto:Deborah.Makray@ucdenver.edu)[49]

System: Teena Shepperson-Turner , 303-860-5712, [Teena.Shepperson-Turner@cu.edu](mailto:Teena.Shepperson-Turner@cu.edu)[50]

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## Links

[1] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-denver-staff-council-seeking-members>[2]  
[http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty\\_staff/employees/StaffCouncil/Documents/SCElections.pdf](http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty_staff/employees/StaffCouncil/Documents/SCElections.pdf)[3]  
<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/global-study-enlightens-connection-between-fructose-obesity>[4]  
<http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschoo/departments/medicine/renal/Pages/Renal.aspx>[5]  
<http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschoo/Pages/somWelcome.aspx>[6]  
<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-team%E2%80%99s-efficient-unmanned-aircraft-jetting-toward-commercialization>  
[7] <https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/ucb-jet.png>[8]  
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[10] [http://www.colorado.edu/ptsp/announcements/2012\\_spring\\_conference.html](http://www.colorado.edu/ptsp/announcements/2012_spring_conference.html)[11]  
<mailto:Andrea.Kragerud@colorado.edu>[12] <mailto:ftop@colorado.edu>[13] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/mostly-talk-little-action-so-far-regarding-pera-changes>[14] [https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/pera\\_page.png](https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/pera_page.png)[15] <https://www.cu.edu/governmentrelations>[16]  
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<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/survey-points-ways-improving-professional-climate-women-faculty>[20]  
<https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/ucd-climate.png>[21]  
[http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty\\_staff/faculty/assembly/downtown/committees/diversity/Pages/Womens-Issues.aspx](http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty_staff/faculty/assembly/downtown/committees/diversity/Pages/Womens-Issues.aspx)[22]  
<http://www.nsf.gov/>[23] <https://www.cu.edu/content/institutionalresearch1>[24]  
<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/transparency-legislation-advances-house>[25] <https://connections.cu.edu/people/communication%E2%80%99s-role-terrorism-response-discussed-assistant-professor>[26]  
<https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/p-bean.png>[27]  
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[staff-student\[39\]](#) [https://connections.cu.edu/stories/rick-lawrence-chosen-ceo-cu-foundation\[40\]](https://connections.cu.edu/stories/rick-lawrence-chosen-ceo-cu-foundation[40])  
[https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/lawrence.png\[41\]](https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/lawrence.png[41]) [http://www.cufund.org/\[42\]](http://www.cufund.org/[42])  
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[http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/community/boots-to-suits/Pages/default.aspx\[44\]](http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/WhoWeAre/community/boots-to-suits/Pages/default.aspx[44])  
[http://www.ucdenver.edu/bootstosuits\[45\]](http://www.ucdenver.edu/bootstosuits[45]) [https://connections.cu.edu/stories/nominees-sought-service-excellence-award\[46\]](https://connections.cu.edu/stories/nominees-sought-service-excellence-award[46]) [https://www.cu.edu/content/2011serviceexcellenceaward\[47\]](https://www.cu.edu/content/2011serviceexcellenceaward[47]) [http://www.colorado.edu/StaffCouncil/\[48\]](http://www.colorado.edu/StaffCouncil/[48])  
[mailto:joconne3@uccs.edu\[49\]](mailto:joconne3@uccs.edu[49]) [mailto:Deborah.Makray@ucdenver.edu\[50\]](mailto:Deborah.Makray@ucdenver.edu[50]) <mailto:Teena.Shepperson-Turner@cu.edu>