Q&A: Jacqueline R. Berning[1]

CU graduate programs earn national accolades[2]

The University of Colorado's four campuses earned dozens of rankings in new lists of graduate programs compiled by U.S. News & World Report, which annually highlights the best in research and teaching across the country.

U.S. News ranks programs in business, education, engineering, law, nursing and medicine. Rankings are based on expert opinions about program excellence and statistical indicators that measure the quality of a school's faculty, research and students. The publication aims to provide a tool to students and parents who are comparing college programs at accredited public and private universities in the United States.

Below is a sampling of CU's rankings from the 2018 edition of Best Graduate Schools[3] (U.S. News Media Group), as made available in advance by U.S. News. Some rankings include ties with other institutions:

University of Colorado Boulder
No. 1: CU Boulder holds the top ranking nationally for atomic/molecular/optical physics. **Top 10:** CU Boulder holds a top ranking for ceramics (fifth). It also lands spots for environmental law (sixth), environmental engineering/environmental health engineering (ninth) and aerospace/aeronautical/astronautical engineering (10th). Another 17 CU Boulder schools and programs hold places on the national rankings within their fields: clinical psychology (16), audiology (17), physics (18), earth sciences (23), chemistry (24), speech language pathology (24), psychology (26), School of Education (29), biological sciences (30), College of Engineering and Applied Science (32), English (35), Law School (36), computer science (40), political science (40), Leeds School of Business (46 for part-time MBA schools), mathematics (46) and economics (50). Not all disciplines are ranked by the publication. See the full CU Boulder rankings here[4].
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

School of Medicine
Top 10: The school ranks third nationally for family medicine, sixth for pediatrics, sixth for rural medicine and eighth for primary care. The school ranks 35th overall for research.
College of Nursing
The college's nursing master's degree is 26th; doctor of nursing practice, 34th.
Graduate School
Top 10: The master's program for physician assistant ranks fifth. Among master's/doctorate programs in physical therapy, the program ranks 15th.
Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
The school ranks 22nd nationally for the doctor of pharmacy program.
University of Colorado Denver
CU Denver schools and programs that are ranked include health care management (23), School of Public Affairs (34), biological sciences (75), the Business School's part-time MBA program (84) and the School of Education and Human Development (120).
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
At UCCS, the part-time MBA is No. 46. The nursing master's degree at the Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences ranks 52nd; the doctorate of nursing practice, 54th.
The U.S. News data come from statistical surveys sent to administrators at more than 1,970 graduate programs and from reputation surveys sent to more than 16,500 academics and professionals in the disciplines. Surveys were conducted during the fall of 2016 and in early 2017. The Best Graduate Schools 2018 guidebook may be pre-ordered online[5] now or purchased in stores on April 11.

Regent: Be a pest, get active in supporting CU[6]

Kroll to Faculty Council: 'I look forward to learning from this group'[7]
[8]

One of the newest CU Regents spoke at the Faculty Council's meeting March 9, discussing issues not just as a member of the institution's governing board, but as a university co-worker.

Representing the 1st Congressional District, Kroll, D-Denver, was elected last November and was sworn in this January. When his mind isn't focused on his elected and volunteer role as a member of the Board of Regents, his career as a CU Boulder admissions officer keeps him immersed in the University of Colorado.

"It's evolving. I work a lot," Kroll told the council of his dual responsibilities. "I just have to do a darn good job. I hope my integrity will speak for itself."

Kroll also understands shared governance from his experience as chair of the Intercampus Student Forum, which he led while a student at CU Denver. Despite the broad swath of exposure to CU, Kroll said he's looking to learn more.

"The world of faculty is one where I don't know a whole lot," he told the council. "It's one area of the university where I haven't had much exposure. I look forward to learning from this group."

Council members heard Kroll outline points of emphasis he made while campaigning last year: supporting non-tenure-track faculty across the system, and ensuring that military veterans in classrooms are being supported enough to make successful transitions. He also reiterated criticism of financial investment in new facilities at CU Boulder's Folsom Field.

In comments, faculty spotlighted other concerns. CU Denver's Joanne Addison said it's important for regents "to recognize the importance of research and understand the role it plays at CU Denver and UCCS. In Denver, it distinguishes us from our immediate competitors." At last month's board meeting, some regents expressed skepticism of CU Denver's aim to increase investment in research.

"We all know the Denver campus is facing some significant budget shortfalls. As the regent that has the Denver campus in my district, that's a big concern for me," Kroll said. "I think we finally have a chancellor dedicated to that campus so that we can create a vision and move forward. … The Denver campus since 2004 has, unfortunately, been through a revolving door of leadership at the highest level. Chancellor (Dorothy) Horrell has the plan right.

"Part of the challenge for the Denver campus is going to be articulating its role in the current landscape and educating board members and the community."

Kroll also expressed interest in the future of online education across CU, noting that he currently takes online classes.

"We've got to maintain high-quality standards," Kroll said. "I also see online as an opportunity to subsidize what we do in our brick-and-mortar operations."

In other business at the March 9 Faculty Council meeting at 1800 Grant St.:
UCCS' Leann Morgan, co-chair of the Women's Committee, reported on a well-attended CU Women Succeeding symposium[9] earlier this month at UCCS. She announced that next year's symposium is tentatively set for February 2018 at CU Boulder. Gloria Main updated the council on the CU Retired Faculty Association (CURFA) and its leadership's desire to re-establish the current group as the CU Boulder Retired Faculty Association. CURFA would be reconstituted as an umbrella group and networking center for the campus-based retired faculty associations. The new umbrella group would consist of representatives from each campus group; one of those representatives would continue to attend Faculty Council meetings. The council approved a motion authorizing that approach. Carolyn Proctor, interim

associate vice president and chief human resources officer, said this year's open enrollment dates have been set: April 24 through May 12. Michael Lightner, vice president for academic affairs, said the review of Regent Laws and Policies continues, with a presentation to the Board of Regents' Academic Affairs Committee planned for next week. He said upcoming reviews of Article 5 and Policy 5, both of which fall under the heading of "Faculty," are likely to entail more work and require more time than the previous reviews of Article 4 and Policy 4.

Faculty housing assistance benefit a tool for recruitment, retention[10]

With all the appeal that life in Colorado carries for so many, it comes with an increasingly daunting hurdle: the cost of a home.

So while benefits collectively may play a key role in recruiting and retaining faculty across the University of Colorado, none might be more persuasive in the current real estate market than CU's Faculty Housing Assistance Program.[11]

In place since the Board of Regents approved it in 2001, the benefit consists of two loan programs available to tenure and tenure-track faculty: a shared-appreciation loan (30 years) of up to $80,000, which is essentially free of interest; and a loan guarantee, where CU acts as an additional party in a loan from lender to home buyer, guaranteeing the loan.

"We view this certainly as a benefit to faculty and tenure-track faculty that helps with your recruitment and retention," said Dan Wilson, CU treasurer, chief investment officer and associate vice president for budget and finance. He spoke to the Faculty Council at its March 9 meeting at 1800 Grant St. "It's not entire-career help, but early career help."

A partnership between CU and the CU Foundation, the program currently is overseen by a committee consisting of Wilson; Ravinder Singh, Faculty Council chair; Kathy Nesbitt, vice president, employee and information services; Jeff Cox, CU Boulder vice chancellor; Mike Pritchard, CU Foundation; and Alexis Kelly, CU assistant treasurer.

In 2016, the program closed on 21 new shared-appreciation loans and 29 new loan guarantees. Since 2004, the program has closed on a total of 366 loans, representing funding of $25.87 million.

Interested faculty apply for the benefit via an online application, Wilson said. Including review by the treasury staff and confirmation of appointment at the campus level, the loan closing process lasts nine months.

Administration has worked to further promote the benefit recently; this was the second annual update on the program Wilson has provided to the Faculty Council.

Discussion at last week's meeting included a call for expansion of the benefit.

UCCS' Bita Rivas, chair of the Faculty Council's budget committee, said such a recruiting tool should also be available to non-tenure-track faculty, who are even more disadvantaged by housing costs.

"The fact that we don't have anything to support non-tenure-track faculty shows an inequity," Rivas said.

Wilson noted that the existing benefit took root as a faculty initiative. "If it's expanded," he said, "that's where it would start."

Said Singh, "Let's keep the discussion going."

Call for research participants: LGBTQ survey[12]

Faculty, staff and students at CU Denver, CU Anschutz Medical Campus and CU Boulder are invited to take an online survey about the stressors facing LGBTQ individuals on those campuses.

The survey asks questions about well-being and individuals' experiences with discrimination both on and off campus.

Procedure:
For this study you will be asked to take an online survey that can be found at: http://bit.ly/2mA2kAR[13] The survey will take approximately 25 minutes to complete. Participation is completely voluntary and responses will be kept confidential.
Eligibility requirements:
Participants must be at least 18 years of age Participants must identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer. Participants must be a student, faculty member, and/or staff member on the Auraria, CU Boulder or CU Anschutz Medical Campus.
Contact information:

If you have questions about this project, please contact the investigators for this research: Robert Allan (Robert.allan@ucdenver.edu[14]), Troyann Gentile (troyann.gentile@ucdenver.edu[15]) or Maren Scull (maren.scull@ucdenver.edu[16]).

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