CU sets new bar for state grant funding of Open Educational Resources[1]
[2]

The University of Colorado received three of the 20 grants recently issued by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, boosting Open Educational Resources (OER) projects that save students course material costs and ensure access to high-quality teaching, learning and research resources.

The grants received this year by CU entities exceed past annual awards from the Colorado OER Grant Program[3]. Awards are two-year grants for 2022-2024 activity.

Two of the CU grantees, receiving portions of the nearly $1 million awarded by the Colorado OER Grant Program this year, are repeat recipients; the third is a new recipient:
The **CU Denver ThinqStudio** received $15,000 to expand and sustain an open education infrastructure for faculty and students to co-create course materials. The **CU system Open CU Committee**[4] received $70,000 to expand and sustain successful Open CU OER initiatives on all four CU campuses, primarily by providing individual faculty grants and support for OER adoption, adaptation and creation. A new grantee this year, the **CU Denver Department of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences** received $55,000 to transform curriculum across multiple levels of mathematics and statistics courses and utilize virtual laboratory settings to enable an active computational learning environment.
Since CU's first successful receipt of Colorado OER Grant Program support beginning in 2018, nearly 400 CU faculty members have participated in workshops and online tutorials at CU campuses. Funded projects have resulted in student course material cost savings of over $1 million across the four campuses, more than a 300% return on investment of state funding.

Gov. Polis backs these efforts, stating in a recent news release[5], "We are saving Colorado students money on textbooks, providing innovative and high-quality education, and reducing out-of-pocket costs." The governor has signed continuing grant funding into legislation, ensuring the Colorado OER Grant Program's continuation through 2027.

To learn more about the program, including impacts and reach of the grants, read the 2021 report Colorado Rises: Transforming Education Practices Through Open Educational Resources[6].

Become a better leader by understanding Total Worker Health[7]

Employee well-being and workplace culture continue to grow in importance for managers and employees alike, in the face of challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and a constantly shifting workplace. In response, CU Anschutz Medical Campus faculty have released a new Skillsoft course dedicated to creating healthy workplaces.

The Colorado School of Public Health's Center for Health, Work & Environment faculty developed the Total Worker Health Leadership 101 course[8] to help you assess your current leadership strategy and build a framework for evaluating Total Worker Health in your team and organization.

The Total Worker Health (TWH) approach to workplace culture and leadership is built on the understanding that employee health, safety and well-being are intertwined.

Trademarked by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health[9], part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the TWH framework recognizes that an individual worker's physical health affects how safe they are on the job, and it affects their well-being (most often related to their mental health). In turn, a worker's mental health affects their physical health and how safe they are at work.

Understanding the relationships between employee health, safety and well-being, and learning how to better promote each facet in your employees' experiences, is essential for effective leadership.

The Total Worker Health Leadership 101 course is recommended for managers and supervisors interested in learning how to become leaders who can drive organizational change to achieve TWH.

Now available at no cost for CU faculty and staff, this 50-minute training can be completed online, at your own pace. At the end of this course, you will be able to identify:
The five practices of TWH leadership and your role in defining organizational culture The business case for TWH What makes a healthy and safe workplace The employee perspective of a healthy and safe workplace Ways to enhance and support your personal well-being
Leaders who implement a TWH approach in their management style and workplace will find this holistic framework ensures employees remain safe, healthy and well.

Christine Gillen, associate dean administration and finance at the ColoradoSPH and co-chair of the ColoradoSPH Total Health Committee, attended a version of this course in April 2020 along with other managers from the school.

“Our grassroots initiatives within the school have blossomed using the research-based practices from this course,” Gillen said. “This course reinforced the value of understanding the employee perspective. At ColoradoSPH, we listen to concerns, ask for opinions, take risks and try new things to maximize the employee experience.”

Take the free Total Worker Health Leadership 101 Skillsoft course[8]**.** For questions, reach out to Madison Crepeau at madison.crepeau@cuanschutz.edu[10].

CU Innovation and Efficiency Awards program attracts big ideas[11]

At the Office of University Controller, we’ve been hearing from many CU employees about their outstanding innovations and process improvements during this year’s entry period for the CU Innovation and Efficiency Awards[12]. Many of the ideas transfer in application to the rest of us – or get us thinking of new approaches to the work we do, which may spark next year’s submissions.

In just over a month, we’ve received submissions describing new approaches to research training and infrastructure management. We’ve heard about a mobile app developed to help professors and clinicians manage administrative tasks on the go. We’ve seen how one department created a hub of critical documents and guidance to aid its employees working remotely, and we’ve even received an innovation on promoting innovation.

What will come next? This year’s CU Innovation and Efficiency Awards submission period ends March 31, so we look forward to receiving and sharing many more great ideas in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, we’ve redesigned our website for past submissions[13], making it easier for employees to find ideas and process improvements relevant to their own work areas. We hope that you’ll take some time to see what’s out there – https://www.cu.edu/controller/innovation-efficiency-awards/past-submissions[13] -- and share in the innovation and creativity of your CU colleagues.

-- Office of University Controller

Match Day ceremony reveals residency locations for graduating students at CU School of Medicine[14]

U.S. representatives to hold bipartisan discussion on climate solutions April 14[15]

UCCS alum named 2022 Colorado Teacher of Year and national finalist[16]

Chancellor Marks announces new Chief of Staff[17]

Ruzzene named acting vice chancellor for research and innovation, dean of institutes[18]

Farney named Associate Dean of Library Administration[19]

Larson-Krieg steps down as chair of CU Denver Staff Council[20]

COVID cases appear to be rising again in Colorado. Is another surge likely?[21]

Are the U.S. and Russia in an economic cold war or something even worse? Experts weigh in[22]

UCCS hosts program to encourage women to join the cybersecurity industry[23]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/cu-sets-new-bar-state-grant-funding-open-educational-resources[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/oer_feat.jpg[3] https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__masterplan.highered.colorado.gov_oer-2Din-2Dcolorado_&d=DwMFaQ&c=sdnEM9SRGFuMt5z5w3AhsPNahmNicq64TgF1JwNR0cs&r=1Qz8GoyS4djV42eJraU746SUGqkuVPKcVbmkqjuEzuo&m=ixOdC-gA0pEPfr-uOCqsxW9EA5hITEFEtbc6X7cFPnMCRlX7Hq2fqP3OPs4J89J2&s=-9X5O9_hBaZ8yc1D7oZOWNHzZ3P4dRroeYKMbephi9U&e=[4] https://www.cu.edu/open-cu[5] https://www.colorado.gov/governor/news/7451-polis-administration-continues-save-colorado-students-money-colorado-commission-higher[6] https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=ht

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