Excellence in Leadership Award winners create a brighter future for CU[1]

Tony Gherardini named vice president and Chief Human Resources Officer[2]

Tony Gherardini has been named vice president of human resources for the CU system. He will begin at CU on April 13, 2026.

Gherardini most recently served as executive director of the Colorado Department of Personnel & Administration, where he led a 500-person agency with a $450 million budget and administered the statewide personnel system supporting more than 30,000 employees. In that role, he oversaw human resources strategy, classification, and compensation, labor relations, workforce planning, benefits, payroll and employee development across the Colorado state government.

“We are thrilled Tony is joining our team,” said CU President Todd Saliman. “He has a long track record as a public servant, deep expertise and has demonstrated that he is a thoughtful leader. And the added bonus, that he is a CU Denver alumnus, make him the perfect fit for our team in the CU system office. Tony is taking on a critical role and I have no doubt that his skill set makes him perfect for the university.”

In his role as director of the Colorado Department of Personnel Administration, Gherardini led the implementation of a skills-based hiring system that increased skills-based hires across the state government, modernized recruitment practices and expanded access to qualified candidates.

Previously, he served as chief operations officer for the Colorado Office of Behavioral Health, overseeing administrative, financial and operational functions. He also served as director of state operations and cabinet affairs in the Governor’s Office, overseeing Colorado’s executive branch performance management system

Before working for the state, Gherardini was an agent with the Lakewood Police Department. He served the city of Lakewood for seven years, two of those as a detective investigating crimes committed against children. Gherardini served in the Colorado Army National Guard from 2004 until 2017 and is a veteran of the war in Afghanistan.

“Tony has spent his career serving others, from his time in the military to his service in state government,” said Gov. Jared Polis. “His leadership at the Department of Personnel & Administration will be very missed, but we wish him all the best in this next chapter. During his time at DPA, Colorado has made important progress on skills-based hiring, strengthening our state workforce, expanding our electric vehicle fleet and more.”

Gherardini earned his master of public administration from CU Denver and returns to the university after more than two decades in public service.

“After more than 20 years in public service, returning to CU as an alumnus in this role is truly a dream come true,” Gherardini said. “The university helped shape my journey, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to give back. I look forward to ensuring our HR operations are strong, responsive and seamless in support of our faculty and staff.”

As vice president of human resources, Gherardini will provide strategic leadership for systemwide HR operations in partnership with campus HR leaders. His responsibilities will include talent acquisition and retention, labor relations, compensation strategy, leadership development, employee engagement and organizational effectiveness.

CU Boulder hosts showcase of investment-ready ventures from across the Inter-Mountain West [3]

Public Administration students partner with Habitat for Humanity to address affordable housing challenges [4]

Strategic Plan Refresh: Collective effort will drive the university forward [5]

What your heart doctor wants you to know about wearables, smartwatches and heart health [6]

Innovation in real time: 2026 CU I&E Awards spotlight smart solutions[7]

Every year, CU employees rethink, redesign and reimagine how we work. The CU Innovation & Efficiency (CU I&E) Awards celebrate those forward?thinking improvements that save time, reduce waste, boost clarity and strengthen the university's operations.

The 2026 program is officially open, and this year's submissions already are capturing the spirit of ingenuity across CU's campuses.

Here are three of the many new submissions to this year's program:
MechE MS Thesis Incentive & Milestones[8]
A milestone?based framework that clarifies the thesis process, improves communication and ties student progress to funding. The structure boosts accountability and has already saved the department over $100,000 in one year.
Sustainable Lab Equipment Reuse Marketplace[9]
An internal marketplace that rehomes usable lab equipment instead of sending it to landfills. The system cuts waste, reduces purchasing costs and ensures valuable items stay in circulation. **Automating Advancement Report User Guides**[10]
A Copilot?powered tool that converts business intelligence report metadata into ready?made user guides. Documentation that once took days is now completed in hours, improving accuracy and freeing staff for higher?value work.
Explore all current project submissions here.[11]

In 2025, the top award went to Sustainability in Simulation Operations[12] at CU Anschutz. Which campus will win top honors this year?

Up to $1,500 in cash prizes will be awarded by our judging panel.
Learn more about the CU I&E Awards Program[13]**Submit your project here**[14]
Showcase your innovation and help shape CU's next big improvement.

- Office of University Controller

Federal update: Government funding, the State of the Union, more[15]

From Feb. 27, this update from CU Federal Relations and Counsel includes information on Government Funding, the

State of the Union, ED Interagency Partnerships, NIH Unified Funding Strategies, ED Resuming Student Loan Forgiveness and DOJ Lawsuit Against University of California.

Click here to read the post.[16]

Also from Feb. 27, this monthly update from CU Federal Relations includes information on President Saliman's DC Visit, FY26 Appropriations, Genesis AI Event in DC, Rep. Crank at UCCS, Rep. Neguse at CU Boulder, Recent Capitol Hill Visits and Recent Colorado Events.

Click here to read the post.[17]

For the latest communications and federal memos, please visit the CU System Federal Updates and Actions[18] page.

Cech to give distinguished lecture March 11 [19]

Burton on the impact of health coaching [20]

Talbot joins national STEM leaders in Washington, D.C. [21]

The Outside Lab's New Ski and Snowboard Test Machine: Blending Science with Shred[22]

What Taking Short Stretch Breaks During the Day May Do for Your Blood Sugar and Joint Health[23]

Methane Hunters Track Swamp Gas That Is Driving Climate Warming[24]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/excellence-leadership-award-winners-create-brighter-future-cu[2] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/tony-gherardini-named-vice-president-and-chief-human-resources-officer[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-hosts-showcase-investment-ready-ventures-across-inter-mountain-west [4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/public-administration-students-partner-habitat-humanity-address-affordable-housing[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/strategic-plan-refresh-collective-effort-will-drive-university-forward[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/what-your-heart-doctor-wants-you-know-about-wearables-smartwatches-and-heart-health

[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/innovation-real-time-2026-cu-ie-awards-spotlight-smart-solutions[8] h
ttps://www.cu.edu/controller/i-e-awards/current-submissions/cu-ie-submission-meche-ms-thesis-incentive-milestones[9] https://www.cu.edu/controller/i-e-awards/current-submissions/cu-ie-submission-sustainable-lab-equipment-reuse[10] ht
tps://www.cu.edu/controller/i-e-awards/current-submissions/cu-ie-submission-automating-advancement-report-user-guides[11] https://www.cu.edu/controller/i-e-awards/cu-innovation-efficiency-awards-2026-current-submissions[12] https://www.cu.edu/controller/i-e-awards/past-submissions/cu-ie-submission-sustainability-simulation-operations[13] https://www.cu.edu/controller/innovation-efficiency-awards[14] https://www.cu.edu/controller/forms/2026-cu-innovation-efficiency-awards-submission-form[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/federal-update-government-funding-state-union-more[16] https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/federal-government-update-22726[17] https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/cu-federal-relations-monthly-update-22726[18] https://www.cu.edu/office-government-relations/federal-relations/federal-updates-and-actions[19] https://connections.cu.edu/people/cech-give-distinguished-lecture-march-11[20] https://connections.cu.edu/people/burton-impact-health-coaching[21] https://connections.cu.edu/people/talbot-joins-national-stem-leaders-washington-dc[22] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/outside-lab-s-new-ski-and-snowboard-test-machine-blending-science-shred[23] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/what-taking-short-stretch-breaks-during-day-may-do-your-blood-sugar-and-joint-health[24] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/methane-hunters-track-swamp-gas-driving-climate-warming