CU community celebrates diversity, takes stock of challenges[1]
[2]

Nearly 300 faculty, staff and leadership from across the University of Colorado system convened Monday at UCCS for the 2017 Diversity Summit, a day of presentations, activities and speeches that spurred discussions echoing others taking place across the nation.

“Post-election, diversity work has gotten more complex,” CU Denver’s Tina Moser said during a Q&A session led by the chief diversity officers of the four campuses. “It almost seems like we’re starting over again.”
[3]

Kee Warner, UCCS associate vice chancellor for inclusion and academic engagement, said the current political and social climate “has brought issues to the surface … issues that are always there have been made more acute. We’ve had to stop and take stock.”

“There are programs in place at all of the campuses that create this space for dialogue. But (the current climate) adds a lot more seriousness to it. It can’t just be extra programming,” said Warner, who recently announced he will return to the faculty[4]. “It’s very clear to me that people are hungry for a place to talk things through. We have the expectation that we’re not going to walk out with an agreement or solution, but that people are committed to learning from each other.”

Dialogue and engagement has taken on a heightened profile in recent months at CU Boulder as well. For example, Robert Boswell, CU Boulder vice chancellor for diversity, equity and community engagement, pointed to a December letter signed by more than 200 faculty members asking administration to lend its support to events proposed as alternatives to the January talk by Milo Yiannopoulos[5].
[6]

At CU Denver and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, Brenda J. Allen, vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion, said colleagues are increasingly asking how to help build a more inclusive culture.

“We need to still do the work of educating one another,” she said. “I’m heartened to see so many people who have stepped up – I want to take advantage of that.”

Earlier in the day, a panel of all four chancellors cited successes in diversity – making strides in increasing student diversity – while also acknowledging long-standing challenges, such as boosting diversity among faculty and staff, and cultivating campus cultures that are welcoming and inclusive.
[7]

UCCS Interim Chancellor Venkat Reddy said the campus is tapping faculty to be trained as “diversity champions” who would serve on search committees.

CU Anschutz Chancellor Don Elliman called for vigilance and patience in working toward diversity goals, such as increasing the percentage of faculty of color in tenured and tenure-track positions, which is 16 percent (CU Denver and CU Anschutz combined).

“We are, in short, a work in progress,” Elliman said. “It’s a marathon, not a sprint.”

CU Boulder Phil DiStefano touted his recent appointment of a cabinet subcommittee on diversity and inclusion.

“When you look at diversity, it’s gone through an evolution,” DiStefano said. “When you think about diversity 20 years ago, I remember on campus we had signs that talked about being color blind – how not to recognize differences. Well, we’ve really evolved from that over the years.”

DiStefano also said CU’s diversity successes, including making gains in under-represented student populations, deserve to be points of pride. Collectively, CU’s share of Colorado minority resident enrollment is 33 percent[8] –

highest among public four-year institutions in the state.

“Our campuses are some of the most diverse places in the state of Colorado,” he said.
[9]

When asked to describe her vision of diversity and inclusion, CU Denver Chancellor Dorothy Horrell said she imagines a campus “where every student, every faculty member, every staff member says, ‘I belong here.’

“So how do we create that kind of culture? Because, as (DiStefano) said, we’ve made huge progress – all four campuses – in numbers. But what really tells the story is the feelings and the climate we have.”

Reddy described such a culture as exhibiting “respect, compassion and safety.”

President Bruce D. Benson was unable to attend because of a prior travel commitment, but spoke to the assembly via video. Two members of the Board of Regents – Chair Irene Griego and Heidi Ganahl – were among attendees of the summit, titled “Fostering a Culture of Inclusion: Modeling System Change.”
[10]

The day began with a keynote address from Sarah Willie-Lebreton, professor of sociology at Pennsylvania’s Swarthmore College. In learning about the CU system, she said she saw “a good foundation on which to grow the numbers of American students of color and faculty members of color.”

“With each diversity summit, and each one of you, the University of Colorado is ready to live more fully into its ideals,” she said. “I am confident in your forward momentum.”

Read more on Willie-Lebreton’s keynote speech in Communique.[11]

CU to host global Coursera Conference at CU Boulder [12]

New interdisciplinary center explores the beginnings - of everything[13]

CIRES director addresses proposed budget cuts to NOAA[14]

New leaders host meetings across campus[15]

New media and technology center connects students with Comcast[16]

Free shuttle buses ferry CU Anschutz Medical Campus community to and from new RTD R-Line station[17]

Paid research study for mothers expecting first child[18]

Researchers in CU Boulder's Department of Psychology and Neuroscience are recruiting women who are currently pregnant with their first child to participate in a paid study of their experiences of pregnancy, birth, and the postpartum period.

If interested in the Perinatal Emotion and Relationships Longitudinal Study (PEARLS)[19], please contact Laura River, study coordinator, at pearlstudy@colorado.edu[20] or 303-735-7547.

Koch named CU Boulder police chief[21]

Rennison appointed Title IX Coordinator/Director of Equity[22]

Staff volunteer at Food Bank of the Rockies[23]

More than 70 staff members from the University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus spent time volunteering Feb. 16-17 at the Food Bank of the Rockies in conjunction with the CU in the Community campaign.

The campaign allows members of the CU family – faculty, staff, students and alumni – to take a half-day off work to give back to the community.

The CU Denver l Anschutz Staff Council organized the volunteer opportunity and chose the Food Bank because of its significant efforts to aid numerous people in the region. In 2015, for instance, the nonprofit organization distributed 59.4 million pounds of food to 716 community-based, hunger-relief partner programs and helped 411,000 individuals.

"We deliberately chose to volunteer in February because volunteer hours drop dramatically after the holidays even though help is still desperately needed throughout the winter months," said Michelle Larson-Krieg, a Staff Council member and director of International Student and Scholar Services at CU Denver. "The Food Bank of the Rockies says January and February are especially busy months for the organization."

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/cu-community-celebrates-diversity-takes-stock-challenges[2]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/div_summit_top.jpg[3]

https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/div_summit_kee.jpg[4] http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=26002[5]
http://www.colorado.edu/today/2017/01/25/buffsunited-milo-and-laverne[6]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/div_summit_brenda.jpg[7]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/div_summit_venkat.jpg[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/diversity-overview-encouraging-there-s-more-be-done[9] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/div_summit_horrell.jpg[10]
https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/div_summit_willie-lebreton.jpg[11]
http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=26099[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-host-global-coursera-conference-cu-boulder[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-interdisciplinary-center-explores-beginnings-everything[14]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cires-director-addresses-proposed-budget-cuts-noaa[15]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-leaders-host-meetings-across-campus[16]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-media-and-technology-center-connects-students-comcast[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/free-shuttle-buses-ferry-cu-anschutz-medical-campus-community-and-new-rtd-r-line-station[18]
https://connections.cu.edu/stories/paid-research-study-mothers-expecting-first-child[19]
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https://connections.cu.edu/people/staff-volunteer-food-bank-rockies