

[Business School gaining exposure with weekly 9News appearance](#)^[1]

Gregg Moss interviews CU Denver Business School Dean Sueann Ambron during the first 9News "Your Money Monday" segment on Monday.

The [CU Denver Business School](#) ^[3]launched its new partnership with [9News](#)^[4] Monday morning. Anchor/reporter Gregg Moss will broadcast live from the [J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities](#)^[5] every Monday morning for the next year in news segments called "Your Money Monday."

The newscasts give the Business School a chance to showcase faculty expertise and programs while 9News has the opportunity to be on the road in a high-tech, active educational trading center.

"We're looking forward to connecting with the faculty at the CU Denver Business School and tapping into their expertise not only in stocks and trading but on issues that matter to consumers like jobs, the economy and topics that affect us every day," Moss said.

On Monday, Dean Sueann Ambron was in the spotlight, talking about the need for commodities education and research and the role the J.P. Morgan Center for Commodities will play in both.

"Commodities touch every aspect of our life," Ambron said. "It's exciting to have launched a center that focuses on all areas of commodities – energy, agriculture and minerals. There's a big demand for students with the skills in the commodities arena."

"Your Money Monday" broadcasts will begin around 5:20 every Monday morning and run on 9News until 7 a.m., then they will switch over to My 20 and run through 8:30 a.m.

[Open Enrollment: Still time to attend informational sessions, fairs](#)^[6]

[\[7\]](#)

Open Enrollment (OE), the one time each year when University of Colorado faculty and staff may make changes to benefits plans, ends at 5 p.m. May 25.

The 2012-13 OE is a positive enrollment for all medical and dental benefits-eligible employees, which means you must take action for medical and dental benefits, even if you waived coverage for FY 2011-12. The only exception will be for Medicare-eligible retirees and surviving spouses/same gender domestic partners.

OE Sessions and Carrier Fairs are happening today on the Colorado Springs campus and Tuesday on the Boulder campus. For more information about times and locations, plans and plan changes, final rates, how to enroll and what happens if you choose to take no action during open enrollment, go to www.cu.edu/openenrollment^[8].

Important OE Reminders

Positive Enrollment – This year's OE is a positive enrollment, meaning you must take action. Final rates and plan descriptions are available. Dependent Eligibility Verification – If you are adding new dependents for coverage effective July 1, 2012, you must verify their eligibility with PBS during the open enrollment period and have required documents submitted by 5 p.m. May 25. There is no guarantee of dependent coverage if required documents are not received by the due date. Cafeteria Plans – You must re-enroll and actively elect your annual contributions for Health Care and Dependent Care flexible spending accounts each year at open enrollment. University Optional Term Life Insurance – If

you and/or your spouse, common law spouse or SGDP are non-tobacco users, meaning that you have not used tobacco products within the past 12 months, you are eligible for a discounted rate in the Optional Term Life/AD&D Insurance Plan. Complete the appropriate section on the Benefits Enrollment/Change Form or online web application to receive the discounted rate. Enrollment in the discounted rate is allowed only during the OE period.

Tweeting OE

A live Twitter feed can be found on the OE website. Follow us @CUOE to get the latest information about OE and to ask questions.

[Honor for Harbeson will take him to Finland](#)[9]

Harbeson

Eric Harbeson, music special collections librarian at the University of Colorado Boulder, recently became the first recipient of the [Robert L. Oakley Memorial Scholarship Award](#)[11], which bestows honorees with \$1,000 to offset the costs associated with attending the [International Federation of Library Association \(IFLA\)](#)[12] Conference in August in Helsinki, Finland. The award was presented by the American Library Association (ALA) and the [Library Copyright Alliance \(LCA\)](#)[13].

The Oakley scholarship award will be presented to Harbeson at the ALA's 2012 annual conference in Anaheim, Calif. in June. Harbeson will present a paper at the conference on copyright and other legal issues surrounding institutionally produced sound recordings.

The award was established to support research and advance study for librarians in their early to mid-careers who are interested in and/or active in the fields that Robert Oakley was expert in — intellectual property, public policy, copyright and their impacts on libraries and the ways libraries serve their communities. The intent of the scholarship is to support librarians who will be strong advocates for balanced copyright in the years to come and to provide development opportunities related to copyright and related issues that they might not otherwise have.

Award recipients are expected to bring their interest and energy back to library associations by mentoring new librarians in information policy, sharing expertise and actively engaging in public policy and library advocacy.

Harbeson's research focuses on copyright and other legal issues concerning recordings of student recitals, school-sponsored performing ensembles and theater programs. His research will examine both legal theories and the practical application of such theories at research libraries that wish to preserve and provide access to these myriad collections.

[Time runs out on transparency bill at Capitol](#)[14]

House Bill 1252, legislation that would have required more detailed financial reporting in the form of searchable databases of all revenues and expenditures at many higher education institutions, was left unfinished Wednesday as the Colorado General Assembly ended its 2012 session.

Tanya Kelly-Bowry, University of Colorado vice president for government relations, said that while the bill was debated on the House floor on Monday, an amendment to the bill was proposed. It would have made the bill applicable only to the state's four major research institutions, including CU. Previously, the bill would have required more detailed financial reporting from most public and private higher education institutions in the state.

Rep. B.J. Nikkel, the bill's sponsor, withdrew the amendment; the higher number of institutions addressed in the bill would have increased projected costs for the reporting of data.

Because the bill would have required more than the remaining two days in the legislative session in order to be heard on multiple readings in the house and senate, the bill died on the calendar.

The bill in part [inspired discussion by the CU Board of Regents](#)[15] earlier in the legislative session. Regent Sue Sharkey in April introduced the Support for Transparency and Accountability resolution, which endorsed CU's new [Accountability Data Center](#)[16] as a convenient, central access point for details on the university's finances, academic practices and personnel. The resolution as passed by the regents did not specifically refer to House Bill 1252.

[Navy surgeon general says campus doing 'amazing things'](#)[17]

U.S. Navy Surgeon General Matthew Nathan, right, hears about bladder cancer research from Dan Theodorescu, M.D., director of the CU Cancer Center, during a tour of the Anschutz Medical Campus.

The clinical, educational and research work being conducted at the Anschutz Medical Campus is "clearly putting this area on the map," [Vice Admiral Matthew Nathan, surgeon general of the U.S. Navy](#)[19], said during a campus tour April 30.

Nathan visited as part of the Navy's 50-50 program, which is sending 50 of the Navy's top leaders to 50 of the nation's epicenters for growth, education and commerce. "Clearly, this area here in greater Denver is a shaker and mover for the country," he said.

Jeff Thompson, director of government and corporate relations for University of Colorado Health, led Nathan on a tour of the Rocky Mountain Lions Eye Institute, the CU Cancer Center, the Inpatient Tower of the University of Colorado Hospital and the bladder cancer research lab of Dan Theodorescu, M.D., Ph.D., director of the Cancer Center. After lunch in the 500 Building, Nathan toured the Eisenhower Suite.

Anschutz Medical Campus is becoming a regular stop for our nation's high-ranking military medical officials, including the surgeons general from the Army and Air Force. U.S. Surgeon General Regina Benjamin visited on April 4 to [celebrate the opening of the Colorado Center for Health and Wellness Center and National Health Week](#)[20].

Thompson said the campus is "definitely a draw" with its renowned clinical care, research and educational components, as well as its emphasis on community outreach. "Really, we have it all here and, when we have a visiting leader like the admiral, we definitely want them to get the full picture of what we're all about," he said.

After visiting Theodorescu's lab in Research 2, Nathan said, "I'm quite sure there's no better place in the country to get care for bladder cancer."

During lunch, Nathan was introduced by Neil Krauss, MSF, MA, director of administration, Anschutz Medical Campus. He heard about more research from Mark Petrash, Ph.D., professor and vice chair of research for the School of Medicine's Ophthalmology Department; Theresa Pacheco, M.D., assistant professor, Dermatology Department; and David Poticha, MS, JD, senior licensing manager of the CU Technology Transfer Office.

Nathan told the lunch gathering that U.S. Navy Medicine is a \$6 billion health care network with 63,000 people worldwide.

He said he tries to push the Office of Naval Research, which has awarded grants to the Anschutz Medical Campus, to "be as generous with the money as they can" to not only military institutions but partner academic institutions. "It makes it harder to stop or create cessation to some of the programs," Nathan said. "I just believe united we stand, divided we fall."

He said the expectation of the American citizenry is to have modern medical care available anywhere in the world. That's what U.S. Navy Medicine, which also provides health care to the U.S. Marine Corps, is striving to do.

"We're always interested in learning new things that are happening in partnering institutions. I've really enjoyed the opportunity to see some of the amazing things you're doing here and to talk to some of your passionate researchers," Nathan said. "I think, clearly, you're putting this area on the map with the kind of medical prowess and reputation that you're starting to create for yourself. If that flywheel keeps turning fast enough, it will be impressive."

[Philanthropy at Work: Josephine Benavidez](#)^[21]

[\[22\]](#)

Josephine Benavidez

Most fifth- and sixth-graders think more about lunch and recess than they do about college, but Josephine Benavidez believes that tender age is the perfect time to begin preparing first-generation students for higher education. It's about keeping them motivated through their school years and opening doors to opportunities.

As director of the Pre-Collegiate Development Program (PCDP) at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Benavidez has helped prepare hundreds of middle and high school students to enroll in and be successful at any postsecondary institution. She understands the importance of investing in youth because she's been on the other side of the fence.

"I was one of those students. I was a high-school dropout, not because I wanted to be, but because I had to," she said. "But there were others who took time to show me the value of higher education."

The idea that first-generation students aren't as well-equipped and well-prepared for higher education is wrong, she said. As director of PCDP, she said, "I think I've been able to develop a different picture by demonstrating that 'first-generation' comes from a variety of backgrounds and academic abilities. A large number of program participants are first-generation military dependents, and traditionally, participation rates are higher for females. It's not an at-risk program; we look at those who are academically motivated."

When she began her role as head of the program in 1997, participants numbered 77. Now there are 797 students in PCDP. "I see there are students who, if they didn't have the extra help, would not be able to complete their education," she said.

More Pikes Peak- region middle and high schools have expressed an interest in becoming part of the program. Although PCDP has some institutional funding, money is limited, so Benavidez relies on a little creativity and the generous gifts of donors. She currently funds scholarships for PCDP graduates entering UCCS and provides monetary help for younger students who are participating in the program.

"Giving is the easy part. That's what I want everyone else to realize. You can't find a better place to invest in the future than at CU, and you can't find a better way to do it than through philanthropy."

Benavidez said her family didn't have a lot of money but that her father was a philanthropist "in his own right. He gave and he instilled in his children the importance of being generous. He said, 'You are blessed and I want you to bless others.'"

She encourages those who are able to also contribute. "Through PCDP, you get to see the end result of your giving. I've been so blessed to see so many of the students I have worked with become doctors, lawyers, teachers, engineers. I played a part in that; that's how I give back to society."

About 40 percent of UCCS enrollees are first-generation students. To help fund the Pre-Collegiate Development Program so even more young people may realize their college dreams, visit <http://bit.ly/Jrua5g>[24].

To make a charitable payroll deduction toward a CU program of your choosing, visit bit.ly/HoVAKL[25]. Estate gifts also provide a critical pipeline of support — for more information on bequests and other planned gifts, go to bit.ly/Hpoolv [26].

[Hand establishes mentor training program](#)[27]

Hand

Victoria Hand, assistant professor of the University of Colorado Boulder School of Education, developed the STEMsation Mentor Training Program with funding support from the school's Women Investing in the School of Education (WISE).

The STEMsation mentoring program provides promising high school sophomores from underrepresented backgrounds the opportunity to develop effective learning strategies from university faculty and to mentor middle school students in innovative, hands-on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) learning activities. The goal is for students to develop a deeper understanding of math and science and to build confidence in their capabilities.

About 20 sophomores from two high schools were trained as mentors for the Science Explorers program. The students met with CU-Boulder undergraduate STEM majors from non-dominant backgrounds and took a campus tour April 6.

[Law professor honored with Chase Faculty Community Service Award](#)[29]

Melissa Hart

Melissa Hart, an associate professor at the University of Colorado Law School, is the 2011-2012 recipient of the Chase Faculty Community Service Award.

The \$10,000 endowment by Chase is granted to a full-time CU faculty member who provides exceptional service to the community. A systemwide advisory council recommends an award-winner to CU President Bruce D. Benson, who bestows the honor. Hart will be recognized by the CU Board of Regents at an upcoming meeting.

Hart has taught at the University of Colorado Law School since 2000. In 2010, she became the director of the Byron R. White Center for the Study of American Constitutional Law. She also conceived and has served as coordinator of the law school's Public Service Pledge Program, which encourages law students to provide pro bono legal work to needy

populations and underfunded entities.

“Professor Hart has worked extensively with numerous organizations to find volunteer opportunities for students to fulfill their pledges,” wrote professor Helen Norton in her nomination. More than a quarter of all law students take the pledge. Many of them work well over the minimum of 50 volunteer hours, with more than 11,500 hours volunteered by students this academic year. “Thus the Pledge Program not only has made a huge difference in many Coloradans’ lives, but also has let students participate in important civic and humanitarian work, and has substantially strengthened campus-community ties.”

Said Phil Weiser, dean of the University of Colorado Law School, “Through Melissa's dedication to public service, hard work, and leadership, she is supporting and inspiring the next generation of the legal community to pay it forward by serving Colorado and the nation. We are most fortunate to have her as part of our team here at Colorado Law.”

Hart is active in the legal community, serving on the Colorado Supreme Court’s Judicial Ethics Advisory Committee and Board of Continuing Judicial and Legal Education. She has authored amicus briefs in employment discrimination cases and constitutional cases before the U.S. Supreme Court and in other courts across the country.

“I am deeply honored by this award and grateful for the opportunities I have had to work with CU students and colleagues on projects that increase access to justice in Colorado and serve communities beyond the university walls,” Hart said.

The Chase Faculty Community Service Award is funded annually by an endowment from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation through the CU Foundation, established in 1991 with a \$100,000 donation. The endowment provides an annual award of \$10,000 to a full-time faculty member at the University of Colorado who has rendered exceptional service in his or her community.

“Professor Hart’s leadership is exactly what the Chase grant was designed to celebrate,” said Todd Munson, president of JPMorgan Chase in Colorado. “Her efforts to inspire future lawyers to begin giving back while they’re still in school will create lifelong habits that make communities stronger.”

[School of Education faculty recognized for honors, activities](#)[31]

Several University of Colorado Boulder School of Education faculty members recently were recognized for a variety of honors and activities.

Rubén Donato is a 2012 recipient of the CU Parents Association Marinus Smith Staff/Faculty Recognition Award, established to honor those who have had a significant, positive impact on a CU-Boulder undergraduate. **Guillermo (Willy) Solano-Flores** received the Outstanding Faculty Graduate Advising Award May 4 during a ceremony in the University Memorial Center. He was nominated for the award by five of his students. **Michele Moses** completed a two-week Fulbright Specialist grant in Brazil in which she shared her education policy expertise through the Fulbright Program sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Instructor **Kent Willmann** and current CU Social Studies candidates **Ben Kenan**, **Marcia Thurston** and **Emily Krochmal** joined School of Education alumni and current teachers **Justelle Grandsaert**, **Ryan Carpenter** and **Max Schosid** at Doing Democracy Day on April 17. **Shelby Wolf** spoke at the [Seven Stories Museum](#)[32] in Newcastle, England, on [children’s literature](#)[33] moving into the digital age.

[Members of UCCS community honored at ceremony](#)[34]

Faculty, staff and students were recognized for outstanding contributions and service to the campus community at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs Campus Awards Ceremony on May 2.

Although Provost Peg Bacon is known and highly respected for being prepared and speaking with great skill, she was clearly flustered when Pam Shockley-Zalabak gave her the Special Chancellor's Award. "It's easier to give awards than to receive them," she said later when she presented another award.

The awards and honorees included:

Nancy Gadachy, office manager, Student Health Center: Campus Sustainability Award **Paul Harvey**, professor, Department of History: Chancellor's Award **Peg Bacon**, provost and executive vice chancellor, Office of Academic Affairs: Special Chancellor's Award **Steve Linhart**, director, Office of Emergency Management: Outstanding Staff Award **Janet Myers**, senior instructor, Department of History: Outstanding Instructor Award **Christina Jimenez**, associate professor, Department of History: Faculty Award for Outstanding Contribution to Diversity and Inclusiveness **Rebecca Laroche**, professor, Department of English: Faculty Award for Excellence in Research **Chris Hill**, professor, Department of History: Outstanding Teacher Award

[Commencement to honor record-setting number of degree candidates](#)[35]

[36]

The University of Colorado Boulder will hold its spring graduation ceremony at 8:30 a.m. Friday at Folsom Field.

The ceremony will honor candidates for 6,237 degrees, including 4,830 bachelor's degrees, 994 master's degrees, 162 law degrees and 251 doctoral degrees for spring and summer.

The number of degree applications is the largest in the school's history, and comes four years after the record-setting freshman class of fall 2008. That year, 5,833 freshmen enrolled, exceeding the previous record-setting class of 2006 that enrolled 5,617 freshmen.

The majority of bachelor's degree recipients who entered CU-Boulder as freshmen are graduating in four years, according to the university's Office of Planning, Budget and Analysis. Data from November 2011 show that almost 60 percent of 2010-11 bachelor's degree recipients who started at CU-Boulder as freshmen earned their degrees in four years or less.

This year's commencement address will be given by Timothy V. Wolf, president of Wolf Interests Inc. Wolf is the former global chief financial officer of Molson Coors Brewing Co. and has served on the boards of Xcel Energy, Rally Software Development, eTown and the Leeds School of Business.

Stadium gates will open at 7 a.m. and guests are urged to be in their seats by 8:15 a.m. in order to watch the processional into the stadium. Each spring the commencement ceremony begins with a procession of faculty and all graduates starting at the Norlin Quadrangle at 8 a.m. and ending at Folsom Field.

University officials recommend that people arrive as early as possible to avoid traffic delays. The ceremony is free and open to the public.

Guests are asked not to bring large purses or bags to the ceremony. People entering the stadium may be subject to search. The ceremony will be held outdoors in the stadium regardless of the weather. In the event of heavy rain or snow an abbreviated ceremony will be held.

Many departments within CU-Boulder's schools and colleges will hold events to personally recognize their graduates. Students should check with their individual departments for more information. For a schedule of individual ceremonies visit <http://commencement.colorado.edu/ceremonies/spring/other-events/>[37].

For more information about the commencement ceremony visit <http://commencement.colorado.edu>[38]. The ceremony will be broadcast on the Web and can be accessed by visiting the commencement website and clicking on the webcast link anytime during the ceremony.

More details on how long it takes CU-Boulder students to earn bachelor's degrees can be found on the Office of Planning, Budget and Analysis website at <http://www.colorado.edu/pba/degrees/ttd/>[39].

Cover and insert photos by: Casey A. Cass and Glenn J. Asakawa/University of Colorado

[Financial aid staffer about to realize dream of master's degree](#)[40]

Williams

The late Ron Wisner's words of encouragement never left Branden Williams, counselor, Office of Financial Aid, and a candidate for a master's of arts in leadership.

"Dr. Wisner introduced me to the student affairs in higher education program," Williams recalled recently. "When I told him I wanted to work for UCCS someday – an idea that seemed totally impossible – he was encouraging. I never forgot that."

Wisner was dean of students from 1979 to 2003 and died in a 2010 bicycle accident. His words to the young communication undergraduate student kept Williams on track. He earned a bachelor's degree in communication in 2004 and began work as a professional corporate illusionist.

"I used magic to emphasize a corporate mission or message, usually as part of trade shows," Williams recalled of his past career. "If the message was about increasing profits, I might do a trick where a coin appeared."

Self-employed, Williams said he enjoyed his work both on the stage and behind the scenes making his own marketing materials. But he eventually tired of being in the spotlight. He wanted to do for UCCS students what had been done for him.

"I decided it was time to start contributing more to society," Williams said.

The thought of returning to UCCS and pursuing a master's degree was daunting. Williams admits to having earned average grades during his undergraduate career and taking the Graduate Record Exam scared him.

"Eventually, they took all my excuses away," Williams said of faculty and staff in the program. "At that point, I decided that's what I wanted to do – use my creativity to help others who were saying, 'College is too hard.'"

As a student employee for the Office of Financial Aid, Williams created light-hearted videos about subjects that usually don't bring smiles to students or their parents' faces including completing the dreaded Free Application for Federal Student Aid or discussing costs of attending college. His "Money Matters" series drew the attention of managers and Williams was hired for a full-time position earlier this spring. To see Williams' videos, visit <http://www.youtube.com/uccsfinaid>[42].

"The past two years have been amazing," Williams said of his return to UCCS. "I'm glad to have achieved my dream of working at UCCS."

[Grant to help extend statewide reach of CU Denver's Pyramid Plus](#)[43]

Pyramid Plus: The Colorado Center for Social Emotional Competence and Inclusion at the University of Colorado Denver is pleased to announce that it will expand its statewide reach, thanks to a new \$811,810 grant from [The Colorado Health Foundation](#)[44]. The foundation has provided funding to increase the number of children served as well as support training efforts at the [Pyramid Plus Center](#)[45] housed at CU Denver's School of Education & Human Development.

Pyramid Plus was created to promote positive social emotional development of all children from infancy to 5 years. The program supports and recommends inclusion of children with disabilities in all early childhood settings. This is important because social skills in young children with disabilities are greatly enhanced in settings with typically developing peers.

The new Colorado Health Foundation funding aims to increase the number of underserved Coloradans who receive health care by allowing Pyramid Plus to: add at least six new communities to the four they are already working with; certify at least 12 more Pyramid Plus trainers and coaches; and reach at least 250 more children through the coaching to their child care providers.

Pyramid Plus has a statewide reach, with a focus this year on Grand, Gunnison, Pueblo, Summit, La Plata and Morgan counties and additional counties in the following two years. It adds to more than \$200,000 in Colorado Health Foundation funding toward Pyramid Plus granted in late 2010. These funds have been granted through the University of Colorado Foundation.

"We are thrilled to have received additional funds to be able to partner with new communities in Colorado," said Barbara Smith, director of the Pyramid Plus Center. "These partnerships represent our vision of expanding the opportunities to reach many more children, families and programs. Our focus is building the capacity of communities to implement the Pyramid Plus Approach with fidelity. We do this by assisting a communitywide, cross-agency leadership team to plan and sustain the effort, certifying trainers and coaches in their community, and helping to establish at least one program that can show others 'how to do it.' This way, when we leave a community, they have the expertise right at home to improve children's social emotional competence and the inclusion of children with disabilities."

Said Kelly Dunkin, vice president of philanthropy for the Colorado Health Foundation, "We see a need for programs that provide caregivers of young children in Colorado with skills and techniques to promote social-emotional well-being and prevent and address behavioral health problems. The Pyramid Plus Center uses evidence-based strategies to foster positive social-emotional development and effectively address behavioral health problems. Children who benefit from high-quality early care that promotes positive social-emotional development are better prepared for school."

To obtain more information about this approach and the two educational models on which it was built, the Pyramid Model for Promoting Social and Emotional Competence and the SpecialQuest Birth-Five approach to early childhood inclusion, please visit www.pyramidplus.org[46].

The School of Education & Human Development is committed to developing excellent educators and counselors who inspire and engage in the community. Our faculty, students and alumni have the research knowledge, innovation and cultural competence needed to stimulate growth and achievement in urban and diverse populations.

[Office at Anschutz Medical Campus honored for community work](#)[47]

Top photo, back row: Ian Abeyta, Dominic Martinez and Vicky Saulsberry; front: Jim Do. Bottom photo: Vicky

Saulsberry, Tate VanWinkle, Medhat Ahmed, in front Christian Valtierra. Not pictured Benjamin Le.

The Anschutz Medical Campus-based **Office of Diversity and Inclusion** has been honored for “generous contributions” to Denver’s Skinner Neighborhood Center and Skinner Middle School. The team was recognized last week for continued service and volunteerism in assisting Skinner students and faculty.

The award was presented by Principal Michelle Koyama along with Sandy Baca-Sandoval, Neighborhood Center director and Ron Gallegos, Neighborhood Center volunteer coordinator. This program provides students involved with College 4 Y.O.U. Pre-Collegiate an opportunity to explore the health sciences careers as part of visitations to area colleges. The Skinner Middle School Summer Academic Focused Education (S.A.F.E.) Program offers four one-week summer programs for aspiring seventh- and eighth-grade students that are held on the campuses of various local universities. Ninety percent of the students involved in this program are minority, first-generation and eligible for free and reduced lunch program. These students have earned a 3.5 GPA or higher and have a 95 percent attendance rate.

Through the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Skinner Middle School students will visit the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus June 25-29 with an academic focus on various health careers – medicine, dentistry, nursing, pharmacy and public health. Additionally, this summer students will work through PBL (Problem Based Learning) case studies similar to medical students. The purpose of this component is to bridge the concepts of medicine and research and prepare students for future science fair project submission to the Denver Metro Regional Science and Engineering Fair.

[‘Making wellness an American core value’](#)[49]

[50]

A new world-class model for healthier living has been built on the Anschutz Medical Campus, and officials, benefactors and dignitaries gathered Tuesday to celebrate the opening of the [Anschutz Health and Wellness Center](#)[51].

"We want to be the beacon that makes this campus, this community and this state the epicenter for promoting wellness," said James O. Hill, Ph.D., executive director of the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center. "This whole center will be devoted to making wellness an American core value."

The gathering for the ribbon cutting and reception also included Philip and Nancy Anschutz; Ted Harms, executive director of The Anschutz Foundation; Bruce Benson, president of the University of Colorado, and his wife, Marcy; Lilly Marks, vice president for Health Affairs University of Colorado and executive vice chancellor of the Anschutz Medical Campus; Richard Krugman, M.D., vice chancellor for Health Affairs and dean of the [School of Medicine](#)[52]; Don Elliman, interim chancellor of the University of Colorado Denver and Anschutz Medical Campus; and Gov. John Hickenlooper.

Officials who spoke during the ceremony remarked on how the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center adds another dimension -- one that focuses on disease prevention -- to a campus that already is a national leader in health care research, education and clinical care.

Hickenlooper said one of the state's top priorities should be preventable health issues as Colorado spends \$1.6 billion a year on obesity. "That's money we could be putting to better uses," he said.

Benson noted that obesity rates in America are expected to climb from today's 30 percent to 42 percent by 2030. "I say right here, the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center, is the very beginning of getting this stopped and getting this

changed in Colorado. They will be doing great things (here) in solving the problems that face us and working on nutrition, exercise and lifestyles."

The Anschutz Foundation was the leading contributor to the Gold LEED Certified Building, which includes state-of-the-art fitness equipment, weight management and nutrition programs, research labs and classes and lessons on healthy living. Harms said the foundation is committed to serving Colorado and society in general, as evidenced by its investment in the entire Anschutz Medical Campus.

"When the concept of the Wellness Center came up, I think we looked at it immediately and said the combination of best-in-class research, translating that into real programs, educating and training people to do it, developing public policies, programs and products and finally making it a programmatic hub, all make this a perfect place to go and that's why we're stepping up," Harms said.

Marks said the center's innovative research and programs "will be an emerging leadership role for the University of Colorado in another dimension of American health care." Elliman thanked Marks and Hill for the countless hours they and others devoted to getting the center launched and noted that it represents the latest step in the momentum of the Anschutz Medical Campus. "It's going to be a beacon of hope for the shift of focus from strictly care to prevention in this country," he said.

Krugman explained how he was involved in recruiting Hill, a national leader in obesity research, to the university in the early 1990s. Through Hill's vision, along with the support of The Anschutz Foundation and the university chancellor, the seeds of the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center were planted. "They took it seriously and supported us and, along with the resources that a number of departments and the School of Medicine and the university have all put together, what we're celebrating here today is happening," Krugman said. "I thank everyone who contributed to that."

Hill said the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center will be a leader in achieving goal No. 1: "We'll be the first state to reduce obesity rates. I think our goal should be, and I hope our partners will join us, that by 2022 we will have reduced obesity in Colorado by 10 percent," he said. "This has to be the wellest campus and I think metro Denver has to be the wellest community, and Colorado the wellest state. We want to be the beacon."

After the ribbon cutting, the hundreds of attendees gathered on the Nu Sigma Nu Green Roof for a cocktail reception, highlighted by appearances by Hickenlooper and Colorado Attorney General John Suthers. The Green Roof will allow the Center to grow its own fresh, healthy produce and is possible thanks to a donation of \$650,000 from a donor advised fund established by the Nu Sigma Nu medical fraternity and held at Community First Foundation.

Also highlighted during the celebration, which included tours of the facility, were works by six top public artists in the region and country. Also, thanks to a generous donation, the center purchased art for the clinic area; 13 artists created one-of-a-kind designs for the carefully selected collection.

[Boulder facilities staff receives national award](#)[53]

The **Facilities Management Department** at the University of Colorado Boulder received the Award for Excellence from the Association of Physical Plant Administrators (APPA).

Originally established in 1988, the Awards for Excellence is APPA's highest institutional honor and provides educational institutions the opportunity for national and international recognition for their outstanding achievements in facilities management.

Nominees are evaluated in the areas of leadership; strategic and operational planning; customer focus; information and analysis; development and management of human resources; process management; and performance results. The Award for Excellence designation is valid for a period of five years.

[Evolution of health plan to be discussed at series of forums](#)[54]

Payroll & Benefit Services and representatives from the university health plan renewal team have announced a series of employee forums this month to discuss what's new for the 2010-11 plan year. They'll also discuss plans for prevention and wellness initiatives, and will seek employee input to develop features of future plans.

The schedule of forums:

CU-Boulder

2:30-4 p.m. March 25, University Memorial Center, second floor, Room 247

UCCS

2-3:30 p.m. March 24, University Center, Room 116

UC Denver

2:30-4 p.m. March 31, 1250 14th St., fourth floor, Room 480

Anschutz Medical Campus

2-3:30 p.m. March 22, Research 2 Building, third floor, Room 3109

1800 Grant St.

2-3:30 p.m. March 30, First Floor Conference Room

Links

[1] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/business-school-gaining-exposure-weekly-9news-appearance>[2]
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<https://connections.cu.edu/stories/open-enrollment-still-time-attend-informational-sessions-fairs>[7]
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[21] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/philanthropy-work-josephine-benavidez>[22]
<mailto:jeremy.simon@cufund.org>[23] <https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/benavidez.png>[24] <http://bit.ly/Jrua5g>[25] <http://bit.ly/HoVAKL>[26] <http://bit.ly/Hpoolv>[27]
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