Faculty Council honors President Benson[1]

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Making his last appearance at a Faculty Council meeting in his current role, CU President Bruce Benson received the governance group's award for Leadership in Public Higher Education.

At the council's May 22 meeting at 1800 Grant St., Benson was praised as "a staunch advocate for faculty (who) has championed their efforts and accomplishments in his role as the face of the university."

Former Council Chair Ravinder Singh presented Benson with a gift from the group and read a resolution listing several high points of the president's 11-year tenure, including:
The four campuses' current record enrollment of 67,000 students pursuing degrees, with another 7,000 taking courses for credit The record level of degrees conferred annually, now at 15,000 Soaring private giving to CU, from $135 million in 2007-08 to $440.5 million in 2017-18 The 2013 completion of the $1.5 billion Creating Futures campaign, chaired by President Bruce and Marcy Benson Increased financial aid for students, up from $88 million annually a decade ago to $202 million today Partnering with the Colorado Legislature to shepherd the passage of more than 100 pieces of legislation to benefit effective, efficient operations at CU and higher education institutions across the state [4]

Benson thanked the council for the honor and recalled his approach to CU's educators and researchers when he took on the job in March 2008:

"We've got a great faculty, so let's not mess with it. Let's keep them strong," Benson said. "The faculty is the heart of the university. People need to understand that. We wouldn't have anything without it."

Benson, who is set to retire from CU on July 1, said he has advised Mark Kennedy, incoming president, to rely on his leadership team of vice presidents and chancellors upon his arrival. Benson will work with Kennedy in the weeks ahead.

"I really stressed to him to hold onto this staff. And I told him, 'I'm here to help you transition in and make sure you're successful,'" Benson said. "I just think everybody ought to get behind him."

Benson said he'll remain busy once he departs CU, though he wasn't ready to reveal specifics.

"Marcy and I don't plan this stuff. I'm lucky to have a wife who's so involved and so smart," he said. "We're going to see what works out after we're retired from the university. We'll figure out what to do next."

CU system administration named a Top Workplace by The Denver Post[5]

CU system administration is one of the top workplaces in the state, according to a recently released survey ranking.

CU is featured on The Denver Post's[6] list of Colorado's Top Workplaces in 2019 for small, midsize and large companies. Announced May 5, CU system administration is listed at No. 30 out of 150.

The list is based solely on employee feedback gathered through a third-party survey administered by research partner Energage, LLC, a leading provider of technology-based employee engagement tools. The anonymous survey measured aspects of workplace culture, including alignment, execution and connections.

"We are thrilled to be noticed as a Top Workplace this year by our own employees," said Felicity O'Herron, chief human resources officer at University of Colorado system administration Employee Services. "We continue to strive for the best work environment for our employees to be successful."

Energage invited 2,110 companies to participate and surveyed 247 of them. Of the 101,226 people surveyed in the Denver area, 60,643 responded.

“For nearly 150 years, our university has been part of the fabric of Colorado,” CU President Bruce D. Benson told the Post. “The women and men who work here further a legacy of service to our students and our state. Their exemplary work every day helps ensure that the university meets its mission and that Colorado remains vibrant, competitive and a great place to live and work.”

Doug Claffey, CEO of Energage, said Top Workplaces is more than just recognition.

“Our research shows organizations that earn the award attract better talent, experience lower turnover, and are better equipped to deliver bottom-line results,” Claffey said. “Their leaders prioritize and carefully craft a healthy workplace culture that supports employee engagement.”

Headquartered in Exton, Pennsylvania, Energage is a leading provider of technology-based employee engagement tools that help leaders to unlock potential, inspire performance and achieve amazing results within their organizations. The research partner behind the Top Workplaces program, Energage has surveyed more than 57,000 organizations representing well over 19 million employees in the United States.

CU sponsoring Denver PrideFest for fourth consecutive year[7]
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[9]

The University of Colorado is proud to sponsor Denver PrideFest 2019 for its fourth consecutive year.

The Faculty Council’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer + (LGBTQ+) committee is rallying participants for the 2019 Denver PrideFest[10].

“As the only higher education institution in Colorado to sponsor Denver Pride 2019, we are excited to be engaged with this event and to celebrate our diverse CU community and the larger community,” the committee announced.

Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the CU event booth at the June 15-16 festival or to walk in the parade is asked to contact Faculty Council administrator Rian Cheley[11] or you can sign up directly at CU at Denver PrideFest [12]. All members of the CU community are invited and encouraged to participate.

More information: CU Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer + (LGBTQ+)[13]; Denver Pride[10]; questions or comments, please email rian.cheley@cu.edu[11].

CU faculty, staff can save on summer tuition for selves, dependents[14]

CU faculty and staff can now apply for Tuition Assistance for the summer 2019 semester.

CU employees often take advantage of the Tuition Assistance Benefit by taking a summer class to expand their learning. Dependents who are looking to get ahead in the school year also cover their classes with this benefit through the Intercampus Dependent Tuition Assistance Benefit Pilot Program.[15]

Qualified employees can save on up to nine credits, and their children, spouses and other dependents have several options to save on tuition costs.

Employees must submit the application on behalf of their dependent. Submit the Tuition Assistance Benefit application by the deadline for the desired campus at:
CU Boulder - Aug. 22 **CU Colorado Springs** - June 18 **CU Denver I Anschutz** - Summer deadline: June 18 (Maymester deadline was May 21)
Get started:
Log into the employee portal.[16] Open the **CU Resources** dropdown menu at the top center of the page and select **Forms.** Click the **Career Advancement** tile, then click the **Tuition Assistance Application** tile.
See full policies, deadlines and instructions on the Tuition Assistance Benefit[17].

By law, some uses of the Tuition Assistance Benefit are taxed. Taxable tuition assistance will be subject to federal, state and FICA (Social Security and Medicare) taxes. Taxable employees can expect these taxes to be deducted from their paychecks one to two months after their CU campus of registration's census deadline.

Find the census deadline for the campus the benefit will be used on for accuracy:
CU Boulder[18]CU Colorado Springs[19]CU Denver[20]CU Anschutz[21]
Employee Services will notify taxable employees via email each semester. Learn more about the general taxation process by viewing the webinar on the Tuition Assistance Benefit Taxes website[22].

Use or donate excess vacation hours by June 30[23]

Employees with excess vacation hours should use them or donate them to leave banks before they are removed from their accounts during leave sweeps.

What are leave sweeps?

Leave sweeps remove University and Classified Staff excess vacation and/or sick leave hours, as required by state[24] and university policies[25]. The process helps to ensure employees use their hard-earned vacation hours, and allows them to confirm no errors occurred with their leave throughout the year.

Excess hours will be removed from employee accounts after the July monthly payroll, so they should be used by June 30. Employees who are unable to use their leave by this deadline may donate their vacation time to a leave bank.

Each campus has its own leave-sharing policy:
CU Boulder[26]CU Denver | Anschutz[27]CU Colorado Springs[28]CU system[26]
Vacation and sick leave limits: Leave limits vary based on whether an employee is University Staff, 12-Month Faculty or Classified Staff. They may maintain hours up to their limit but anything over is considered excess.

University Staff

University Staff and 12-Month Faculty have a limit of 352 vacation hours with no sick leave limit.

Classified Staff

Vacation hours

Maximum vacation hours are determined by length of service:
1-5 years of service: 192 hours 6-10 years of service: 240 hours 11-15 years of service: 288 hours 16+ years of service: 336 hours
Sick hours

Maximum sick leave is 360 hours and does not vary by length of service. However, if employees have 80 or fewer excess hours, 20% of them can be converted to vacation hours.

For example, 40 excess sick hours could be converted to eight hours of vacation leave.

Learn more about leave policies: Please review University Staff leave policies[29] or Classified Staff leave policies [24], and direct any questions to your campus Human Resources office. For CU Denver or CU Anschutz Medical Campus, please contact your department payroll liaison.

A robot may one day perform your colonoscopy [30]

Staff and family members take part in commencement festivities[31]

Armed with doctorates, first graduating cohort set to fill education diversity void [32]

Symposium uses data to clear haze around the air-quality debate [33]

CU Connections shifts to summer publication schedule in June[34]

CU Connections will begin its summer publication schedule after the May 30 issue, when issues will appear biweekly.

No new issues are scheduled to appear on the following dates (subject to change):
June 6 June 20 July 4 July 18 Aug. 1 Aug. 15
Weekly publication will resume with the Aug. 22 issue.

Throughout the season, the site will be updated with news should events warrant.

CU Connections always welcomes Letters to the Editor on topics of interest to current and retired CU faculty and staff. Please send submissions to newsletter@cu.edu[35]. And if you have a news item or story suggestion you'd like to pass along, please send it to Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[36].

Deadline for submissions is noon Friday prior to the Thursday publication.

Adler tapped for CU Boulder Graduate School leadership post [37]

Becher, Molinaro chosen as CU Dialogues Faculty Fellows [38]

DiStefano leads Pac-12 meeting, talks mental health funding for student-athletes[39]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-honors-president-benson[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/fac-cncl_benson_top.jpg[3] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/fac-cncl_benson_02.jpg[4] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/fac-cncl_benson_01.jpg[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-system-administration-named-top-workplace-denver-post[6] https://www.denverpost.com/2019/05/05/top-workplaces-2019-large-companies-4-35/[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-sponsoring-denver-pridefest-fourth-consecutive-year[8] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/pride_top.jpg[9] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/pride_01.jpg[10] https://denverpride.org/[11] mailto:rian.cheley@cu.edu[12] http://www.cvent.com/events/cu-at-denver-pridefest/event-summary-f32a4db805bf41029737aa4cd89ca24c.aspx[13] https://www.cu.edu/faculty-council/committees/gay-lesbian-bisexual-transgender-and-intersex-issues-glbti-committee[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-faculty-staff-can-save-summer-tuition-selves-dependents[15] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/dependent-options[16] https://my.cu.edu/[17] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance[18] https://www.colorado.edu/registrar/students/calendar[19] https://www.uccs.edu/academics/calendar[20] http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/Registrar-dev/CourseListings/Pages/AcademicCalendar.aspx[21] http://www.ucdenver.edu/anschutz/studentresources/Registrar/CourseListings/Pages/AcademicCalendar.aspx[22] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/taxes[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/use-or-donate-excess-vacation-hours-june-30[24] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/classified-staff-leave-policies-0[25] https://www.cu.edu/regents/policy-11e-leave-policies-university-staff-and-twelve-month-faculty[26] https://www.colorado.edu/hr/leave-sharing[27] http://www.ucdenver.edu/about/departments/HR/HRPoliciesGuidelines/Documents/LeaveSharingAdministrativePolicy.pdf[28] https://www.uccs.edu/vcaf/sites/vcaf/files/inline-files/300-007.pdf[29] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/leave-policies[30] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/robot-may-one-day-perform-your-colonoscopy[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/staff-and-family-members-take-part-commencement-festivities[32] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/armed-doctorates-first-graduating-cohort-set-fill-education-diversity-void[33] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/symposium-uses-data-clear-haze-around-air-quality-debate[34] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-connections-shifts-summer-publication-schedule-june[35] mailto:newsletter@cu.edu[36] mailto:Jay.Dedrick@cu.edu[37] https://connections.cu.edu/people/adler-tapped-cu-boulder-graduate-school-leadership-post[38] https://connections.cu.edu/people/becher-molinaro-chosen-cu-dialogues-faculty-fellows[39] https://connections.cu.edu/people/distefano-leads-pac-12-meeting-talks-mental-health-funding-student-athletes