Faculty Council honors contributions of university community members[1]

The Faculty Council last week honored its current vice chair and a staff member from system administration during an annual awards presentation.

During the April 27 Faculty Senate-Faculty Council meeting at 1800 Grant St., the council presented Joanne Addison, Ph.D., with its Distinguished Service Award. The Administrator of the Year Award was given to Jill Taylor.

Addison, vice chair of Faculty Council, is an associate professor of English in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at CU Denver. A faculty member for over 20 years, she also has served as chair of the Denver Faculty Assembly. In a resolution read by Faculty Council Chair Ravinder Singh, Addison was commended for her ability to build consensus with faculty and administration and for serving as a steward of academic freedom, creating a more inclusive campus for students, faculty and staff.

Taylor, director of academic program and policy analysis in the Office of Academic Affairs, was praised for serving administration and faculty with great professionalism, dedication and distinction. Among her contributions are generating detailed, perceptive analyses of actions proposed by state leaders. Her knowledge of policy matters helps inform the council's Educational Policy and University Standards committee.

The awards were presented by President Bruce Benson, who also provided an update on topics and took questions during the Faculty Senate meeting. He mentioned uncertainty over the fate of the state budget during the last scheduled days of the General Assembly session, expected to adjourn on Monday. Despite a lack of resolution over classification of the hospital provider fee – an issue that potentially affects funding for higher education and other discretionary spending – he said he was encouraged that the proposed $20.5 million increase for higher education remained intact.

In other business at the April 27 meeting:
The council re-elected Chair Ravinder Singh and Secretary Monique French. Melinda Piket-May was elected vice chair. The council passed a resolution supporting optional demographic questions on gender identity and sexual orientation on CU admissions applications. Students would not be required to answer; data collected would be used in aggregate only to gauge potential equity gaps pertaining to LGBTQ students, including retention and graduation rates, campus climate issues, programming and services. In response to the 2014 social climate survey, and following discussion with the Board of Regents, the council passed a resolution endorsing and affirming diversity and inclusion at CU. The resolution also calls for the council's development of a task force to address inclusive excellence in collaboration with campus governance groups and other leaders. The task force will propose action that fosters campus inclusiveness, improves faculty diversity and inclusion, and promotes inclusive classroom environments. The council approved proposed revisions to Administrative Policy Statement 1021[2], regarding faculty development and mentoring.
The council's final meeting of the academic year is set for noon May 11 at 1800 Grant St.

Inclusive excellence honored at President's Diversity Awards ceremony[3]

CU President Bruce Benson on Friday welcomed recipients of the 2017 President's Diversity Awards to 1800 Grant St. for a reception and awards presentation.

The award recognizes significant achievements of faculty, staff, students and academic or administrative units in developing a culturally diverse university community reflective of inclusive excellence. Award recipients receive $2,000.

Read more on those who received awards and commendations.[4]

2017 President's Diversity Award recipients:

Lecia Barker
[5]

Paul Le
[6]

Johnnie Nguyen
[7]

Undergraduate Pre-Health Program
[8]

Those who received commendations:

Manuel Castro
[9]

Jasmin Torres
[10]

Knapsack Institute
[11]

Giving amplifies a vibrant future for CU, Benson tells donors[12]

Not sure which medical plan to choose? CU's resources can help[13]
[14]

If faculty and staff are unsure what medical plan to select this Open Enrollment, resources are available to inform their decisions.

The good news: Faculty and staff can keep their plans without taking any action this year. If you would like to make changes, you'll need to enroll by 5 p.m. Friday, May 12.

See a side-by-side comparison

For those considering a change, there are many way to brush up on the differences between CU's four medical plans. The simplest way to get an apples-to-apples comparison is to review the Medical Plan Comparison[15] on the Open Enrollment website.
CU Health Plan – Exclusive
Why you might choose this plan: If you're a faculty and staff member anticipating medical expenses in the coming plan year, your preferred hospital(s), physician(s) and specialist(s) are in the network and you don't mind staying in network for care, this plan could be a good option for you. With Exclusive, a primary care provider manages your care and refers you to specialists. The tradeoff: This saves money[16].

Network: The Exclusive plan is tailored to University of Colorado and CU Medicine employees. Enrollees will receive care at UCHealth facilities by physicians from the CU Medicine School of Medicine, UCHealth Medical Group and other physicians across Colorado's Front Range.[17] Seeing a CU Medicine or UCHealth Medical Group doctor means personal medical records will be accessible to other practitioners in those groups, adding convenience for enrollees.

Deductible: $250 for an individual and $750 for a family. Many services are covered at or close to 100 percent once the deductible is met.

Out-of-pocket maximum: There's no annual plan limit and the out-of-pocket max is $7,150 for an individual and $14,300 for a family.

Saving for health expenses: This plan pairs with a health care flexible spending account. Visit the Pretax Savings[18] webpage for details on the differences between flexible spending accounts and health savings accounts.

Learn more:CU Health Plan – Exclusive[19]
CU Health Plan – Extended
Why you might choose this plan: Faculty and staff who want extended health care options can use this plan with a national network and more choices for doctors. These additional choices come with a higher monthly rate[20] and deductible.

Network: Faculty and staff choose their providers with this preferred provider organization (PPO) plan, and do not need a referral to see a specialist. Its national network[21], however, does not provide coverage outside of that national network. This plan's network allows participants to see CU Medicine and UCHealth Medical Group providers and visit UCHealth facilities.

Deductible: A higher deductible – $750 for individuals and $1,500 for families – gives you more provider options.

Out-of-pocket maximum: The out-of-pocket max is also very reasonable at $7,150 for individuals and $14,300 for families. And there's no annual plan limit.

Saving for health expenses: This plan pairs with a health care flexible spending account. Visit the Pretax Savings[18] webpage for details on the differences between FSAs and HSAs.

Learn more: CU Health Plan – Extended[22]
CU Health Plan – High Deductible
Why you might choose this plan: The CU Health Plan – High Deductible/HSA Compatible plan is very attractive for planners and savers. Faculty and staff not anticipating many medical expenses in the next year might want to consider this plan. However, this plan is also a nice option if you have a lot of medical expenses. It's a good idea to compare your anticipated out-of-pocket expenses on all the plans offered.

Network: Enrollees may schedule appointments with specialists, with no primary care provider needed. The plan features a national network of providers[17], including the country's top medical facilities and does allow for out-of-network coverage. Enrollees can still see CU Medicine and UCHealth Medical Group providers and visit UCHealth facilities as they are considered in-network providers.

Deductible: The annual deductible is $1,500 for an individual or $3,000 for a family. After meeting the deductible, enrollees pay coinsurance when using plan services.

Out-of-pocket maximum: The out-of-pocket limits for this plan are $3,000 for individuals and $6,000 for families in network; and $6,000 for individuals and $12,000 for families outside the network.

Saving for health expenses: This plan pairs with a health savings account (HSA), which allows you to save medical expenses in an interest-bearing account and it also pairs with the health care flexible spending account. Visit the Pretax Savings[18] webpage for details on the differences between FSAs and HSAs.

Learn more: CU Health Plan – High Deductible[23]
CU Health Plan – Kaiser
Why you might choose this plan: This plan's exclusive provider organization (EPO) experience may be attractive to faculty and staff seeking a one-stop shop for care and are willing to pay higher monthly rates for that access. All care is

provided at Kaiser facilities, by Kaiser doctors.

Network: Kaiser is accessible across Colorado[24]. It offers a simple way to use the health care network because it's all managed by Kaiser. Enrollees will need a primary care provider, and referrals for specialists, but medical records are easily accessible to all Kaiser providers. There is no out-of-network coverage outside of emergency or urgent care. Generally, all enrollees have to do is make an appointment then leave the rest to the Kaiser team.

Deductible: There is no deductible with this plan.

Out-of-pocket maximum: $7,150 for an individual and $14,300 for a family.

Saving for health expenses: This plan pairs with a health care flexible spending account. Visit the Pretax Savings[18] webpage for details on the differences between FSAs and HSAs.

Learn more:CU Health Plan – Kaiser[25]

Questions?

If you have questions, please call an Employee Services benefits professional at 303-860-4200, option 3. They can explain your plan options or answer questions based on your healthcare coverage needs. For more information, visit the Open Enrollment[26] website.

If you want a quick primer in the basics of health plans, visit Employee Services' Benefits 101[27] website.

CU provides 'blueprint for reform' in higher education efficiency[28]
[29]

The University of Colorado system is featured as a model of academic quality and innovation in a new guide created by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni[29] (ACTA).

Released today, ACTA's report highlights creative problem-solving and innovative approaches used by CU and other universities and systems to cut costs and deliver high-quality college education for all students.

In the report, Bold Leadership, Real Reform 2.0: Improving Efficiency, Cutting Costs, and Expanding College Opportunity, CU is featured as a "blueprint for reform" in a section on campus case studies. ACTA collaborated with Regent Stephen Ludwig and system staff to collect information on best practices used to improve efficiency, reduce costs and expand access and opportunity.

"The efforts made by these schools illustrate how trustees, administrators, and other stakeholders can build upon past successes and reinforce hard-won achievements," the report reads.

In the face of recession and declining state support, the report notes, CU President Bruce Benson "adopted a three-pronged business-minded approach to keeping the University financially secure: 'Find efficiencies, build collaboration, and generate new revenue.'" CU is lauded for cutting administrative red tape and for introducing an online database, www.cu.edu/cost-drivers-cu[30], providing greater transparency in complex university finances.

CU's achievements in innovation are detailed in passages on CU Guaranteed, the program that guarantees admission to any arts and sciences program at a CU campus for Colorado community college transfer students who qualify, and on CU's planned three-year online degree. Initiated by the Board of Regents, the effort to expand access and increase degree completion continues to make progress via cross-campus collaboration.

The report is ACTA's second guide on university best practices for trustees, identifying innovative approaches college

and university trustees can adopt to contain costs and improve institutional performance. The guide presents tried-and-true methods for improving higher education.

The new volume follows up on initiatives — some launched at the height of the financial crisis — outlined in ACTA's earlier trustee guide, Bold Leadership, Real Reform: Best Practices in University Governance. In revisiting schools featured in the previous guide, ACTA's review enables trustees to follow the progress different university initiatives have made in increasing student success.

The guide urges higher education trustees to look at innovative models, such as shared course initiatives and online consortia, curricular consolidation, and the use of institutional analytics to identify bottlenecks and improve operations.

Besides CU, other institutions featured as "Blueprints for Reform" are Arizona State University, Purdue University, the University System of Maryland and the State University System of Florida. Each provides examples of cost-saving techniques and administrative innovations that have improved student outcomes and efficiency without compromising academic quality and student options.

"This guide is a playbook for trustees looking to leapfrog the conventional wisdom about higher education finance," said Armand Alacbay, ACTA's vice president of trustee and legislative affairs. "Higher education's traditional business model is increasingly unsustainable, so the need for engaged trusteeship is at an all-time high. Boards can play a significant role in improving institutional strategy and efficiency without compromising academic quality or raising tuition."

ACTA is an independent, nonprofit organization committed to academic freedom, excellence and accountability at America's colleges and universities. It receives no government funding and is supported through the generosity of individuals and foundations.

Launched in 1995, ACTA works with alumni, donors, trustees and education leaders across the United States to support liberal arts education, uphold high academic standards, safeguard the free exchange of ideas on campus, and ensure that the next generation receives a philosophically rich, high-quality college education at an affordable price. The ACTA network consists of alumni and trustees from nearly 1,300 colleges and universities, including more than 22,000 current board members.

Call for proposals: 2017 Coleman Conference[31]
[32]

The Coleman Institute Conference on Cognitive Disability and Technology[33] is the only event of its kind in the field of cognitive disability, and is known for sharing contemporary knowledge of best practices in the field and cultivating relationships between public and private entities.

The open call for proposals for this year's event, set for Nov. 2 in Broomfield, has been issued and will close on June 1.

The Coleman Institute has held 16 nationally recognized conferences. Attendees include self-advocates, family members, legislators, academics, students, service providers, engineers, software developers and industry leaders.

This year's keynote, professor Mischa Dohler from Kings College in London, is a leading expert on smart cities and the Tactile Internet, and will be speaking about the benefits of the Tactile Internet in his address, "Internet of Skills – Democratizing Labor and Empowering Humans."

Successful proposals will demonstrate new and emerging applied cognitive technologies for use by people with cognitive disabilities and their families, including: research, development, and practice. Proposals will be competitively reviewed and not all proposals will be accepted due to the limited number of breakout presentation slots.

The Coleman Institute may offer a presentation format different from that initially proposed by the author(s) (e.g., poster presentation instead of breakout presentation). Eligible parties to submit proposals include self-advocates, direct service professionals, provider or advocacy organizations, academics, students, profit and non-for-profit organizations.

For more information about topic areas, proposal guidelines and a direct link to the application, visit https://www.colemaninstitute.org/2017-coleman-conference-call-for-proposals/[34]

Notices of acceptance will be sent out July 7. For more information, please contact the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities at www.colemaninstitute.org[35].

U.S. Presidential Historian Goodwin speaks about leadership – and President Trump – at Business School fundraiser [36]

Top 7 places you like to eat at CU Anschutz[37]

Draft concept plan for CU Boulder South invites community input[38]

Griffin hired as director of space planning and management[39]

Call for proposals: Chancellor's Awards for Excellence in STEM Education[40]

Forum highlights role of private support, updates for Ent Center, Hybl building[41]

Wagner, Olson, Liechty receive grants for tegenerative medicine research[42]

Saliman earns honors from Denver Business Journal[43]

Todd Saliman, vice president for budget and finance and chief financial officer, was named a finalist for the Denver Business Journal's 2017 Top Financial Executive awards.

The publication honored executives who are charged with oversight of their institution's financial planning, reporting and compliance, regardless of their official titles. Nominees were judged for business leadership, accomplishments they helped their company achieve, innovation and their community involvement.

An expert panel selected 10 finalists, who were honored April 27 at an awards luncheon at The Curtis Denver, where Michael Kehoe, PCL Construction, was named the Top Financial Executive of the Year.

Read more on Saliman at the Denver Business Journal[44].

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/faculty-council-honors-contributions-university-community-members[2] http://www.cu.edu/ope/aps/1021[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/inclusive-excellence-honored-president-s-diversity-awards-ceremony[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-member-students-among-president-s-diversity-award-recipients[5] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/div-awards_barker.jpg[6] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/div-awards_le.jpg[7] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/div-awards_nguyen.jpg[8] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/div-awards_law-ahmed.jpg[9] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/div-awards_castro.jpg[10] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/div-awards_torres.jpg[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/div-awards_jimenez.jpg[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/giving-amplifies-vibrant-future-cu-benson-tells-donors[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/not-sure-which-medical-plan-choose-cu-s-resources-can-help[14] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/oe-16-17_top.png[15] http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/medical-plan-comparison-tool-2017-18[16] http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/plan-rates[17] https://www.anthem.com/health-insurance/provider-directory/searchcriteria?brand=ABCBS[18] http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/cafeteria-plan-options[19] http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/cu-health-plan-exclusive[20] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/plan-rates[21] https://www.anthem.com/health-insurance/provider-directory/searchcriteria?planstate=CO&plantype=PPOGRP&planname=CU+Health+Plan+-+Extended[22] http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/cu-health-plan-extended[23] http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/cu-health-plan-medicarehigh-deductible[24] https://healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/care/doctors-locations/#/selectregion[25] http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/cu-health-plan-kaiser[26] http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/medical-plan-options[27] http://www.cu.edu/employee-services/financial-wellness/benefits-101[28] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-provides-blueprint-reform-higher-education-efficiency[29] https://www.goacta.org/[30] http://www.cu.edu/cost-drivers-cu[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/call-proposals-2017-coleman-conference[32] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/coleman_top.jpg[33] https://www.colemaninstitute.org/2017-conference/[34] https://www.colemaninstitute.org/2017-coleman-conference-call-for-proposals/[35] http://www.colemaninstitute.org/[36] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/us-presidential-historian-goodwin-speaks-about-leadership-and-president-trump-business[37] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/top-7-places-you-eat-cu-anschutz[38] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/draft-concept-plan-cu-boulder-south-invites-community-input[39] https://connections.cu.edu/people/griffin-hired-director-space-planning-and-management[40] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/call-proposals-chancellor-s-awards-excellence-stem-education[41] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/forum-highlights-role-private-support-updates-ent-center-hybl-building[42] https://connections.cu.edu/people/wagner-olson-liechty-receive-grants-tegenerative-medicine-research[43] https://connections.cu.edu/people/saliman-earns-honors-denver-business-journal[44] http://www.bizjournals.com/denver/news/2017/04/28/todd-saliman-career-comes-full-circle.html