Chase Faculty Community Service Award honors educator's science and health care outreach[1]
[2]

Aimee Pugh Bernard, Ph.D., faculty member at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, is the recipient of the 2022 Chase Faculty Community Service Award, which recognizes her tireless advocacy for vaccines and pro-science policy, as well as her enthusiastic, imaginative exposure of science careers to young people in historically underserved populations.

Bernard is an assistant professor in the CU School of Medicine's Department of Immunology and Microbiology, teaching in various graduate and postgraduate programs across the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. She also is the executive director of the Human Immunology and Immunotherapy Initiative (HI3), where she coordinates the development of the research and clinical infrastructure necessary to create a premier facility for the discovery and use of human immunotherapies.

The Chase Faculty Community Service Award[3] is presented annually to a full-time CU faculty member who, in addition to his or her university responsibilities, has, pro bono, provided exceptional educational, humanitarian, civic or other service in the community. An advisory council submits a recommendation to CU President Todd Saliman, who bestows the honor, which includes a $10,000 grant sponsored by an endowment from JPMorgan Chase through the CU Foundation.

Bernard's dedication to educational outreach is evident throughout the broader community, most notably via her advocacy on behalf of immunization requirements in Colorado's public schools, her COVID vaccine advocacy efforts and her creation of an after-school program for elementary schools surrounding the CU Anschutz Medical Campus to promote interest in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

With her nonprofit "Think Like a Scientist[4]" (TLaS) program, Bernard serves as faculty mentor, guiding volunteer graduate, medical, dental, physician assistant and pharmacy students. They engage with Aurora and Denver elementary schools that primarily serve historically underrepresented groups and where more than 75% of students receive free or reduced-cost lunch.

Bernard writes small grants and obtains private donations to offer the program free of charge to all partnering schools. She uses the likes of lemon volcanoes and exploding popsicle sticks to teach students about the scientific method, experimental design, critical thinking, scientific presentation skills and other topics important to thinking like a scientist. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she seamlessly transitioned the program to an online curriculum, expanding the reach to more schools. With help from CU Anschutz students, she also created a TLaS YouTube channel[5] of 'science-at-home' videos in English and Spanish.

"At 'Think Like a Scientist[4]' we're on a mission to engage students who don't see themselves represented frequently in science or medicine," Bernard said. "We want them to know that anyone can become a scientist or a doctor. We also want them to experience the joy of science. Science is about discovery, doing experiments and, most importantly, having fun!"

Over the 2019-2022 legislative sessions, Bernard testified several times in support of legislation aimed at boosting Colorado's childhood vaccination rates, which are among the lowest in the nation. Sometimes facing vehement opposition, she spoke eloquently to lawmakers about the scientific basis for vaccine safety and efficacy, as well as the many benefits that a sufficiently vaccinated population can have for a community.

In 2013-2017, Bernard wrote an 11-part 'Immunology 101' blog series[6] for the Immunize Colorado Team Vaccine blog aimed at educating readers about how vaccines work with the immune system to provide long-lasting protection from infectious disease. In 2021, Bernard began serving on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Immunization Advocates[7] and became a member of the Colorado Vaccine Equity Taskforce[8]. She promoted COVID vaccine efforts in the region by delivering numerous virtual presentations at Rotary Clubs and town hall events alongside state representatives and college administrators, and Q&A sessions for parents of children with immunodeficiency diseases, offering complex subject matter in an interesting, digestible format.

“As a vaccine advocate, I think it's important to advocate for common-sense, pro-science vaccine policy that will keep our Colorado communities healthy,” Bernard said. “When everyone who is able gets vaccinated, we protect vulnerable people in our communities – think babies too young for some vaccines or cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy – from getting sick and/or dying. As an immunologist and educator, I work hard to reach as many people in the community as possible to share the facts that vaccines work with our immune system to keep us protected from disease.”

“Dr. Bernard’s commitment to advocacy for health care has far-reaching benefits in the community, helping to protect the most vulnerable,” said Joseph Coleman, Chase’s Business Banking Market Manager in Colorado. “She also invests time and energy inspiring the next generation of scientists with imagination and excitement. That positive impact makes her a very deserving recipient of the Chase Faculty Community Service Award.”

The Chase Faculty Community Service Award – established in 1991 with a $100,000 donation – is funded annually by an endowment from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation through the CU Foundation. 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.

Open Educational Resources Champions honored[9]

The Office of Academic Affairs and the Open CU Steering Team celebrated the 2022 Open Educational Resources (OER) Champion Award on April 14. The award celebrates educators – one from each of the four CU campuses – who contribute to the open educational movement, increase campus and system awareness of OER, and/or galvanize interest in exploring, adopting and creating OER to benefit University of Colorado students.

Resources include digital learning materials such as open textbooks, courses, syllabi, lectures, assignments, quizzes, lab activities, games and simulations.

In the four years since the award’s inception, OER has provided open access to CU students to the tune of $1 million in savings.

In a video, CU President Todd Saliman applauded the educators for furthering access to important materials to support our students.

“Your efforts to support OER on your campuses and your dedication to growing this important program at CU are critical,” Saliman said. “Your work breaks down barriers to a world-class education so that all of our students can thrive and succeed.”

The 2022 recipients are:

Katherine Cliff, UCCS

Cliff’s work on curating, revising and creating OER for mathematics education has lessened the financial burden of math classes for hundreds of students. A senior instructor at UCCS, her advocacy for open-source online homework platform MyOpenMath has led to several colleagues adopting this system, which offers students the chance to make sure they are understanding content while they work on their homework. In the 2021-22 school year, Cliff officially rolled out a fully interactive OER trigonometry textbook.

“There are all sorts of interactive elements that I was able to build into the textbook,” Cliff said at the ceremony. “There are examples and students can click and expand the solution. Students can actually answer the question and get immediate feedback on whether they’re right or regenerate the question, try again.”

Dennis DeBay, CU Denver

DeBay is a clinical teaching track (CTT) assistant professor of math education in CU Denver's School of Education and Human Development. He uses an equity approach to encourage lasting wonder in higher ed learning. DeBay's online resource on the blogging platform Ghost functions as a textbook for undergraduate and master's students in a licensure program to become math and science teachers.

"The idea is for us to be able to look at and publish research around the disruptions that happened over the last 10 years in ways that we innovated it to help support our students," DeBay said. "Now in some of my upper-level education courses – people that are getting closer to the point of becoming teachers – we're now building our own textbooks in that format and we'll use that as a base for our course in the fall."

Maureen Stabio, CU Anschutz Medical Campus

Stabio is vice-director of the Modern Human Anatomy program[10] and a leader in neuroscience education at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, where she teaches master's students, dental students and medical students. In 2016, she started a small collection of plastinated human organs as well as a free lending program for CU educators. In 2019, Stabio received an OER creation grant to digitize the models into a virtual library under a creative commons license [11]. The lending program, which has more than 50 physical specimens that have been accessed by over 10,000 students across 10 professional programs, is continually growing.

"Really, this work was inspired by the students in the modern human anatomy program who were doing these incredible dissections," Stabio said. "We're fortunate to have a cadaver dissection program and we consider cadaver dissection the gold standard of teaching anatomy. But not all programs, not all schools have access to cadaver facilities. It's very expensive to have a cadaver facility and it's not appropriate for all level learners."

Ryan Curtis, CU Boulder

Curtis is a teaching associate professor in the Department of Psychology and Neuroscience at CU Boulder. He has been using and developing Open Educational Resources in his classes for about 10 years, helping to develop OER resources for two courses: OER for General Psychology called OpenPSYC and a social psychology OER. OpenPSYC includes an online textbook for both courses, chapter quizzes and interactive videos for each chapter of the OER.

"Not only do they have a free experience, but they also have an interactive experience, which allows us to flip the class and have a lot more interaction in person," Curtis said. "All my classes are now flipped, which means that students have an integrated and interactive experience via the swarm function on Canvas, as well as worksheets that are automatically graded for each of the chapters on all the textbooks."

All members of the CU educational community are eligible for the annual OER award.

"Nearly 100% of the CDHE funding for the Open CU Initiative, which has been awarded every year since 2018 and we have secured through 2025, goes directly to faculty members in the form of grants to cultivate and support OER adoption, adaption and creation," said Jaimie Henthorn, director of the academic innovation programs at CU. "The system has the honor of recognizing the incredible work of the selected faculty OER champions with a $500 award."

The campus contacts for getting involved in OER are on the AIP Open CU website.[12] Nominations are reviewed by the Open CU Steering Team and the CU System Office of Academic Affairs. Selections are based on criteria such as educational impact and innovation toward a culture of open knowledge sharing and access.

Questions? Contact Jaimie.Henthorn@cu.edu[13]

CU Health Plan provides options for out-of-state faculty, staff and dependents[14]

The University of Colorado's Open Enrollment is an opportunity to ensure your benefits meet your needs, no matter where you live. At present, more than 1,200 CU faculty and staff reside outside of Colorado.

CU offers multiple medical plans that cater to the needs of benefits-eligible, out-of-state faculty, staff and dependents. Let's look at the options:

CU Health Plan - High Deductible

The CU Health Plan - High Deductible[15] offers a national network of providers, and is available in Colorado, the United States and worldwide. Plan members can refer themselves to doctors of their choice, including specialists, both in-network and out-of-network. However, enrollees will pay higher out-of-pocket costs when using out-of-network providers. Preventive care is covered at 100% in most cases.

As the name states, the plan has a higher deductible ($1,500-3,000 depending on coverage level), but the out-of-pocket maximum is lower than other plans ($3,000-$6,000). It offers a low monthly premium, ranging from $0 for employee-only coverage to $39 for family coverage (2+ people). It is important to understand that there are no copays on this plan. You will be responsible for medical bills until you reach your deductible.

To cover your expenses, this plan can be paired with a Health Savings Account[16], which can be used for health expenses now and in the future. Contributions roll over from year to year, and the account is yours even if you leave or retire from the university. HSA money is not taxed when contributed into the HSA or when it is spent on qualified expenses, plus any money made from interest or investing funds is not taxed.

CU Health Plan – Extended

CU Health Plan – Extended[17] offers a national network of providers and is available in Colorado and throughout the United States. Plan members can refer themselves to doctors of their choice including specialists. There are no out-of-network benefits except for urgent and emergent care, durable medical equipment, labs and X-rays. Preventive care is covered at 100%.

The Extended plan offers a lower deductible than the High Deductible plan ($750-$1,500 depending on coverage level) and low copays but has a higher monthly premium and higher out-of-pocket maximum for employees and their families.

Dependent coverage

CU's two other medical plans, CU Health Plan – Exclusive[18] and CU Health Plan – Kaiser[19], provide coverage for out-of-state dependent children.

Exclusive requires members to apply for Guest Membership for a dependent child. This grants a dependent child temporary out?of?state health care coverage in participating states.

Kaiser's out-of-area benefit allows for office visits, diagnostic services and prescription drug coverage, as well as physical, occupational and speech therapies.

More resources

Watch the Basics of CU Health Plans on-demand course[20] for a detailed overview of CU plans. Refer to the side-by-side comparison[21] for a breakdown of the medical CU health plans.

If you are a faculty or staff member who is planning to move out of state but continue your CU employment, please review the Change of Residence guide on Employee Services Life Changes webpage[22], and contact Employee

Services within 31 days of your move.

Time is running out

Open Enrollment ends at 5 p.m. May 6. If you would like to keep the same benefit choices, no action is required to be automatically re-enrolled. There's one exception: You must actively enroll in Health Care and Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account (FSA) for plan year 2022-2023.

Visit the Open Enrollment website[23] for full details on CU's benefits offerings.

If you have questions, please contact an Employee Services benefits professional at 303-460-4200, ext. 3, or email benefits@cu.edu[24].

CU Tuition Assistance Benefit applications open for Summer 2022[25]

The University of Colorado values access to education and growth for all people, including CU faculty and staff. Education is an opportunity for personal and professional growth, which is why CU offers the Tuition Assistance Benefit [26].

The Tuition Assistance Benefit (TAB) application for Summer 2022 is now open for all four CU campuses, and the application can be found in your employee portal.

Qualified employees can save on up to nine credits per academic year (fall through summer) on any CU campus, and their children, spouses and other dependents have several options to save on tuition costs. Dependent options[27] vary based on whether classes are taken on the employee's campus of employment.

Before you apply, review the on-demand course, policies and deadlines on the Tuition Assistance Benefit web page [27].

Submit your application for yourself or your dependent by the TAB application deadline for your campus:
CU Boulder – June 15, 2022[28]CU Colorado Springs – June 20, 2022[29]CU Denver and CU Anschutz[30]: May 17 for Maymester June 14 for Summer
Access the Application
Log into your **employee portal** Open the **CUResources** drop-down menu and select **Forms** Click the **Benefits** tile, then click the **Tuition Assistance Application** tile.

Revision to systemwide Administrative Policy Statement relating to equal pay approved[31]

The Office of Policy and Efficiency (OPE) announces changes to 5056-University Employment Postings (formerly University Staff Recruitment), as related to the Colorado Equal Pay for Equal Work Act.

In 2019, Colorado passed the Equal Pay for Equal Work Act, which took effect Jan. 1, 2021. The law is designed to reduce the compensation gap that exists based on sex or gender identity, or sex or gender identity plus another protected status, between workers doing substantially similar work.

Each Colorado employer is responsible for implementing practices and procedures required by the act to achieve greater parity in employee compensation. Existing university and campus policies and procedures have been reviewed and revised to ensure compliance with Colorado's Equal Pay for Equal Work Act.

These latest changes were reviewed by the campus chancellors and approved by President Todd Saliman on April 28,

2022. The changes are made retroactive to Jan. 1, 2021. This is the final APS requiring revisions for the Colorado Equal Pay for Equal Work Act.

For more detailed information, go to https://www.cu.edu/ope/aps/latest-changes[32].

For additional information on systemwide APSs, go to: http://www.cu.edu/ope[33].

CU Boulder to play leading role in $10 million cyberinfrastructure initiative[34]

UCCS earns two 'Gold' rankings in Gazette's 2022 Best of Colorado Springs[35]

Five takeaways from April 21 virtual town hall[36]

RNA: Star of 2020 promises repeat performances in scientific breakthroughs[37]

Distinguished Professor Ablowitz wins 2022 Hazel Barnes Prize[38]

Psychology professor Pyszczynski wins distinguished career award[39]

Ewing named acting vice chancellor for infrastructure and sustainability[40]

Clearing medicine cabinets helps combat opioid crisis[41]

Unique trees from Nat Geo's photo archives mark amazing moments[42]

Humans Can't Quit a Basic Myth About Dog Breeds[43]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/chase-faculty-community-service-award-honors-educator-s-science-and-health-care-outreach[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/chase_feat_2.jpg[3] https://www.cu.edu/oaa/chase-faculty-community-service-award[4] https://tlasprogram.wordpress.com/[5] https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChgnjGGXBeiLLNmXe2DSIqA/featured[6] https://www.immunizecolorado.org/?s=immunology+101[7] https://www.coimmunizationadvocates.org/who-we-are.html[8] https://www.coloradovaccineequity.org/[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/open-educational-resources-champions-honored[10] https://medschool.cuanschutz.edu/ms-modern-human-anatomy?gclid=Cj0KCQjw5-WRBhCKARIsAAId9FnnQzhQOsUI86oXxC1lPlkqj3f6pTzv-Yug2VhMopMzdoUdn3rn-g0aAvX_EALw_wcB[11] https://www.anatomylibrary.org/[12] https://www.cu.edu/open-cu[13] mailto:Jaimie.Henthorn@cu.edu[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-health-plan-provides-options-out-state-faculty-staff-and-dependents[15] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/current-employees/medical-plans/high-deductible[16] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/hsa-fsa/health-savings-account[17] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/current-employees/medical-plans/extended[18] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/current-employees/medical-plans/exclusive[19] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/current-employees/medical-plans/kaiser[20] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/open-enrollment/sessions#courses[21] https://www.cusys.edu/plans/compare/2022/[22] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/life-changes[23] https://www.cu.edu/oe[24] mailto:benefits@cu.edu[25] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-tuition-assistance-benefit-applications-open-summer-2022[26] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance[27] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/dependent-options[28] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/cu-boulder[29] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/uccs[30] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/benefits-wellness/current-employee/tuition-assistance/cu-denveranschutz[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/revision-systemwide-administrative-policy-statement-relating-equal-pay-approved[32] https://www.cu.edu/ope/aps/latest-changes[33] http://www.cu.edu/ope[34] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-play-leading-role-10-million-cyberinfrastructure-initiative[35] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-earns-two-gold-rankings-gazette-s-2022-best-colorado-springs[36] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/five-takeaways-april-21-virtual-town-hall[37] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/rna-star-2020-promises-repeat-performances-scientific-breakthroughs[38] https://connections.cu.edu/people/distinguished-professor-ablowitz-wins-2022-hazel-barnes-prize[39] https://connections.cu.edu/people/psychology-professor-pyszczynski-wins-distinguished-career-award[40] https://connections.cu.edu/people/ewing-named-acting-vice-chancellor-infrastructure-and-sustainability[41] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/clearing-medicine-cabinets-helps-combat-opioid-crisis[42] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/unique-trees-nat-geo-s-photo-archives-mark-amazing-moments[43] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/humans-can-t-quit-basic-myth-about-dog-breeds