Colorado Combined Campaign looks to system workers for donations[1]

The University of Colorado's 2009 Colorado Combined Campaign for University of Colorado system employees is under way, presenting a slate of more than 700 charitable groups and service providers in Colorado who are seeking donations.

The campaign continues through Nov. 30. A catalog of organizations that benefit from contributions has been distributed to employees, who are asked to consider giving one-time gifts or signing up for ongoing payroll deductions.

System participation in last year's campaign was 18.6 percent of employees; this year's goal is 25 percent. Weekly e-mails will update employees on participation rates of units within system administration, and employees who donate will be eligible for weekly prize drawings.

In a letter to system administration employees, President Bruce D. Benson noted that the university is the largest donor to the statewide campaign.

"We can be proud of our educational and economic contributions to Colorado," Benson wrote, "but our personal giving is noteworthy as well."

Employees may complete pledges or one-time gifts online at a Web site for state employees. To get started, click here [2] and create a new account.

For more information regarding the pledge form or the online giving site, please call Wynn Pericak, campaign coordinator, at 303-860-5629.

Finances loom large at next Board of Regents meeting[3]

The latest budget outlook, federal stimulus funding, increased overall efficiency and academic rigor are among the topics to be presented by university administrators at the Board of Regents' regular meeting next week.

The board will meet Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 11-12, at Research Complex 2, Room 2100, at the Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora.

Besides receiving administrative updates, the Board of Regents will recognize two of three newly nominated Distinguished Professors: William Arend, M.D., and John Cambier, Ph.D., both professors in the university's School of Medicine. The board will recognize a third Distinguished Professor nominee, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Professor Donald Klingner, Ph.D., in February during the regents' meeting at UCCS.

On Nov. 11, the regents will take action on a previously discussed plan to create the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Anschutz Medical Campus. In addition, Kathleen Bollard, associate vice president and academic affairs officer, will give a presentation on academic rigor, and Kelly Fox, vice president and chief financial officer, will join campus vice chancellors in updating the regents on budget-related issues.

On the same day, the regents will receive updates on federal stimulus funding, financial aid, student fees, the President's Task Force on Efficiency, and University Physicians Inc.

Before their Thursday business meeting, the regents are scheduled to meet over breakfast with the Aurora School Board as part of the university's community outreach efforts.

Colorado cancer researcher earns grant to take on leukemia[4]

Christopher Porter, M.D.

A two-year, $1.4 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act grant will kick start research in acute myeloid leukemia (AML) at the University of Colorado Cancer Center[6].

Christopher Porter, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics at the University of Colorado School of Medicine and pediatric oncologist at The Children's Hospital, is the beneficiary of the faculty recruitment grant. He will use the funds to employ high-tech tools to screen for genes in the leukemia that, when modified, better enable conventional therapies to kill the cells.

About 12,800 American adults and children will be diagnosed with AML in 2009. While strides have been made in curing other kinds of leukemia, five-year survival for AML is about 60 percent in children and less than 25 percent in adults.

"This grant gives me the freedom to do some experiments that may be a little bit riskier (than what typically gets federal funding) but have potential for very high reward," said Porter, who will hire three specialists to work on the project. ARRA grant recipients are required to use the funds to create or retain jobs, and for projects that have high probability of moving quickly from the laboratory to the public.

News briefs[7]

Veterans Day ceremony to feature Colorado Sen. Shaffer

The University of Colorado at Boulder's University Memorial Center, the state's official memorial to war veterans, will host a Veterans Day ceremony on Wednesday, Nov. 11.

The 11 a.m. ceremony in the Glenn Miller Ballroom will feature Colorado Sen. Brandon Shaffer, D-Longmont, and the CU ROTC Color Guard. Other speakers will include retired Col. Greg Akers, director of CU-Boulder's Office of Veterans' Affairs and CU-Boulder student Isabel Guerra, the UMC board chair. A reception will follow in the UMC Veterans Lounge.

Shaffer is president of the Colorado Senate and represents Senate District 17. The Denver native received his bachelor's degree in political science from Stanford University in 1993. He served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy from 1993 to 1997. He then taught English in Japan for one year before returning to Colorado to enroll in the CU School of Law, from which he earned his law degree in 2001.

In 1947, more than half of all college students were World War II veterans. When funding began for the new student union building on the CU-Boulder campus that same year, CU students and Colorado citizens decided that the building would serve as a living memorial to Coloradans who had served in the two world wars.

Veterans will be recognized in the stands during the CU-Texas A&M football game on Saturday, Nov. 7. In celebration of Veterans Day and in recognition of their service to the country, veterans and their families also are eligible to buy tickets for Saturday's game at the reduced price of $5 each. Tickets must be purchased by Friday, Nov. 6. For more

information call 303-492-0099.

Seminar aims to boost skills in business communication

Suffer from "writer's block" each time you sit down to write? Here's a seminar that could change that.

"E-mail and Business Writing" is designed to help you communicate more effectively through letters that are clear and concise.

The seminar, taught by Katherine Skallerud of Organizational and Employee Development, runs from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, Nov. 5, at room 346 in the Administrative and Research Center, on Marine Street at the East Campus of the University of Colorado at Boulder.

The course is free for Boulder faculty and staff; for system administration, a $25 fee will be charged to the participant's department. To register, call 303-492-8103 or e-mail Yee.Chan@colorado.edu[8]. Click here[9] for more information on this and other job skills seminars.

Discounted football tickets available to faculty and staff

CU Athletics is offering $10 tickets for Saturday's Buffs football game against Texas A&M to all University of Colorado faculty, staff and their families. Game time is 11:30 a.m.

Seats, located in section 220, are limited and the price does not include fees. Advance purchase is required. To buy, click on this link[10] and enter promo code COLORADO.

For more information, call 303-49-BUFFS.

Center for Service Learning offering grants of up to $2,000

The Center for Service Learning[11] will award grants of up to $2,000 for faculty members and other instructors interested in incorporating service learning into their courses. Grants are available for design of a new course or for a major redesign of an existing course.

Service learning is a teaching method that fosters civic responsibility and leadership through the integration of academic instruction and community-based service. Those interested in developing a service-learning course for either Spring, Summer or Fall 2010 are asked to submit proposals to Marty Bickman, Service Learning director, by Nov. 16. Distribution of grants will be announced shortly after Thanksgiving.

For more information, contact Marty Bickman at 303-492-8945 or bickman@colorado.edu[12].

CU astronaut to bring home precious medals at football game[13]

Photo courtesy of NASA

In March, astronaut Steve Swanson had a couple of CU medals with him while traveling on the space shuttle Discovery to the International Space Station. On Saturday, the University of Colorado at Boulder alumnus will bring those keepsakes in for a landing at Folsom Stadium.

At halftime of the CU-Texas A&M football game on Nov. 7, Swanson will present the two medals to the university. CU-

Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano and physics department Chair Paul Beale will accept the medals on behalf of the university community.

Swanson earned his undergraduate degree in engineering physics in 1983, and had previously traveled to the International Space Station in June 2007 aboard the space shuttle Atlantis. He made two space walks on this year's Discovery mission.

Swanson, who has spent 27 days and traveled 11.1 million miles in space, also will visit with elementary school and CU-Boulder students during his visit. The morning of Friday, Nov. 6, he will meet with students at Lafayette's Ryan Elementary School, a Boulder Valley School District "magnet" school with a curriculum that focuses on math and science. That afternoon, Swanson will visit the CU-Boulder physics department and speak with students in a physics honors seminar in a visit hosted by Beale.

Fans will have a chance to meet Swanson before Saturday's game. The CU-Boulder Alumni Association will host a free, informal autograph session with Swanson at its pregame reception on Benson Field, directly south of Folsom Field. Two-for-one tickets to the game are available at http://www.cubuffs.com/promo[15] by using the promotional code "BUFFALOES."

Some 18 CU alumni astronauts have flown 41 missions in space, beginning with a flight by Scott Carpenter in 1962 during NASA's Mercury program. CU ranks in the top five universities in the nation, excluding military academies, in the number of alumni astronauts who have flown in space.

Bike share program gets rolling[16]

A dozen new mountain bikes — free to borrow — are providing alternative transportation on and around campus to students, faculty and staff at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs campus.

Members of the Campus Recreation Center can take the bikes for a ride for up to three days, and a total of 10 days per semester, at no charge.

Dan Bowan, recreation center coordinator, and Matt Gaden, center director, worked for six months with members of the Department of Public Safety, the Office of Sustainability and student leaders to design alternatives to individuals driving cars to and from campus.

"We basically brainstormed how to reduce the campus carbon footprint," said William Whitfield, manager of parking services. "This is the idea that we all liked."

Using Public Safety and Recreation Center funds, the bicycles were purchased and added to the Campus Recreation Center's existing array of outdoor equipment available for rent. Team Telecycle of Woodland Park built the bikes and provided an in-kind donation of $1,300. Each bike comes with a helmet, lock, saddle bag, tire pump and basic tool kit. Users must sign a waiver of liability and take responsibility if the bike is stolen or damaged.

"With University Village opening at the end of the month, it's easy to see someone riding a bike from campus through the underpass to go get groceries or whatever," said Daniel Garcia, student body president. "I'm excited about this."

Bowan believes the new bicycles will complement existing efforts in the Recreation Center, which offers basic bike repair classes and use of a bike repair workshop to students, faculty and staff.

School of Medicine to take part in nationwide study of blood pressure[17]

More than 900 million adults worldwide and nearly one in three adult Americans have high blood pressure — one of the most common conditions among middle-aged and older adults. The National Institutes of Health (NIH[18]) now has launched a large, clinical trial to determine whether maintaining blood pressure levels lower than current recommendations can further reduce the risk of cardiovascular and kidney diseases or age-related cognitive decline.

Called the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT), the nine-year, $114 million study will be conducted in more than 80 clinical sites across the country; the University of Colorado School of Medicine will participate and lead the trial in the Denver area.

"This is one of the largest NIH studies ever done around blood pressure control in patients with cardiovascular and kidney diseases," said Michel Chonchol, M.D., associate professor of Renal Medicine at the School of Medicine and principal investigator for the Denver site. "The patient population that will be enrolled in this trial — 7,500 people nationwide — will provide forceful and definitive study outcomes around the proper regulation of blood pressure as relates to decreasing the risk of cardiovascular and kidney disease."

High blood pressure is a leading risk factor for stroke, heart disease, kidney failure, and other conditions and also is a key contributor to the development and progression of chronic kidney disease. SPRINT will examine the hypothesis that more aggressive blood pressure control will slow the development of chronic kidney disease beyond the benefit achieved by current blood pressure goals.

Current clinical guidelines recommend systolic pressure (the top number in a blood pressure reading) of less than 140 millimeters of mercury (mm Hg) for healthy adults, and 130 mm Hg for adults with kidney disease or diabetes. SPRINT will evaluate the potential benefits of maintaining systolic blood pressure at less than 120 mm Hg for adults who are at risk for heart disease or kidney disease. The study also will assess possible risks of this therapeutic strategy.

"If this study shows that maintaining a lower systolic blood pressure has significant benefits for middle-aged and older adults — and doctors and patients meet the lower goal levels — we could see hundreds of thousands fewer heart attacks and stroke each year in the United States alone," said Elizabeth G. Nabel, M.D., director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI).

New leaders named at Board of Trustees meeting[19]

New leaders named at Board of Trustees meeting

New leaders were elected to three-year terms at an Oct. 30 meeting of the University of Colorado Foundation Board of Trustees:

Board of Directors
Jandel T. Allen-Davis, Highlands Ranch Gary R. Anderson ('69, CU-Boulder), Golden Karen L. Possehl, Denver Andrew J. Safir ('69 CU-Boulder), Beverly Hills, Calif.
Board of Trustees
James C. Calano ('78 CU-Boulder), Boulder R. Kenneth Dulin ('85 CU-Boulder), Longmont J. William Freytag , Longmont Betsy A. Mangone, Golden Marcia K. Robinson ('53 CU-Boulder), Denver Linda J. Shoemaker ('69, CU-Boulder), Boulder Dawn Fulenwider Wood, Denver
Also earning re-election were the following volunteer leaders:

Directors: Leslie B. Eaton, Carl A. Eklund, Barbara B. Grogan, Jeremy O. May
Trustees: Jandel T. Allen-Davis, Leslie B. Eaton, Barbara B. Grogan. William P. Johnson, Midge A. Korczak, Jeremy O. May, Joseph T. Negler, Barbara E. Quinlan, John P. Raeder Jr., Linda A. Valdez, Earl L. Wright.

The Board of Directors has fiduciary oversight of the CU Foundation. The Board of Trustees comprises volunteers who lead through their contributions of private support and service as advocates for CU.

Founded in 1967, the nonprofit CU Foundation[20] partners with the University of Colorado to raise, manage, and invest private support for the university's benefit.

New Phoenix Center offers help to students in times of crisis[21]

Kathy Robertson, whose daughter was a student at Metro State when she was killed by her former boyfriend, speaks at the opening of the Phoenix Center at Auraria. The center provides support to students who may be threatened by dating violence.

Interpersonal violence is a national issue for college students, especially college-aged women. But the Phoenix Center at Auraria hopes to help eradicate it on the Auraria Campus, the largest campus in the state with more than 43,000 students.

The Phoenix Center at Auraria, which opened last month, serves students, faculty and staff at all three campus institutions: the University of Colorado Denver, Metropolitan State College of Denver and Community College of Denver, as well as staff at the Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC). Goals of the Phoenix Center at Auraria include establishing victim services, increasing offender accountability, coordinating campus response to incidents of interpersonal violence, and developing prevention and awareness activities.

Kathy Robertson knows the importance of having a place on campus where students can go for help dealing with dating violence, stalking, sexual assault and domestic violence. She lost her daughter to dating violence in 2007.

"As a mother of a college student who was tragically taken from this world by dating violence, I know the consequences of being uninformed about issues facing young adults today," said Robertson, whose daughter, a student at Metro State, was killed by her former boyfriend, also a Metro State student. "The Phoenix Center at Auraria will help these young men and women on the Auraria Campus have a safe environment to go to when they feel that they are in danger or in need of confidential relationship advice."

The Phoenix Center at Auraria was funded by U.S. Department of Justice grant money — $500,000 over three years — awarded in November 2008 to the Center on Domestic Violence in the School of Public Affairs at UC Denver. The money was given to develop a program for prevention of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking on the Auraria Campus.

While interpersonal violence centers are not unusual on university campuses, the Phoenix Center at Auraria is special in that it provides services to staff, students and faculty across three institutions of higher education, as well as AHEC. The three Auraria Campus institutions applied for the grant money in tandem.

"An end to domestic violence can be modeled on our campuses and the Phoenix Center at Auraria will be a big part of making that dream a reality," said M. Roy Wilson, chancellor of UC Denver. "The center will be critical to enhancing our understanding of how we can all contribute to end the interpersonal violence so prevalent in our communities today."

The Phoenix Center at Auraria offers a 24-hour confidential helpline (303-556-CALL or -2255), victim support, advocacy and other services. It also will conduct high-profile programming to raise overall understanding among students, faculty and staff of sexual assault, stalking, dating and domestic violence on campus. The center also utilizes student volunteer violence-prevention educators who conduct peer-to-peer education, operate booths and tables at Auraria events, distribute literature and increase visibility of the issue on campus.

Education professor earns distinctions[23]

Gutiérrez

Kris Gutiérrez, professor in the School of Education at the University of Colorado at Boulder, recently was named the inaugural recipient of the Provost's Chair, which recognizes faculty of extraordinary academic distinction. She also was ranked among the top 100 Influentials by Hispanic Business magazine[25].

The Provost's Chair designation is rare — never more than two chairs for the Boulder campus at any one time — and is intended for recruitment or retention of exceptional senior faculty. To be considered, a faculty member must be recognized nationally and internationally for distinguished contributions in research, in classroom teaching and mentoring, and in public service.

The magazine described Gutiérrez, who earned her Ph.d. in education from CU, this way: "With issues of equity and excellence as recurring themes in her work, she is committed to improving the educational condition of Hispanic students at school and throughout the community."

CU staff member to serve as president of regional procurement association[26]

Lydick

Charlene Lydick, C.P.M., associate director of procurement at the University of Colorado Procurement Service Center [28], recently was named president of the National Association of Educational Procurement (NAEP[29]) Rocky Mountain Region.

NAEP promotes cutting-edge, cost-effective, and socially responsible procurement practices and programs. The association's active peer network works to advance professional development and foster community relations among its members.

Lydick joined the Procurement Service Center (PSC) in 2003. She is responsible for overseeing the university's purchasing agents and contract administrators, as well as for managing the strategic contracts and small business programs.

Art director takes post at national design association[30]

Campbell

Michael Campbell, art director of the University of Colorado at Boulder, recently was elected to the University and College Designers Association[32](UCDA) board of directors. He'll begin his term in January.

During the past 20 years, Campbell's award-winning designs on behalf of CU-Boulder have repeatedly achieved recognition by UCDA, the Council for the Support and Advancement of Education (CASE) and other professional communication organizations.

UCDA was founded in 1970 as the nation's first and only association for professionals dedicated to excellence in visual communications for educational institutions. Since its inception, it has grown to an organization of more than 1,000 members through the United States and Canada.

SkillSoft courses[33]

Do you need to learn a new skill quickly? Or need to refresh your memory on a specific topic? SkillSoft courses and resources are available to help solve day-to-day learning needs.For example, if you have questions about a new feature in Excel 2007, you may access training anytime, from any computer. And access the same training as many times as you need.With SkillSoft, you have the ability to pick and choose the topics you want to learn. Also, once you have opened a course, you do not have to complete it.

Try it out. Go to SkillPort, accessed through the myCU portal, and use the "Search for" feature to locate a topic. Type in a choice such as "Excel 2007" and click on Search. A list of courses, books and job aids will appear.

Questions? Visit the Employee Learning and Development Web site[34].

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/colorado-combined-campaign-looks-system-workers-donations[2] https://donor.united-e-way.org/Register.aspx?ReturnUrl=/Default.aspx?campaign=ccc09[3] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/finances-loom-large-next-board-regents-meeting[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/colorado-cancer-researcher-earns-grant-take-leukemia[5] https://connections.cu.edu/file/cancergrantporterjpg[6] http://www.uccc.info/for-healthcare-professional/cancer-center/index.aspx[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/news-briefs-9[8] mailto:Yee.Chan@colorado.edu[9] http://www.colorado.edu/humres/training/seminars.html?a=51[10] http://ev12.evenue.net/cgi-bin/ncommerce3/ExecMacro/evenue/ev69/se/DisplayPromoList.d2w/report?linkID=colorado&RSRC=&RDAT=&caller=PR[11] http://www.colorado.edu/servicelearning/[12] mailto:bickman@colorado.edu[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-astronaut-bring-home-precious-medals-football-game[14] https://connections.cu.edu/file/campusucbjpg-0[15] http://www.cubuffs.com/promo[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/bike-share-program-gets-rolling[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/school-medicine-take-part-nationwide-study-blood-pressure[18] http://www.nih.gov/[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-leaders-named-board-trustees-meeting[20] http://www.cufund.org/[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-phoenix-center-offers-help-students-times-crisis[22] https://connections.cu.edu/file/phoenix2jpg[23] https://connections.cu.edu/people/education-professor-earns-distinctions[24] https://connections.cu.edu/people/education-professor-earns-distinctions/gutierrezjpg-1_black-and-white_fall-newsletter_2009[25] http://www.hispanicbusiness.com/top100influentials/?cat=Education[26] https://connections.cu.edu/people/cu-staff-member-serve-president-regional-procurement-association[27] https://connections.cu.edu/people/cu-staff-member-to-serve-as-president-of-regional-procurement-association/people_lydick[28] https://www.cu.edu/psc[29] http://www.naepnet.org/[30] https://connections.cu.edu/people/art-director-takes-post-

national-design-association[31] https://connections.cu.edu/file/peoplecampbelljpg-0[32] http://ucda.com/[33] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/skillsoft-courses[34] https://www.cu.edu/eld/