Voters send Rennison, Spiegel, Chavez to Board of Regents[1]
[2]

Voters in three Congressional districts on Tuesday chose the newest members of the University of Colorado Board of Regents[3].

Candidates Callie Rennison, Ilana Spiegel and Nolbert Chavez were elected to six-year terms, which they'll begin serving after they take their oaths of office in January.

Once seated, the new board will see its Republican majority flip to Democratic (5-4) for the first time since 1980. The election results also mean women will continue to outnumber men on the board, 5-4, which first happened following the 2018 election.

Incumbents Linda Shoemaker, D-Boulder, District 2; John Carson, R-Highlands Ranch, District 6; and Irene Griego, D-Jefferson County, District 7; all chose not to run for reelection in 2020.

Callie Rennison, D-Superior, will represent the 2nd District. A professor in the School of Public Affairs at CU Denver, Rennison garnered 276,164 votes, or 60%, against challenger Dick R. Murphy, R-Lafayette, who received 166,989 votes, or 36%. Vote totals are those as reported Wednesday morning by the Secretary of State[4].

"First, I am really honored and humbled that the public supported my campaign as they did," Rennison said. "I think it speaks to the change they want to see on the board. Second, I believe my experience in the system across campuses and in different roles will benefit the board and enhance the team's ability to make CU work for everyone. Third, I hope as a board we can take more action on the issues that are important to the people in the system.

"I want to see a deep dive into the budget to ensure our funds are being used to support students, prioritize academics, and support research and teaching. I want to see real action on improving diversity and inclusion versus just talking about it. The time for talking is over, and the time for data, metrics and expectations is now. In addition, I want our work to be more transparent to the community and those in the system so they can see that we are working for them."

Ilana Spiegel, D-Englewood, has a long career in public education. She defeated Richard Murray, R-Highlands Ranch, to represent the 6th District. Spiegel received 210,647 votes, or 54%, against Murray's 173,499 votes, or 44%.

"Our campaign launched with a simple message – to make the University of Colorado a flagship university that's affordable, inclusive, and stands up for our students, educators, and families," Spiegel said. "I am proud to have won this race with such a broad base of support from all political stripes throughout CD 6.

"Together, we helped bring a Democratic majority to the CU Board of Regents for the first time in 40 years. But as a CU Regent, I will represent all the people in our district – and bring pragmatic and thoughtful leadership to the University of Colorado Board of Regents – our third-largest employer in the state."

Nolbert D. Chavez, D-Lakewood, who ran unopposed for the District 7 seat, received 289,051 votes. The Chief of External Initiatives and Executive Director of CityCenter at CU Denver, Chavez previously served in the state Legislature (1995-2002).

"I am very pleased with the result of the election," Chavez said. "I am anxious to work with my new colleagues on the Board of Regents, for the betterment of the entire CU system. I plan to attend new regent orientation over the next few months, in anticipation of being sworn in and hitting the ground running on Jan. 7."

Governor's budget proposal restores cuts to higher ed[5]

The proposed state budget announced Monday by Gov. Jared Polis brought encouraging news for the University of Colorado and other institutions of higher education across the state.

The $35.4 billion budget for the 2021-22 fiscal year, presented to the General Assembly's Joint Budget Committee (JBC), reflects an increase of $3 billion, or 9%, over the current fiscal year. It calls for the restoration of state funding for higher education to the FY 2019-20 level.

The governor is recommending that state employee furloughs begun during the pandemic not be continued next year. State employees would receive no pay increases. Tuition increases at colleges and universities would be capped at 3%.

In his budget summary[6], Polis also emphasized funding for student aid.

"The economic crisis has also underscored the importance of higher education, as those without a four-year college degree are faring worse during the downturn," Polis wrote. "That's why my budget request protects funding for state funded financial aid ($215.6 million) and restores critical operating funds to our public institutions of higher education ($852.0 million), while seeking to ensure that tuition increases are capped at 3% statewide during this challenging time for Colorado students. But this budget goes beyond protecting the status quo, investing $10 million in innovation and transformation to improve operational efficiency at Colorado colleges and universities as they adapt to the 'new normal.'"

See more on the governor's proposed state budget here[7]. Read the budget announcement here[8].

Collins named President's Employee of the Year[9]

[10]

Elizabeth Collins, associate vice president of University Relations, is the 2020 President's Employee of the Year.

Collins received the award Wednesday during a virtual event hosted by System Staff Council.
[11]

"Recognizing the great work of CU employees is one of the best parts of my job," said CU President Mark Kennedy, who thanked all the staff members recognized. "I'm grateful and deeply impressed by your outstanding service."

Among the comments about Collins from colleagues who nominated her:
"With a tremendous work ethic, a deep and thorough knowledge of her field and her constituents and a great attitude, Elizabeth brings tremendous value to her coworkers and to the university. I trust her knowledge, her instincts and her intentions." "Elizabeth is a critical component of some of the most important events the university hosts, and she quite simply makes CU look good at every turn." [12]

Collins welcomed several members of her family to the virtual event, thanking them for their support. She also praised colleagues across the university, and thanked System Staff Council for the honor.

"I feel very blessed and very moved," Collins said.

System Staff Council also recognized the other nominees for the President's Employee of the Year Award:

Shirley Eaves, University Information Services: "Serving as an Application Administrator, Shirley is an integral part of the Service Desk Team. She has quickly garnered respect from everyone she meets because of her can-do demeanor and her vast technical skillset."

Ashley Frakes, Employee Services: "Over the years, Ashley has been thrown new tasks and taken them on with

grace and excitement. She comes to work every day with a bright attitude and desire to support our team."

Adam Newby, University Information Services: "Year-round, Adam successfully manages a large and complex infrastructure environment for CU with flawless execution, attention to detail, and consistently delivering on key tasks early."

Annalissa Philbin, Office of University Counsel: "In addition to her amazing legal skills, she is also a wonderful team player and is always willing to help when needed. She takes customer service to another level with her 'can do' and positive attitude."

William Shelby, University Information Systems: "Regardless of the hours being put in, he continues to bring a positive attitude and energy to his team, UIS, and those customers he loves serving."

Linda Warren, University Information Systems: "Customers love Linda's way of working, her willingness to put the time and effort into providing UIS Customers with best possible solutions."

CU sponsoring Go Red for Women, an American Heart Association benefit[13]
[14]

The University of Colorado is sponsoring 2020 Denver Go Red for Women[15], a virtual event benefiting the American Heart Association.

The digital experience, set for 11 a.m. Nov. 20, offers an opportunity for women across Colorado to come together for an interactive, engaging and fun celebration, all while learning more about how to live a heart healthy life.

Attendees can access interactive heart-healthy cooking demos, a keynote speaker, panel discussions, inspiring survivor stories and much more.

Registration[16] is now open. Visit Heart.org/DenverGoRed[15] for more information, to make a donation[17], and to register[16] for the event.

In 2004, Go Red for Women was born as a campaign to raise awareness among women about their great health threat – heart disease. Slowly, the campaign grew into a movement – one that not only brought together thousands of women annually but became the trusted, passionate, relevant force for change to eradicate heart disease and stroke all over the world. Go Red for Women provides a platform for women and their families to lead healthier lives, and drive collective action for community transformation. It's not just about wearing red; it's not just about sharing heart health facts.

It's about:
Providing women with opportunities to prioritize and take charge of their own health; Building communities that support and provide access to healthy choices; Demanding equal access to healthcare for all women and their families; Increasing women in STEM in upcoming generations.
Cardiovascular diseases, which include stroke, claim the life of a woman about every 80 seconds. We hope you will join us on our mission because about 80 percent of cardiovascular diseases may be prevented.

Impact Report details how Employee Services assists CU community[18]
[19]

Employee Services has released its second annual Impact Report, highlighting ways the department is going the

distance to serve University of Colorado faculty, staff, students and their families.

The report details the CU system administration department's efforts to keep the university workforce strong, healthy and secure, especially in the face of COVID-19's unprecedented challenges. Readers might even discover new programs and services available to them.

This year's report highlights major programs and services through colorful infographics, stories and interviews with members of the CU community. One staff member with a freshman, a sophomore and a senior attending CU Boulder talks about her experience using the Tuition Assistance Benefit. Members of a CU Anschutz department discuss a Skillsoft CU Custom Course that helps them teach medical professionals the warning signs of hemorrhaging in maternity wards. Another department used the Scope of Work process to ensure its climate change assessments in Alaska and Western Canada incorporated perspectives from the region's directly affected indigenous people.

"This year has shown the teamwork and collaboration among our staff with all four CU campuses and partners," said Felicity O'Herron, associate vice president of Employee Services and Chief Human Resources Officer at CU system. "We value your dedicated work for CU, and we'll be here when you need us."

Read the Employee Services Impact Report[20].

Procurement Dashboards deliver data CU can bank on[21]
[22]

Every penny counts. That's why the Procurement Service Center (PSC) has released a new tool that empowers University of Colorado campuses, schools and departments to easily monitor and manage spending.

Procurement Dashboards deliver new daily data to provide users a closer look at spending for their organizations – from high-level overviews down to individual purchases. Each dashboard provides insights into different types of spending, allowing users to better judge performance, control costs and save money.

The Procurement Spend Summary provides a high-level breakdown of Marketplace invoices, Procurement Card and Travel Card expenses, and reimbursements.

The Expense Detail dashboard breaks down Concur expense data, with the ability to filter data by employee, expense type or supplier. Taxonomy dashboards examine Marketplace and Procurement Card data, filtering through six levels of product categorization.

The Air Travel Dashboard delivers an overview of air travel spending, with interactive maps and booking detail filters.

"(We're) putting the power of data analytics in the hands of our customers," said Ed Mills, chief procurement officer for CU system administration. "Campus decision makers will have 24/7 access to fresh data and powerful data analytics and visualization tools. This access will support planning activities, policy monitoring and spending trends."

Integrated dashboard views will enable more data-driven decision making at CU, said Shonna Hughes, director of Procurement Operations and Shared Services.

Clicking through the Expense Detail dashboard, PSC Business Intelligence analyst Kelly Richter provides an example of the dashboard's usefulness in just a few seconds. Filtering down to office supplies, he quickly identifies office supply purchases using travel cards.

"To me, this might be a training issue," Richter said. "If you wanted to reach out to someone in your department to do some training on travel card use, this makes it easy to do so."

Previously, the PSC sent quarterly PDF department scorecards containing this information, which required manual data cleanup for the PSC as well as time to interpret results for department users.

“I am excited to have a new tool in our arsenal for procurement tracking,” said Jacqueline Bannister, business operations analyst with Employee Services. “It will help us track measurable goals throughout the year.”

Building the foundation for data delivery

Procurement Dashboards would not be possible without the creation of the PSC DataMart, which prepares spending data from many CU systems for consumption by users.

The PSC collaborated with University Information Services (UIS) to develop the PSC DataMart, which is a component of CU’s larger data warehouse. UIS teams gathered design requirements; created data architecture, schemas and models; conducted weekly testing to ensure data accuracy; and provisioned appropriate security access for users. A third-party vendor developed a file taxonomy. Overall, UIS invested 3,500 hours in the project with contributions from nine teams.

“We’ve worked on this from the beginning, and the PSC DataMart really uses the best practices and standards out there,” said Lisa Damboise, UIS assistant director of Data and Business Intelligence. “This is now a product UIS owns and supports for the PSC, but it will always be enhanced through collaboration and refinement.”

In future phases, the PSC plans to integrate scorecards and key performance indicators into the dashboards for real-time performance monitoring.

Request dashboard access

Learn more and watch the PSC’s recent webinar[23] to see a demonstration of Procurement Dashboards in action.

To request dashboard access for your CU business needs, please email PSCBusinessIntelligence@cu.edu[24]. For questions, contact the Finance and Procurement Help Desk at FinProHelp@cu.edu[25].

Fauci shares pandemic insights with CU Boulder students[26]

Reddy selected as U.S. Air Force Academy Honorary Commander[27]

Pandemics on the rise: Why?[28]

CU researcher tackles vaccine hesitancy in Colorado’s religious communities[29]

Annual report from CU Innovations celebrates groundbreaking work of faculty[30]

Spaulding named interim associate vice chancellor for equity, diversity and inclusion[31]

Johnson receives prestigious Agency Honor Award from NASA[32]

Coffin announces retirement after transforming CU Boulder advancement operations[33]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/voters-send-rennison-spiegel-chavez-board-regents[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/regent-elects_group.jpg[3] https://www.cu.edu/regents[4] https://results.enr.clarityelections.com/CO/105975/web.264614/#/summary[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/governor-s-budget-proposal-restores-cuts-higher-ed[6] https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XWJacwoc0wvx6aqzDODe6kAsj98q6oqJ/view[7] https://www.colorado.gov/governor/Office-State-Planning-Budgeting[8] https://www.colorado.gov/governor/news/3376-governor-polis-releases-state-budget-proposal[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/collins-named-president-s-employee-year[10] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/peoty_elizabeth-collins_top.jpg[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/peoty_elizabeth-collins_mk.jpg[12] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/peoty_elizabeth-collins_award.jpg[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-sponsoring-go-red-women-american-heart-association-benefit[14] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/go-red_top.png[15] https://ahadenver.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/20202021DenverGoRedLuncheon/tabid/1146998/Default.aspx[16] https://heart.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtd-qrrT8oHtH1QAokE6ZzYlHwnmaSh9Mm?_x_zm_rtaid=vHDEW3-QS6613JyBDRRedQ.1604429227075.d5bf74348e4b5dd868d3cb2f3202b32a&_x_zm_rhtaid=249[17] https://ahadenver.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/20202021DenverGoRedLuncheon/Donation/tabid/1147008/Default.aspx[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/impact-report-details-how-employee-services-assists-cu-community[19] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/es_impact-report.png[20] https://www.cu.edu/employee-services/impact-report[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/procurement-dashboards-deliver-data-cu-can-bank[22] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/proc_dashboards_top.jpg[23] https://www.cu.edu/psc/training/procurement-dashboards[24] mailto:PSCBusinessIntelligence@cu.edu[25] mailto:FinProHelp@cu.edu[26] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/fauci-shares-pandemic-insights-cu-boulder-students[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/reddy-selected-us-air-force-academy-honorary-commander[28] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/pandemics-rise-why[29] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-researcher-tackles-vaccine-hesitancy-colorado-s-religious-communities[30] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/annual-report-cu-innovations-celebrates-groundbreaking-work-faculty[31] https://connections.cu.edu/people/spaulding-named-interim-associate-vice-chancellor-equity-diversity-and-inclusion[32] https://connections.cu.edu/people/johnson-receives-prestigious-agency-honor-award-nasa[33] https://connections.cu.edu/people/coffin-announces-retirement-after-transforming-cu-boulder-advancement-operations