Regents candidates: Why we want to serve[1]

The Nov. 8 general election ballot will feature three races for seats on the nine-member University of Colorado Board of Regents. Victors will begin serving their six-year terms in January.

One of the posts, an at-large seat, will be elected by voters statewide. Residents of the 1st and 4th Congressional Districts also will choose a regent.

CU Connections invited each candidate to respond to this request:

Please tell the faculty and staff of the University of Colorado system why you wish to serve on the Board of Regents.

(In the case of the one incumbent board member, Sue Sharkey, the question is, “Why do you wish to continue serving?”)

We asked that they limit their written responses to roughly 250 words. All six candidates registered with the state responded. Here are their answers:

AT LARGE Heidi Ganahl, R-Superior

http://heidiganahl.com/[2]

I’ve been blessed to live the American dream. Most folks know me as the founder of Camp Bow Wow, the country’s largest pet care franchise!

I care about our kids getting the same opportunity I had – to do what they love to unleash their own American dream. I believe education is key to keeping that American dream alive!

I love CU – I graduated from CU Boulder (master’s at DU), I’ve been on various CU boards, and now I’m on the board of directors for the CU Foundation.

I’m a mom of four. I’ve built a successful business and charity, and I’m ready to lead at CU.

If elected, I would like to make sure that students and parents are getting the very best value possible for their tuition dollar.

We need to keep college affordable and make sure when students graduate they have the tools they need to get a great job.

CU has always stood for academic excellence and strives to attract and graduate students from a range of backgrounds. We need to continue to cultivate a diverse group of faculty and students.

Let’s also focus on keeping our college campuses safe. We’re dealing with campus sexual assault, substance abuse and increasing mental health issues. Let’s make sure we are doing all we can on that front.

Finally, I am focused on making sure academic freedom stays alive and well at CU, with feisty collaborative debate and a focus on teaching students how to think not what to think.

Alice Madden, D-Louisville

http://vote.madden4cu.com/[3]

CU has played a pivotal role in my life, and I want to give back to the university and the people it serves. I received my bachelor’s and J.D. from CU, and have worked at CU Denver and Colorado Law. My experience in high-tech, as a lawyer, legislator and convener built my record as a problem solver who can work across the aisle. In the Legislature, I advocated for funding and equal access to higher ed. I support paying staff (including TAs, Ph.Ds, adjuncts) a living wage. I know the CU system from varying perspectives and understand the complexities of

budgeting/accreditation/rankings.

I will fight to end this trend of backbreaking loan debt. Since 2001, Colorado has cut its support of higher ed in half and is now ranked 48th in state support. The Regents' conservative majority refused to support a bipartisan effort to access $700 million for state needs (a bill President Benson supported). State funding is no panacea, but it is an essential tool that shouldn't be ignored due to political ideologies.

Student/faculty diversity is a high priority of mine, paired with equal focus on improving graduation rates of URMs across the system. In contrast, my opponent often speaks of "diversity of political thought." I agree that is important, but cannot be allowed to reduce racial diversity goals to lip service or interfere with scientific research.

In closing, I am proud of my bipartisan support and want to bring that ability to form broad-based collaborations to the Regents.
DISTRICT 1 Jack Kroll, D-Denver
krollforcolorado.com[4]

As an admission officer for the University of Colorado, I am excited to bring to the Board an employee perspective.

That being said, I hope to bring more than just an employee perspective. Over the last decade I have experienced many different roles and embodied a host of identities at CU Denver, CU Boulder and the system office. These include: graduate of CU Denver with bachelor's in English and economics; student body president (CU Denver); Chair of the Inter-Campus Student Forum and student representative to the Board of Regents (CU system); alumni association president (CU Denver); ex-officio trustee (CU Foundation); graduate student (CU Denver); and university staff (CU Boulder).

In my time at CU I have worked with and learned from wonderful people from many walks of life. The common thread among my fellow students, staff and faculty is a strong passion for leveraging knowledge and education to better our own lives as well as the lives of people all across the globe.

It has been an honor to dedicate the last 10 years of my life to CU and it would be an honor to continue my service as a Regent of our university.
Jennifer Qualteri, R-Denver (write-in)
http://www.qualteri4regent.com/home.html[5]

My favorite reason for serving is because I can get involved by volunteering since it is a non-paid position, and volunteerism is a core in democracy.

There are other exciting items on my agenda:
For students, I want to advocate for lower tuition that can be self-funded by the individual, and find budget solutions that allow for this. When I was attending CU's business school there was one term stuck in my head, that being "fat cat," and I hope to advocate for improving infrastructure in such a way that the budget is a plump "fat cat" by achieving economies of scale on the four campuses. I want for professors to have tools to be world-renowned researchers or accomplished teaching departments. I would like to achieve this goal by advocating for increased number of Research Associates and Research Assistants, Program Assistants that will continually apply for grants, increase the number of Teaching Assistants, increase the number of Tenure Professors, and job offers for spouses. It is inherent that adjunct faculty are not highly paid and I would like to make up for that by policy such as accepting applicants with Master's and Bachelor's degrees, reduced tuition for family members, flexible work schedules, better paid better treated non-tenure track faculty, and process to ensure job security. I have this philosophy for staff: Flatten the hierarchy. This will save on salary and benefits by creating lead positions where the people doing the work are also the decision makers. DISTRICT 4 Bob Owens, D-Douglas County
http://www.douglasdemocrats.org/2016-election[6]

I am running for Regent because I believe higher education in Colorado and CU in particular need more state funding.

I also am a strong believer in academic freedom.

Since I filed for the position, I have moved my residence from CD 4 to CD 6. If I were elected, the Democratic CD 4 committee would have to appoint a replacement for me.

Sue Sharkey, R-Castle Rock
http://sharkey4regent.com/[7]

Serving on the CU Board of Regents has been a great honor, as well as an opportunity to serve the people of Colorado. I believe that education is key to achieving the American Dream, and a well-educated citizenry is vital to a healthy democracy.

It's crucial to provide access to educational opportunities for underserved populations, through technology, pre-collegiate programs, and traditional campus learning. In addition, we must keep tuition affordable while state funding diminishes.

The university has, and must continue to focus on fiscal responsibility, seeking cost reductions and efficiencies, while reducing costly, inefficient policies. Increasing revenue is key, and the university must look outward for identifying revenue opportunities.

I also strongly believe in the freedom and equality of ideas. My efforts have been instrumental in establishing policy that fights discrimination based on political affiliation and philosophy. Working on these challenges has been my focus in my first term, and I will continue that effort through initiatives such as the Visiting Scholar in Conservative Thought and Policy at the Boulder campus, in addition to growing the Center for Western Civilization.

At-large regent candidates slated for telephone town hall[8]

Voters have an opportunity to take part in a telephone town hall with the two CU regents candidates for the at-large seat competing on the November ballot.

Heidi Ganahl, a Republican from Superior, and Alice Madden, a Democrat from Louisville, will be part of the Sunday event presented by the CU Advocates program.

The telephone town hall will allow CU constituents from across the state to ask questions and hear from the candidates, who will discuss their campaign platforms in a balanced, non-debate format.

The conference call is slated for 3-4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 16. Callers should dial 1-562-247-8422 and enter access code 901 602 637#

Registration[9] is requested. Registrants may submit questions in advance.

Click here[1] to read more about the 2016 Board of Regents races on the November ballot.

Cheers to the cheerleaders: Brightest CU Advocates honored[10]
[11]

Celebrating its fifth anniversary, the CU Advocates[12] program on Oct. 4 honored six of its members with awards during a reception at the Denver Country Club.

The recognition was given for exceptional advocacy on behalf of the University of Colorado.

More than 100 people attended the event, hosted by President Bruce and Marcy Benson. The CU Advocates program now counts 3,300 members around the world.

The program presents about 37 social and informational events annually across the state, showcasing various aspects of CU's educational, outreach and service missions.

"Our growth is steady, our partnerships with other organizations are relevant and the need for people's interest to learn more about CU is insatiable," said Michele McKinney, assistant vice president for external affairs and advocacy. "I am very pleased with the trajectory of the program."

She joined President Benson in presenting the awards, capped by Advocate of the Year honors going to **Kimbirly Orr** of Centennial. The longtime booster was chosen for her commitment to being the most informed and engaged CU Advocate.

A past president of CU alumni chapters in metro Denver and Los Angeles, she is credited with raising awareness of the CU Advocates program among a wide circle of colleagues.

"Kimbirly has demonstrated a great level of grassroots advocacy to help support and promote CU in her own unique way, and leveraging her leadership role with the Forever Buffs Metro Denver Alumni Chapter and the alumni boards and organizations she selflessly serves on," McKinney said.

Orr regularly promotes joint events with the CU Advocates and works to advance the program via social media, marketing concepts and regular attendance at CU events. The reception featured a screening of this testimonial video [13].

"I was overwhelmed to receive such a prestigious award from my alma mater," Orr said. "I gratefully serve on the CU Advocates board because I believe CU Advocates is the most important program in the CU system. It provides great opportunities to volunteer, to serve and to become educated about everything CU is doing on all four campuses."

The other awardees recognized at the annual celebration are:

Marty Coffin Evans and Robert Trembly of Boulder, CU Advocates Travelers of the Year: It's rare that the couple's frequent travel plans don't include ties to CU, whether it's a Buffs football game in Hawaii or the NASA MAVEN launch in Florida. Both are donors and members of the CU Directors Club; Evans also is a member of the CU Foundation Board of Trustees and a founding member of Women Investing in School of Education.

Herb Fenster of Boulder, CU Advocate for the Greater Good: A CU Boulder parent, he was selected for his advocacy to support public higher education in Colorado. His law firm provides substantial pro bono service, including work on the TABOR lawsuit. He has served on several boards at CU Boulder, including the Center of the American West, the Student Affairs Advisory Board and the board of the ATLAS Institute, which he helped create.

Cam Low of Boulder, CU Advocate Cheerleader of the Year: The CU Boulder alumna leverages social media, graphic design and photography skills to promote CU events – including Grad Bash, Buffalo Bike Classic and CU Scoop – where she frequently volunteers. She earned kudos for her commitment and enthusiasm to all things CU, including serving on the CU Boulder Alumni chapter board, and for recruiting new members to the Boulder Forever Buffs and CU Advocates.

Zach Rothmier of Denver, CU Advocate Supporter of the Year: The self-proclaimed “Lynx-Buffalo hybrid” – master’s from CU Denver, bachelor’s from CU Boulder – was commended for putting his passion for and knowledge of CU into motion. He ended his Board of Regents campaign after eight months, but not before touting CU extensively across the 1st Congressional District. He worked at CU’s Center for Education Policy Analysis and has joined the CU Advocates advisory board.

Among the attendees at the Oct. 4 event were three past winners of CU Advocate of the Year: Colin Finch (2015), George Gramer (2014) and Alvin Rivera (2013).

Save the date: CU Women Succeeding[14]

CU Women Succeeding, the 15th annual professional development symposium, is set for March 2-3, 2017, at Berger Hall on the University of Colorado Colorado Springs campus.

The theme for the event, sponsored by the Faculty Council Women’s Committee, is “All Four:Colorado.” Regent Linda Shoemaker is slated to deliver the keynote address.

Visit the website[15] for more information, including the call for proposals and request for nominations for the Elizabeth Gee Award. Submission deadline: 5 p.m. Nov. 15.

Registration will open Nov. 14; faculty and staff across the CU system are invited to register.

Questions: Isabella.muturisauve@cu.edu[16]
[17]

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