Board of Regents election preview: Candidates on why they want to serve[1]

Colorado voters next month will select the newest three members of the University of Colorado Board of Regents.

Incumbents Linda Shoemaker, D-Boulder, from the 2nd Congressional District; John Carson, R-Highlands Ranch, from the 6th Congressional District; and Irene Griego, D-Jefferson County, from the 7th Congressional District; all chose not to run for reelection in 2020, meaning one-third of the nine-member board will be new beginning in January. Terms run six years.

Like voters across the state, CU faculty and staff are considering candidates.

Earlier this month, a District 6 candidate forum was presented by the University of Colorado Staff Council, University of Colorado Faculty Council and the CU Anschutz Faculty Assembly. A video recording of the virtual event is posted here [2].

CU Connections invited the major-party candidates on the ballot 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.

We asked that they limit their written responses to roughly 250 words.

Here are the answers we received:
District 2

Callie Rennison
D-Superior
https://callie4cu.com/[3]

I'm running for CU Regent to make a difference in the lives of students, staff and faculty at CU. I want CU to work for everyone – not just the most advantaged and privileged in society and in the CU system. I want to work to make changes that support us all.

I'm a first-generation college student and a community college graduate. I am now full professor in the School of Public Affairs on the Denver campus where my research focuses on college students, women, and marginalized groups. Much of my research focuses on sexual violence – endemic in society and on college campuses. I've also served in leadership roles including as Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs at CU Denver, and as the Director of the Office of Equity and Title IX Coordinator at CU Anschutz and CU Denver. These experiences will serve me well as Regent.

CU has so much to be proud of, yet I have seen how CU isn't working for everyone. It is not working for low-income families or the middle class. CU isn't working for too many of our students, staff and faculty because they don't feel welcome, safe or included on our campuses. I will work to attract diverse students, staff and faculty, and more importantly, I will work to retain them. I want to bring my personal and professional experience, and the voice of the people of CU, to the Board of Regents.

Dick R. Murphy
R-Lafayette
http://murphyforcu.com/[4]

Did not respond.
District 6

Richard Murray
R-Highlands Ranch
https://www.murrayforcuregent.com/[5]

This fall marks 20 years since I first stepped foot on the CU Boulder campus as a student. Now, with two decades of experience and dedication to the University of Colorado, I want to do everything I can to make my alma mater the best university system in the country.

I am everything I am because of CU — the education it provided me, the experiences it gave me, and the opportunities it created. I'm a two-time alumnus of CU Boulder (undergraduate and law degrees). While at CU, I served as a Student Body President (Tri-Executive), working closely with the CU system on key issues, including revenue shortfalls, diversity and inclusion, faculty recruitment and retention, scholarships, and long-term planning. As a Tri-Exec, I served on the Chancellor's Executive Committee and Boulder Campus Planning Commission, along with multiple other committees. I have kept strong ties to CU over the past 20 years and recently served as the Chair of the CU Law Alumni Board, working on issues of tuition costs, diversity, scholarships and job placement.

I understand the importance of affordable, high-quality and accessible public education, building consensus in decision-making, and collaborating with others from different perspectives. As a student government leader, I lived within the shared governance system and worked with faculty, staff, the Regents and the President's office, as well as the Legislature and our alumni. The success of CU is personal to me and I will always fight for what is best for our university and its students.

Ilana Spiegel
D-Englewood
https://www.ilana4regent.com/[6]

Now, more than ever, we need a change in leadership direction that empowers students, faculty, staff and the community that CU serves. As the mother of a University of Colorado student and educator, I'm running to make CU a flagship for our nation and a place where young people from all different backgrounds can obtain a world-class education. By improving transparency in the budget, driving down costs, and increasing financial aid opportunities, CU will open the doors of higher education to all Coloradans, regardless of background or wealth.

Academic freedom is a building block of our democracy and education systems. Proposals that dictate curriculum and communications are disrespectful and dangerous policies that violate academic freedom and free speech. CU operates best when we trust our educators to teach a curriculum that does not put them in danger of losing their job or targeted for repression. Our students benefit most when our faculty and teachers are able to address controversial subjects in the classroom. The role of free speech on our public university campuses is to engage in a civil discourse of ideas, not to threaten, intimidate or harass.

CU ranks last in diversity in the Pac-12. It's time to do more. To address this issue, we need to listen to our students, faculty and staff by adding and following a systemwide CU Anti-Racist Creed.

My extensive experience in education, education policy, and governmental budgeting provides a 360-degree view of public education and leadership that is responsive to Colorado's hard-working families.
District 7
Note: Candidate is running unopposed.

Nolbert D. Chavez
D-Lakewood
https://www.chavezforcu.com/[7]

As an alum, student, parent of a student, former lecturer, CU Denver administrator, donor and mentor, there are numerous reasons why I decided to run; I would like to share one example:

Twenty-four years ago, I was a young state legislator who was invited (along with several other legislators of color) to visit CU Boulder to meet with students, staff and faculty of color, to discuss why there weren't more men and women

of color on campus.

The Legislature was in session, so about 12 of us made the trip from the Capitol to Boulder. While we received a warm welcome from dozens of students and faculty, no one from the campus administration, Chancellor's office, President's office, or Board of Regents bothered to attend.

Diversity, equity and inclusion were simply not priorities on the CU Boulder campus (or any other campus) at the time. Chancellors were not getting pressure from the president to prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion, because the president wasn't getting any pressure from the Board of Regents.

Fast-forward 24 years, and not a lot has changed on most campuses. The numbers tell the story.

Society is demanding a seismic shift. For CU, reversing decades of systemic racism and oppression can only come from a new Board of Regents. One of the many reasons I am running is to ensure that conversations like the one I attended more than two decades ago are granted a whole heck of a lot more respect today than they were then.

DEI Innovation Fund will augment campuses, system diversity efforts[8]
[9]

Diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) efforts at the university got a boost after CU President Mark Kennedy collaborated with the CU Foundation Board of Directors to create a $5 million DEI Innovation Fund that provides resources for initiatives on each campus and at system administration.

The funding will be split evenly, with each campus and system administration receiving $1 million. The board's finance committee approved the move last week, and final approval is expected from the full CU Foundation board soon.
[10]

"We want to foster innovation in DEI programming across the system, so we appreciate the partnership with the CU Foundation to help us do so," Kennedy said. "There are many great ideas across the CU system to advance our diversity efforts, and we hope this additional funding will allow us to implement some of them."

The fund aligns with the metrics in the Leaning Into the Future strategic plan, which has paused until next semester. The plan states that CU is committed to improving retention and graduation rates for underrepresented students; increasing the percentage of underrepresented populations among students, faculty and staff; and ensuring that people from all the categories of the Board of Regents' definition of diversity feel included at CU.

"This funding should augment some of the work that is already happening across the CU system and allow us to invest in projects that we may not otherwise be able to fund," said Theodosia Cook, system chief diversity officer.

Funds will focus on projects that address any one of the following challenges:
Compliance and people relations challenge: How can CU identify and address cultural breaches? Attracting and recruiting challenge: How can CU attract and recruit a diverse population of students, faculty and staff? Onboarding and alignment challenge: How can CU welcome or recommit new faculty, staff and students to CU's culture and goals? Learning and development challenge: How can CU provide opportunities to increase its retention and graduation rates, as well as support faculty and staff with professional and personal development?
Campus chancellors will establish a process for collecting project ideas. They will review and approve project submissions and submit to Kennedy and Cook. Chancellors will also provide quarterly updates on the project's progress.

Deans of CU business schools introduce CU Diverse Doctorates in Business program[11]

Online Design and Development team recognized with national award[12]
[13]

The Online Design and Development Team from CU's Office of Digital Education was selected by the Online Learning Consortium[14] (OLC) as the recipient of its 2020 Excellence in Faculty Development for Online Teaching Award[15].

The national award recognizes an OLC member institution for the development and delivery of an outstanding, comprehensive program for faculty professional development in online teaching. OLC is a collaborative community of education leaders and innovators, and is recognized nationally as the leading professional organization dedicated to advancing quality digital teaching and learning experiences designed to reach and engage the modern learner – anyone, anywhere, anytime.

Jason Drysdale, Ed.D., Director of Instructional Design and Program Development, and his team will be recognized at a virtual ceremony and gala Nov. 9 during the 2020 OLC Accelerate Conference[16], collectively one of the largest gatherings of the online learning community. The Online Design and Development team calls its suite of professional learning experiences Online Skills Mastery, or OSM (pronounced "awesome").

Universities across the world have been relying on their instructional design teams more than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Online Design and Development team is no exception: Over the 2019-20 fiscal year, the team collaborated with faculty on 15 program designs and 84 courses, and had 2,841 faculty register for one or more of the 72 trainings and workshops offered. The impact has been substantial: The team's innovative program has helped equip faculty with important online teaching practices such as teaching presence and universal design for learning.

Further highlights of OSM include the flagship online course on the foundations of student-centered online teaching that is taught by senior instructional designers. Preceding the eight-week course, many faculty participate in collaborative course mapping — a design process centered on the relationships that humanize online learning and help students and faculty succeed in digital environments.

"Digital technologies enable online teaching and learning, but it's the trusting and authentic relationships that matter most," Drysdale said. "When we design courses in collaboration with faculty and build each other up through our diverse experiences and expertise, we create something better in partnership than what one person can accomplish alone. That's the core of our team's work and identity: We are with you and for you, through and through."

Sheana Bull, Interim Senior Faculty Fellow for Online Learning, said, "We are so pleased that our instructional design team has been recognized for their collaborative approach to instructional design. Their philosophy is one that is not only focused on ensuring the design of high-quality online courses, but also on building capacity of faculty to utilize evidence-based strategies to design and deliver their courses, an approach that differs from how instructional design is typically implemented."

The OLC recognizes outstanding work in the field of online and blended education through its annual awards.

"Award recipients were hand-selected by our esteemed board of directors and awards selection committee for their exemplary contributions to the field," said Jennifer Mathes, CEO of OLC. "These individuals are not only making a difference within their organizations; they are elevating our community's efforts in advancing quality online and blended learning experiences designed to reach all learners."

OLC inspires innovation and quality through an extensive set of resources, including, best-practice publications, quality benchmarking, leading-edge instruction, community-driven conferences, practitioner-based and empirical research and expert guidance. The growing OLC community includes faculty members, administrators, trainers, instructional

designers, and other learning professionals, as well as educational institutions, professional societies and corporate enterprises. Visit http://onlinelearningconsortium.org[14] for more information.

Faculty invited to contribute to CU Connections commentaries[17]
[18]

The Faculty Council Communications Committee and CU Connections invite you to join our forum for conversation across the four CU campuses: CU Faculty Voices[19].

In this series of commentaries, CU faculty are invited to submit written pieces with a point of view. The goal is to foster conversation about current topics and issues on the minds of faculty at the four campuses. We welcome submissions that explore these topics through the authors' personal opinion, experience, or research.

Selected pieces will be published on the CU Connections website and promoted in the CU Connections email newsletter, which is distributed to all CU faculty and staff across the system.

At the authors' request, university communications staff will make every effort to disseminate the article more broadly via other CU publications and external media. Authors also will receive an appreciation gift for their time, such as CU branded items, tickets for the University of Colorado A-line train, etc., as well as a letter of recognition for their service from the Faculty Council Communications Committee and the CU Vice President of Communication.

Content should be timely and relevant to the faculty and/or staff of the University of Colorado system. Subjects may be local (specific people and issues rooted at CU) or universal (pertaining to higher education in Colorado, the United States or the world).

Examples:
Policy issues, from the campus level to the national level Fostering a diverse and inclusive campus culture Legislative issues (no overtly partisan, political or personal attacks) Tenure and promotion Professional challenges in research, publishing, teaching and service work Balancing work, family and health Online teaching and degrees Environmental sustainability of university campuses
Guidelines:
Each article should be an original work, approximately 800-1,100 words in length, not previously submitted elsewhere for publication. Use clear, informal writing, free of jargon. Consider the style of newspaper opinion pieces and editorials, rather than essays for scholarly journals. When useful, include hyperlinks to relevant online material (facts and figures, news coverage, etc.).
Interested contributors should begin by submitting a brief pitch (just a sentence or two is fine), including the topic and the writer's interest or expertise in this area. Click here to send a summary of your idea[20].

CU Connections reserves the right to exercise editorial oversight. Submissions will be edited for length, clarity and editorial style.

Questions? Contact the one of the co-chairs of the Faculty Council Communications Committee, Carrie Makarewicz [21] or Carmen Stavrositu[22], or the editor of CU Connections, Jay Dedrick[23].

Redesigned website showcases community outreach programs[24]

Anthropologists, linguists analyze the 2020 election in workshop series [25]

State of the Campus Address: Reddy speaks to living in a changing world[26]

In-person instruction: Adaptability is key[27]

President Trump's COVID-19 treatment takes the national spotlight[28]

Former CU Boulder postdoc Doudna smashes glass ceiling with historic Nobel win[29]

Weiss to discuss free speech and cancel culture in Benson Center webinar [30]

Potter on promising Alzheimer's trials, treatments in process[31]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/board-regents-election-preview-candidates-why-they-want-serve[2] https://youtu.be/k0VfhnDoR1w[3] https://callie4cu.com/[4] http://murphyforcu.com/[5] https://www.murrayforcuregent.com/[6] https://www.ilana4regent.com/[7] https://www.chavezforcu.com/[8] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/dei-innovation-fund-will-augment-campuses-system-diversity-efforts[9] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/dei_top.jpg[10] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/fac_cncl_kennedy.jpg[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/deans-cu-business-schools-introduce-cu-diverse-doctorates-business-program[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/online-design-and-development-team-recognized-national-award[13] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/2020_10-15_online-learning-award.jpg[14] http://onlinelearningconsortium.org/[15] https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/about/olc-awards/excellence-faculty-development-online-teaching/[16] https://onlinelearningconsortium.org/attend-2020/accelerate/[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-invited-contribute-cu-connections-commentaries[18] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/cufv_logo_hdr_0.jpg[19] https://connections.cu.edu/tag/cu-faculty-voices[20] https://connections.cu.edu/cu-faculty-voices[21] mailto:carrie.makarewicz@ucdenver.edu[22] mailto:cstavros@uccs.edu[23] mailto:jay.dedrick@cu.edu[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/redesigned-website-showcases-community-outreach-programs[25] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/anthropologists-linguists-analyze-2020-election-workshop-series[26] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/state-campus-address-reddy-speaks-

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