Ralphie in space! One mascot and her adventures across the solar system [1]

President Saliman, Black women leaders discuss community support for student success [2]
[3]

With diversity, equity, inclusion and access being a pillar in the University of Colorado's strategic plan, President Todd Saliman remains steadfast in his outreach to various constituent groups important to the pillar's success.

This past Saturday, President Saliman had the opportunity to speak to a group of Black women leaders from metro Denver who have ties to the education space. The group included administrators with responsibility in early childhood, K-12 and higher education. Additionally, there were nonprofit leaders from organizations that ranged from the Boys and Girls Club to the Black Chamber of Commerce.
[4]

President Saliman briefed the group on CU's efforts to attract, retain and graduate students in underrepresented populations across the four campuses. He also discussed ways in which CU is working to keep tuition in check through programs like CU Promise, CU Boulder's Esteemed Scholars Program and the Colorado Scholars Program, to name a few. The conversation went well past the allotted time because of the great discussion points that were generated from President Saliman's remarks.

Other topics that generated a good deal of discussion included interest in how the university is supporting and implementing programs for students interested in entrepreneurship and how more faculty of color can be recruited to the campuses to help support and engage student growth.

As a follow-up to the discussion, the group is searching for ways that they, as individuals and as a collective, can support CU's efforts to keep our community's best and brightest in Colorado. Denver East High School Principal Terita Walker mentioned that she attended the last Buffs football game and was so excited to run across many of her previous students on the CU Boulder campus. She noted how important it is for all Colorado high school students to feel welcome at CU.
[5]

Also attending the event with President Saliman were Regent Wanda James and Vice President for Communication Jeff Howard. Regent James emphasized the need for programs and initiatives that attract and retain underrepresented individuals and small businesses in all aspects of the CU system.

President Saliman joins Cafecito meeting, provides update on diversity efforts at CU[6]
[7]

President Todd Saliman attended the Oct. 13 meeting of Denver Cafecito, a group focused on public policy and other issues of importance to Denver's Latina community, including higher education. Colorado business and nonprofit leaders Rosemary Rodriguez, Michelle Lucero and Denise Maes established the group years ago to coalesce the community, and all attended last week's meeting, which drew roughly 50 members of the Latina community to Bonacquisti Wine Company in Denver.

Having first met with Cafecito earlier this year, Saliman provided an update to the group about efforts to advance diversity and equity on CU's campuses. Among the work Saliman highlighted were system administration's recent investments in CU Denver's Latino Research & Policy Center[8], UCCS' emerging Hispanic Serving Institute-status, and the Colorado School of Public Health's certificate in Latino Health[9]. Saliman also discussed CU Boulder's expansion of the CU Promise[10] program, which covers tuition and fees for resident undergraduates who are eligible

for Pell Grants. CU Boulder's expansion of the program, which is offered at all of CU's campuses, doubles the number of undergraduates with the greatest financial need the program can serve.

Additionally, Saliman updated the group on changes made to CU Boulder's admissions process – specifically, effecting a shorter turnaround time in notifying applicants on their admissions status – after Cafecito members voiced concerns about the issue to Saliman when he met with them earlier this year.

Joining Saliman at the meeting were Regent Nolbert Chavez, Senior Diversity Officer Judi Diaz Bonacquisti and Vice President for Outreach and Engagement Tony Salazar.
[11]

Staff Council honors exceptional CU employees[12]

The University of Colorado Staff Council (UCSC) recently honored 10 exceptional employees across the CU system with the 2023 Staff Excellence Awards.

CU staff members – two from each campus and from system administration – received the honors, which annually recognize those who go above and beyond their job duties and consistently surpass expectations. Each received a $250 award presented at the Oct. 6 ceremony at the Hilton Inverness Denver in Englewood.

This year's recipients are:

University of Colorado Boulder

Kara Bajdas

Bree Orozco

University of Colorado Colorado Springs

Chrissie Bailey

Kristina Coggins

University of Colorado Denver

Tawnya Boulier

Kenny Sisco

University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus

Jennifer Thurston

Lisa Testaverde

University of Colorado System Administration

Kristina Mendez

Faraz Ali

See more on the awardees here.[13]

Each year, a variety of CU leaders are invited to attend the ceremony. This year we were excited to have Regents Frank McNulty, Lesley Smith and Ilana Dubin Spiegel in attendance, with Regent McNulty addressing attendees.

“You all show up daily to advance the work and to put CU’s best foot forward,” McNulty said. “The way I see it, there is no University of Colorado without you and your colleagues sitting at the very center of what we do best and showing up every day.”

This year’s call for nominations resulted in over 300; of those, over 200 nominees were eligible to receive the award. It is truly inspirational to hear how each nominee has positively impacted those they work with, their work culture, and has in some way made CU a better place to work.

“The University of Colorado is about doing great things and you are at the very center of the remarkable things the university is doing to transform research, radically change discovery and innovation, advance life-saving health care, and much, much more, including exploring the stars,” McNulty said. “Together, we are positively impacting our state, our nation and our world.”

For more information about the Staff Excellence Awards or the University of Colorado Staff Council, please visit our website: https://www.cu.edu/ucsc/ucsc-staff-excellence-award[13].

- By Shelly Lange, Communications Officer, University of Colorado Staff Council

CU data center relocated to CU Anschutz Medical Campus [14]

Regents Finance Committee gives initial OK to four CU Boulder construction projects[15]

The Regents Finance Committee[16] last week advanced plans for four construction-related projects at CU Boulder for consideration by the full Board of Regents at its Nov. 7-8 meeting at UCCS.

The committee voted in favor of the proposals during the Oct. 11 meeting held via Zoom. The items will be included on the consent agenda at the November board meeting.

Chris Ewing, vice chancellor for infrastructure and sustainability at CU Boulder, presented information on the structural restoration of Old Main, equipment replacement at the West District Energy Plant, construction of the new Residence One student housing building, and a video board upgrade at Folsom Field.

The $14.3 million project at Old Main, CU’s first campus building, will repair and restore critical exterior and structural elements, and includes window and door restoration that will improve energy efficiency. It’s slated to begin in early 2024 and be completed in spring 2025.

The West District Energy Plant provides heat and cooling to most of the main campus and provides backup power when needed for the main and research campuses. The $43.1 million project includes the replacement of steam and power-generating equipment, addressing emissions compliance and generating cleaner power than can be currently purchased from the grid. The project is scheduled to begin in January 2024 and be completed in summer 2025.

Scheduled to open in fall 2026, the 129,000-square-foot Residence One will address a lack of housing for upper-level students. The 325- to 350-bed structure, to be located just north of the main campus, will have LEED Gold certification

for energy efficiency. Total project cost is $124.4 million.

The outdated video board on the south end of Folsom Field will be replaced by one that's 117-by-40 feet, about equal to the national peer average. The $16.3 million project will begin after the close of the current football season, with a goal of completion by the first home football game in fall 2024.

The committee also received an update on higher education construction projects that will be considered for state funding next year. Kori Donaldson, assistant vice president for budget, planning and capital, presented the list of capital construction projects as prioritized by the Colorado Commission on Higher Education, which makes recommendations to the governor's office ahead of its November budget proposal.

CU projects on the 28-item list are the Guggenheim Geography Building renovation at CU Boulder (ranked No. 4), Macky Auditorium renovation at CU Boulder (16), the Strauss Health Sciences Library renovation at CU Anschutz (21) and CU Boulder's Economics Building renovation (28). Also on the list, at No. 19, is the Auraria Campus Safety Center, serving CU Denver and the two other Auraria Higher Education Center institutions.

Last week's meeting of the Regents Finance Committee also featured Richard Wobbekind and Brian Lewandowski from the CU Boulder Leeds School of Business presenting a preliminary draft of the new CU economic impact study [17]. Read more here[18].

The committee also heard an informational session on CU's investment strategy, including how University Treasury is committed to sustainability, and a summary of ways CU promotes sustainability across the system.

The next Regents Finance Committee meeting is scheduled for Jan. 26, 2024.

AB Nexus transforming intercampus research collaboration after just three years [19]

Arts & Resiliency Gathering offers performances, workshops [20]

CU Denver celebrates Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution designation[21]

Coaching program reduces burnout in medical residents [22]

Betz elected as new member of National Academy of Medicine [23]

Okigbo named interim director of American Music Research Center [24]

In memoriam: Robert von Dassanowsky [25]

CU Boulder seeks to be a leader in innovation nationwide[26]

No longer just “hippie” moms-to-be: More women delivering babies at home with Colorado midwives[27]

Colorado Springs education students pay MCSD a visit[28]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/ralphie-space-one-mascot-and-her-adventures-across-solar-system[2] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/president-saliman-black-women-leaders-discuss-community-support-student-success[3] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/img_1001.jpg[4] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/img_1002_todd_saliman_crop.jpg[5] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/img_1003_wanda_james_crop.jpg[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/president-saliman-joins-cafecito-meeting-provides-update-diversity-efforts-cu[7] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/cafecito_feat.jpg[8] https://news.ucdenver.edu/deepens-research-activities-latino-research-policy-center-professor-carlos-hipolito-delgado-interim-executive-director/[9] https://coloradosph.cuanschutz.edu/education/degrees-and-programs/certificates/certificate-in-latino-health[10] https://www.ucdenver.edu/student-finances/financial-aid/types/grants/cu-promise[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/cafecito_1_todd_chatting_10-19-2023.jpg[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/staff-council-honors-exceptional-cu-employees[13] https://www.cu.edu/ucsc/ucsc-staff-excellence-award[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-data-center-relocated-cu-anschutz-medical-campus[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-finance-committee-gives-initial-ok-four-cu-boulder-construction-projects[16] https://regents.cu.edu/committees[17] https://go.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/CWHRDS6D817B/$file/D1.%20FY2023_CU_Impact_Study_Report_Final.pdf[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/university-colorado-campuses-drive-108-billion-economic-impact[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/ab-nexus-transforming-intercampus-research-collaboration-after-just-three-years[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/arts-resiliency-gathering-offers-performances-workshops[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-denver-celebrates-asian-american-native-american-pacific-islander-serving-institution[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/coaching-program-reduces-burnout-medical-residents[23] https://connections.cu.edu/people/betz-elected-new-member-national-academy-medicine[24] https://connections.cu.edu/people/okigbo-named-interim-director-american-music-research-center[25] https://connections.cu.edu/people/memoriam-robert-von-dassanowsky[26] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/cu-boulder-seeks-be-leader-innovation-nationwide[27] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/no-longer-just-hippie-moms-be-more-women-delivering-babies-home-colorado-midwives[28] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/colorado-springs-education-students-pay-mcsd-visit