State budget: from bad to worse for higher education[1]

The state higher education budget has been further reduced after Gov. Bill Ritter announced Wednesday that the state's public colleges and universities will take an additional $145 million in cuts in the current fiscal year. The University of Colorado's share of the cut has not been determined, but the governor is scheduled to present specific recommendations for the 2010-11 budget to the Legislature's Joint Budget Committee on Nov. 9.

The $145 million is in addition to the $80.9 million in cuts announced earlier in the fiscal year. The governor has said he intends to backfill the cuts with federal stimulus money, assuming the state receives a waiver it requested from the federal government, which initially directed that funding could not drop below 2006 levels. Several states have already received the waivers.

While the stimulus funds extend the time higher education has to plan for the cuts, the deeper reductions steepen the "cliff" higher education faces when stimulus funding runs out, said CU President Bruce Benson. However, he stressed that exact budget figures remain a moving target.

Benson said he intends to meet next week with chancellors and budget vice chancellors to discuss how to address the latest cuts.

Last week, Benson and the other leaders of Colorado's public colleges and universities met with Senate Majority Leader John Morse (D-Colorado Springs) to begin to craft legislation that would give higher education more flexibility in its operations. The areas discussed include allowing higher education to establish its own fiscal rules, reducing duplicative financial reporting, exempting international students from nonresident caps, and allowing institutions, rather than the state, to direct financial aid.

Some higher education leaders proposed allowing governing boards the authority to set tuition rates, but Morse and others said the governor would not support that idea. Morse will take the flexibility ideas to the Fiscal Stability Commission, a group of legislators and citizens working to find solutions to Colorado's fiscal crisis. The commission, which includes Morse, will consider the issues and look to forward them as draft legislation, which Morse will carry when the Colorado General Assembly convenes Jan. 13.

Early retirement incentives, presidential search process on agenda for Faculty Council[2]

Early retirement incentives and the University of Colorado's presidential search process are among the agenda topics for the next meeting of the systemwide Faculty Council[3], originally scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 29, at 1800 Grant. Because of expected bad weather, the meeting has been postponed until noon-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 4.

E. Jill Pollock, senior associate vice president and chief human resources officer, will discuss her review of the university's early retirement programs. Under consideration is a new addition to the faculty member's phased retirement program: an early retirement incentive, tied to immediate retirement on a date agreed upon by the faculty member and university administration. The incentive might be paid in a lump sum or over a period of time.

The Board of Regents[4]' Laws and Policies Committee plans discussion about the presidential search process at its Nov. 18 meeting. At the committee's recent meeting, Faculty Council and other governance groups were asked to provide their recommendations in advance of that meeting. After committee members have offered their input, proposals will be reviewed and prioritized for consideration before the entire Board of Regents at its Feb. 10-11 meeting.

Also at next week's meeting, Dan Montez, director of the Office of Policy and Efficiency, will present an update on the President's Task Force on Efficiency, and Faculty Council Chair John McDowell will lead discussion on the latest

proposed revisions to the Board of Regents' Guiding Principles document and the university's mission statement.

News briefs[5]

Registration still open for Coleman Institute conference

There's still time to register for the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities' ninth annual conference on Cognitive Disability and Technology, set for Nov. 5 at the Westin Westminster Hotel. It's expected to draw between 250 and 300 attendees from across the campuses and across the country, with more than 20 states represented.

The free, all-day event features a slate of noted speakers, headlined by economist James K. Galbraith, Ph.D., former director of the Joint Economic Committee of Congress. Featured speakers also include Ann Turnbull, Ph.D., and Rud Turnbull, Ph.D., both Distinguished University Professors at the University of Kansas.

Also on the presentation agenda: Tamar Heller, Ph.D., of the University of Illinois at Chicago; Jay Lundell, Ph.D., of Intel Corp.'s Digital Health Group. CU President Bruce D. Benson and Reneé Pietrangelo, CEO of the American Network of Community Options and Resources[6] (ANCOR), will be special guests.

Roundtable discussions over lunch will enable participants to join in the conversation. Topics range from mobile devices and social networking to the accessibility of museum experiences for people with cognitive disabilities.

To register, contact MaryEllen.Morse@cu.edu[7]. For more information, including a detailed agenda, see the Coleman Institute's Web site.[8]

Teachers of Color and Allies set for sixth annual summit

The University of Colorado at Boulder's School of Education is among the educational entities teaming for the Teachers of Color and Allies Summit[9], set for 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Nov. 5.

The event in the UMC's Aspen Rooms brings together students, educators of color, and allies to provide collegial support, opportunities for networking and mentoring, and insights into best practices in education.

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, professor of sociology at Duke University, will be the keynote speaker. Barbara M. Medina, assistant commissioner for innovation and transformation at the Colorado Department of Education, will speak in the afternoon.

Other institutions taking part in the sixth annual summit are Adams 12 Five-Star Schools, Adams 50 Schools, Boulder Valley School District, Brighton School District 27, Denver Public Schools and the St. Vrain School District. For more information, contact Collinus Hutt, Collinus.Hutt@Colorado.EDU[10], or Christy Moroye, Christy.Moroye@Colorado.EDU[11].

Anthropology, law and theater come together in weekend reading
The Colorado Shakespeare Festival[12] (CSF) and the University of Colorado Law School will present a free reading of "Unquiet Grave," a play that blends a courtroom drama with a mystery, at 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1, at Witemyer Courtroom on the University of Colorado at Boulder campus.

The play was written by law student Brent Jordheim ('09) and based on research by Mimi Wesson and Dennis Van Gerven, professors of anthropology. The story was inspired by an 1892 Supreme Court case involving a dispute over payment of life insurance proceeds. It pitted a young Kansas woman against three giants of insurance, and lasted for nearly 25 years.

The decision was tied to a century-old mystery about the identity of a corpse — a mystery eventually solved via forensic anthropology. The case's impact on rules of evidence remains today.

The reading will be directed by Lynne Collins, who has directed productions of "Macbeth" and "Much Ado About Nothing" for the Colorado Shakespeare Festival, and actors from its core company will read the parts. Jordheim, Wesson and Van Gerven will attend to discuss the play.

This production is funded through the generosity of longtime CSF and Colorado Law donors Ruth and Ken Wright. For more information, click here[13].

University of Colorado Hospital begins visitor restrictions

In an effort to protect patients, their families and hospital staff this flu season, the University of Colorado Hospital on Oct. 21 began restricting visitors under age 12.

"Our patients and the quality of their care is our highest priority and we want to ensure that we minimize the chances of spreading H1N1 and seasonal influenza among our patient population and our staff," said Bruce Schroffel, hospital president and CEO. "We understand the restrictions may present some challenges for some patients and their families. But we believe it is in the best interest of our patients and our staff to put these restrictions in place."

Officials also ask that anyone experiencing flu symptoms (fever, cough, muscle aches, stuffy nose, vomiting and diarrhea) refrain from visiting any patient in the hospital. Many patients are highly susceptible to infection. Visitor restrictions will be enforced and the hospital will not allow children unattended in waiting areas.

As the H1N1 and seasonal influenza progress through the community, it is possible restrictions at the hospital will change. Before visiting, please go to uch.edu[14].

Federal stimulus grant enables free lung tumor genetic testing at Cancer Center

The University of Colorado Cancer Center [15] (UCCC) is among the 14 U.S. centers offering free genetic tumor screenings for lung cancer patients thanks to a $5.2 million grant funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Lung Cancer Mutation Consortium Protocol project aims to identify mutations in malignant lung tumors for which there are specific, more effective and less toxic oral therapies.

Paul A. Bunn Jr., M.D., lung cancer researcher and the UCCC's founding director, will lead the consortium. Wilbur Franklin, M.D., professor of pathology at the University of Colorado Denver and UCCC member, is the Colorado principal investigator.

"We will be testing the tumors for specific mutations we know happen in lung cancer to understand their frequency, their relationship to each other and their association with the tumor's clinical features," said Bunn, professor of medical oncology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. "We will also be investigating what specific drugs work against these mutations and how often they work."

Patients who enroll in the clinical trial to have tumors tested might also qualify for an existing clinical trial for a specific inhibitor drug.

"Cancer is no longer a one-size-fits-all disease," Bunn said. "We have to have as much information as possible to give the exact right treatment to each and every patient. This project should give us much more information than we've ever had before."

Clinical trial enrollment is open in Colorado. Patients wanting to enroll in the study may schedule an appointment with the UCCC lung cancer team by contacting Mary Jackson, 303-724-1650 or mary.k.jackson@ucdenver.edu[16].

Energy Institute makes plans for growth of green mission[17]

The Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute (RASEI) has announced its first group of fellows and plans for future faculty hires.

RASEI[18], a new joint institute between the University of Colorado at Boulder and the U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in Golden, made the announcement Oct. 21 at CU-Boulder's annual Energy Research Symposium. The initial group of 34 RASEI fellows comprises 18 from CU-Boulder (see list below) and 16 from NREL[19].

"NREL and CU-Boulder, along with research colleagues from Colorado State University and the Colorado School of Mines, are already working together on a variety of critical energy technologies that will help to ensure a clean and sustainable energy supply for our nation's future," said Robert McGrath, NREL deputy laboratory director for science and technology, and one of RASEI's chief architects. "The newly established RASEI significantly strengthens the structural platform enabling CU-Boulder and NREL researchers to take full advantage of the complementary strengths resident within each institution."

A national search will be conducted for RASEI's director. Besides creating the resources to attract a top candidate to lead the new institute, CU-Boulder plans to designate as many as 10 new faculty hires to RASEI over the next several years, with exact levels of support contingent upon the Colorado economy and the university's budget.

Institute management and decision-making will be coordinated by the new director, a private-sector Leadership Board and a set of prominent research fellows appointed from NREL and CU-Boulder.

"CU has a long history of joint institutes with national laboratories that attract the highest caliber leadership and scientific talent," said CU-Boulder Chancellor Philip P. DiStefano.

"With this initiative, CU is fostering an invaluable working relationship with an important partner, and opening up new opportunities for CU researchers to collaborate with Stanford, MIT and other major American Association of Universities research institutions focusing on the development of new energy solutions."

RASEI Fellows from CU-Boulder:
William Boyd, associate professor, School of Law Niels Damrauer, assistant professor, department of chemistry and biochemistry Daniel Dessau, professor and associate chair, department of physics Kevin Doran, senior research fellow, Center for Energy and Environmental Security, School of Law Robert Erickson, professor, department of electrical, computer and energy engineering Ryan Gill, associate professor, department of chemical and biological engineering Gregor Henze, professor, department of civil, environmental and architectural engineering David Jonas, professor, department of chemistry and biochemistry Stephen Lawrence, chair, Management and Entrepreneurship Division, and academic director, Deming Center for Entrepreneurship, Leeds School of Business Se-Hee Lee, associate professor, department of mechanical engineering Julie Lundquist, assistant professor, department of atmospheric and oceanic sciences Will Medlin, assistant professor, department of chemical and biological engineering Kamran Mohseni, associate professor, department of aerospace engineering sciences Richard Noble, professor, department of chemical and biological engineering Lucy Pao, professor, department of electrical, computer and energy engineering Charles Rogers, professor, department of physics Ivan Smalyukh, assistant professor, department of physics Alan Weimer, professor, department of chemical and biological engineering

Center shares in $1 million math improvement grant[20]

The Center for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math Education (CSTEME) based at UCCS will share in a $1 million grant to provide professional development for secondary school math teachers in Eagle County Schools.

The three-year grant was provided by the Colorado Department of Education with funds from the U.S. Department of Education. The award includes the Eagle County School District and the Consortium on Reading Excellence, Berkeley, Calif., in addition to the UCCS center.

Dave Khaliqi, director of CSTEME[21], said the award will build on efforts with teachers in the Pikes Peak region to improve math instruction through the Pikes Peak Math Teacher's Circle.

"The program teaches teachers how to have fun with numbers, and pass that enjoyment onto their students" Khaliqi said. "In that process, we look at how to implement problem-solving and critical thinking skills and how to move both teacher and student past the text book."
Beginning late this spring and continuing into June, UCCS facilitators from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the College of Education will work with a 30-member group of Eagle County teachers. Each year, a new group is planned, with a goal of 90 teachers receiving seven days of professional development training.

Replica of Vietnam Memorial Wall on display to honor veterans[22]

The University of Colorado Denver campus will host the American Veterans Traveling Tribute, a scaled-down replica of Washington's Vietnam Memorial Wall.

In honor of Veterans Day on Nov. 11, the American Veterans Traveling Tribute[24] will be on display Nov. 5-6 at Lawrence Street Park on the University of Colorado Denver campus.

The exhibit is a replica (80 percent of the original's size) of the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., and pays tribute to the men and women who have served and are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces. It will be hosted by the UC Denver Office of Student Life[25].

The Buckley Honor Guard will conduct opening ceremonies at noon Thursday, Nov. 5, with welcoming remarks and speakers, including members of the Board of Regents, to follow. At noon Friday, Nov. 6, U.S.S. Indianapolis survivor Paul J. Murphy will talk about his experience during the deadliest naval disaster in U.S. history. Four days after delivering the atomic bomb to Tinian Island in 1945, the ship was torpedoed and sank. Only 317 of the 1,196 men on board survived.

The exhibit is free and will be open to the public round the clock during the two days. The park is at 900 Auraria Parkway, in front of St. Cajetan's Church. For more information, contact the Office of Student Life at 303-556-3399 or studentlife@ucdenver.edu[26].

College of Nursing expands offerings in Western Regional Graduate Program[27]

Graduate students from 14 Western states can now attend University of Colorado Denver College of Nursing (CON) programs they don't have in their states while paying in-state tuition rates.

UC Denver CON recently was approved by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education[28] (WICHE) to offer new programs through the Western Regional Graduate Program[28] (WRGP) effective with the 2009-10 academic year. Colorado is one of 15 states that comprise WICHE.

The school's three approved degree programs for WICHE/WRGP include two master of science program options, the Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program and the Ph.D. program:
Nursing — Health Care Informatics option — master's degree program Nursing — Pediatric Nurse Leadership option — master's degree program (new) Nursing Practice — doctoral degree program (new) Nursing — Ph.D. degree program
"With the approval from WICHE/WRGP, nurses throughout the West will have access to these two new graduate program areas," said Patricia Moritz, Ph.D., F.A.A.N., professor and dean of the College of Nursing. "This will help to enable those living in the Western states to have advanced practice nurses who are specialists in areas such as mental health, children with special needs and clinical doctorate education."

Classes are offered online with some intensive classroom activity for each of the options offered through WRGP.

'Giving circle' benefits CU-Boulder School of Education[29]

Lorrie Shepard

A growing philanthropic trend is the "giving circle," in which a group of people pool funds to donate to a cause of their choosing. A 2007 study reports the number of active giving circles had doubled from the previous two years.

The School of Education at the University of Colorado at Boulder is on the leading edge of this philanthropic movement with Women Investing in the School of Education (WISE), a giving circle of friends and alumnae of the school who, in their first year in 2008, jointly gave $54,000 for outreach, research and instruction. They recently met to determine their inaugural allocation of funds.

Education Dean Lorrie Shepard and CU Foundation fundraiser Margot Neufeld began promoting the giving-circle idea among its heavily female alumni base, and it quickly gained traction.

"For many women, giving is more appealing as a group activity," Neufeld said. "The giving circle builds cohesion, and really solidifies the members' understanding about what's happening at the school."

The School of Education's WISE circle is an innovative fundraising model that other CU departments may want to take advantage of as they seek to engage donors in a challenging funding environment. Another program on the Anschutz Medical Campus has explored a giving circle.

WISE members make a three-year commitment of $1,000 each. By combining their gifts, they make a more substantial impact toward a particular area of strategic interest. They meet in the fall for presentations on innovative educational research, programs oriented toward K-12 schools, or statewide outreach efforts.

"They hear about the school's research projects directly from the faculty, which introduces the donors in a very personal way to multiple elements of research and program support," Neufeld said.

With 18 members to date, the group is eager to expand and the need is apparent: In just the first year, School of Education faculty submitted 15 proposals seeking $69,000 in support. This first year, there is $18,000 to give; awards

are capped at $5,000.

For more information about the WISE giving circle, contact Margot Neufeld at 303-492-2990 or margot.neufeld@cufund.org[31].

Telecommunication veteran to support employee development[32]

David Sprouse has joined the Office of Employee Learning and Development[33] as an instructional designer and learning analyst. He will develop innovative learning practices and support employee training.

Sprouse is scheduled in December to receive his master's degree in e-learning design and implementation from the University of Colorado Denver. His previous career in telecommunication included key roles in technology, training and programming.

Shepard wraps successful stint as National Academy of Education president[34]

Shepard

Lorrie Shepard, dean of the School of Education at the University of Colorado at Boulder, just concluded a prestigious appointment as president of the National Academy of Education[36] (NAEd). She delivered the last speech of her term on Friday, Oct. 23, at the academy in Washington, D.C.

Shepard received praise from the academy's incoming president, Susan H. Fuhrman, president of Teachers College at Columbia University.

"With her deep understanding of educational research and policy issues, Lorrie Shepard has brought outstanding strategic leadership to NAEd," Fuhrman said. "She has transformed the organization, greatly expanding its scope and influence. It has been a privilege to serve with her and to learn from example."

Research by Shepard, professor of research and evaluation methodology, focuses on psychometrics and the use and misuse of tests in education settings. Her studies have addressed the identification of learning disabilities, readiness screening for kindergarten, grade retention, teacher testing and effects of high-stakes accountability testing on teaching and learning.

Nobel Prize-winner Cech returns to the classroom in Boulder[37]

Cech

Nobel Laureate **Thomas Cech** recently returned to the University of Colorado at Boulder, where he's teaching a chemistry class for first-year students. Cech became the university's first Nobel Prize winner in 1989, sharing the prize

in chemistry with Sidney Altman of Yale University for their independent discoveries that RNA can act as a catalyst in cell development.

For the past decade, Cech served as president of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/state-budget-bad-worse-higher-education[2] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/early-retirement-incentives-presidential-search-process-agenda-faculty-council[3] https://www.cu.edu/FacultyCouncil/[4] https://www.cu.edu/regents/index.html[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/news-briefs-8[6] http://www.ancor.org/[7] mailto:MaryEllen.Morse@cu.edu[8] http://www.colemaninstitute.org/Conferences/Coleman2009/Coleman2009.php[9] http://www.colorado.edu/education/tocas/[10] mailto:Collinus.Hutt@Colorado.EDU[11] mailto:Christy.Moroye@Colorado.EDU[12] http://www.coloradoshakes.org/[13] http://lawweb.colorado.edu/events/details.jsp?id=2279[14] http://www.uch.edu/[15] http://www.uccc.info/for-healthcare-professional/cancer-center/index.aspx[16] mailto:mary.k.jackson@ucdenver.edu[17] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/energy-institute-makes-plans-growth-green-mission[18] http://rasei.colorado.edu/[19] http://www.nrel.gov/[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/center-shares-1-million-math-improvement-grant[21] http://www.uccs.edu/%7Enisssc/csteme.html[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/replica-vietnam-memorial-wall-display-honor-veterans[23] https://connections.cu.edu/file/ucdvietnamwalljpg[24] http://www.avtt.org/[25] http://www.ucdenver.edu/life/services/studentlife/Pages/home.aspx[26] mailto:studentlife@ucdenver.edu[27] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/college-nursing-expands-offerings-western-regional-graduate-program[28] http://wrgp.wiche.edu/[29] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/giving-circle-benefits-cu-boulder-school-education[30] https://connections.cu.edu/file/lorrieshepard3this-lorrie-headshot-usejpg[31] mailto:margot.neufeld@cufund.org[32] https://connections.cu.edu/people/telecommunication-veteran-support-employee-development[33] https://www.cu.edu/eld/[34] https://connections.cu.edu/people/shepard-wraps-successful-stint-national-academy-education-president[35] https://connections.cu.edu/file/lorrieshepard3this-lorrie-headshot-use2jpg[36] http://www.naeducation.org/[37] https://connections.cu.edu/people/nobel-prize-winner-cech-returns-classroom-boulder[38] https://connections.cu.edu/file/peoplecechjpg