CU Regent Kroll will not seek reelection in 2022[1]
[2]

University of Colorado Regent John “Jack” Kroll, chair of the CU Board of Regents, on Monday announced he will not seek reelection to the board in 2022.

A Denver native, Kroll represents Colorado’s 1st Congressional District on the board. The Democrat was first elected to the Board of Regents in 2016 and began serving in January 2017. His term ends in January 2023. Kroll was elected to chair the board in June 2021.

“CU has been a central part of my life since I set foot on the Denver campus as an 18-year-old undergraduate. I will always be one of the university’s biggest supporters,” Kroll said. “I’m passionate about CU and its impact on Colorado and the world. I’m eager to continue to promote and support the university as an alumnus, a CU employee and in any other way I can. I’m also eager to spend more time with my family, which is why I’ve decided not to seek reelection. I’ve been fortunate to have many titles in my life, but there is none more important to me than the title of ‘dad.’

“During the remainder of my service as regent and board chair, I look forward to working with my fellow regents and the CU community to move the university forward and find our next great president. I also will partner with President Saliman to do all we can to make CU a more transparent, inclusive and equity-focused institution.”

A two-time alumnus of CU Denver, Kroll earned a bachelor’s degree in economics and English and later, a master’s in finance and risk management. He has worked for CU Boulder for more than a decade and currently serves as an associate director of admissions for the campus.

Kroll’s accomplishments as regent include helping to: increase stipends and benefits for CU Boulder graduate students; expand CU’s staff tuition benefit to enable more employees to further their education; implement a home down payment assistance program for staff; and extend health care benefits to same-sex domestic partners undergoing gender transitions.

The brother and son of veterans, Kroll has also worked to help men and women transition out of the military and into college. In addition to founding CU Boulder Military Student Day[3], he was instrumental in getting CU to waive application fees for all undergraduate veterans and active duty members who apply to any of the four campuses.

Working with the President’s Office and the CU Foundation, Kroll helped secure an additional $12 million in COVID relief for students. Other key achievements include leading the charge for CU Denver to become an emerging Hispanic Serving Institution; voting in support of CU’s first native lands acknowledgment statement and advocating for in-state tuition for Indigenous people with historic ties to Colorado; helping to secure funding for a community care clinic in Aurora; and increasing investments in scholarships for African American students at the CU School of Medicine.

Before being elected to the board, he served as president of the University of Colorado Denver Alumni Association, and helped the board raise more than $300,000 in scholarship funds.[4]

Kroll and his wife, Vanessa, live in Denver with their daughter, Lucy.

University of Colorado, Pueblo leaders discuss needs of Southern Colorado[5]
[6]

A delegation from the University of Colorado traveled to Pueblo last week to meet with local leaders and learn how the university can better serve the region.

President Todd Saliman was joined by Regents Sue Sharkey, Callie Rennison and Ilana Spiegel, and UCCS

Chancellor Venkat Reddy for two days of conversations with school district officials, community advocates, state and local lawmakers and local journalists.

“As Colorado’s flagship university system, we are committed to serving all Coloradans,” Saliman said. “It’s critical for us to visit communities across the state to hear directly how we can best engage with them, meet their workforce needs and communicate about the value and affordability of a CU degree. We’re grateful for the feedback we received during our visit to Pueblo. It will help us to better meet the unique needs of that part of our great state.”

The trip included a forum with leaders from the Pueblo 60 and 70 School Districts to gather feedback on partnership opportunities to help Pueblo students. Among those who participated in the conversation were former Colorado State Senator Angela Giron, now president and chief executive officer for the Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo County; former Judge Dennis Maes, School Board Member in Pueblo 60; and superintendents Charlotte Macaluso (Pueblo 60) and Ed Smith (Pueblo 70).
[7]

The conversation was hosted by Action 22, a nonpartisan organization composed of business leaders, elected officials, government and nonprofit organizations that advocates for 22 counties in Southern Colorado.

“What we discovered from the visit was a sincere desire from President Saliman, Chancellor Reddy, the CU Regents and the leadership team to up their game in being Colorado’s University,” said Sara Blackhurst, executive director for Action 22. “They asked questions and listened closely. We were impressed with their sincerity and we can’t wait to see how they will deliver on their commitment.”

The delegation – which included CU’s head of engagement Tony Salazar, Vice President for Communications Michael Sandler and Tanya Kelly-Bowry, CU’s longtime lobbyist and former vice president for government relations – also held individual meetings with State Sen. Cleave Simpson, State Rep. Daneya Esgar, Pueblo County Commissioner Garrison Ortiz, the Pueblo Hispanic Education Foundation and The Pueblo Chieftain.
[8]

During meetings with community members, university leaders solicited feedback on the search for CU’s next president, currently underway.

“It was wonderful how open everyone was about what they want to see in CU’s next president,” Sharkey said. “We must ensure the president and the university remain supportive of all students across the state. Connecting with people and communities across Colorado and hearing the issues impacting them is of paramount importance.”

The visit to Pueblo was one of several planned engagement trips to provide opportunities for CU leaders to hear directly from Coloradans and help advance state priorities around higher education and workforce needs. Visits to Fort Morgan and Sterling were held in September; future trips are slated for Southwestern Colorado and the Western Slope.

Revolutionize your teaching with role-playing games[9]

The Student Success Innovation Incubator[10] team at CU Boulder invites faculty, graduate students and staff members from the CU system to participate in their fall Reacting events.

Role-playing games have gained momentum in higher ed as educators recognize the potential for students to become engaged with primary texts, important ideas and skill development in critical thinking, persuasive writing, public speaking, leadership and teamwork.

An example is CU Boulder’s Reacting to the Past, a role-immersion, active learning pedagogy where students are assigned character roles with specific goals and must communicate, collaborate and compete effectively to advance their objectives.

These events are free, but space is limited, so RSVP now to reserve your seat:

Play a Micro Reacting Game
9-11 a.m. Oct. 15
[11]

Michaele Ferguson[12], associate professor of political science and a President's Teaching Scholar at CU Boulder, will give a virtual introduction to Reacting to the Past. The session will start by playing a mini-game, set at the 1968 Democratic Convention in Chicago, where delegates and protesters clash over civil rights, freedom of speech and the war in Vietnam. Then we will talk about the benefits of role-playing and how you can adopt Reacting to the Past into classes across the curriculum, from sciences and engineering to literature and law. Space is limited so RSVP[13] to hold your spot.

Join a virtual conversation with "Minds on Fire" author Mark Carnes
3-4 p.m. Nov. 5

Mark Carnes is professor of history at Barnard College and the author of "Minds on Fire: How Role-Immersion Games Transform College." This book encourages faculty to think about the importance of play, subversion and empathy through role-playing as pedagogical techniques to engage students in learning and set their minds on fire. RSVP[14] now to hold your spot.

CU President Saliman engages with the UCCS community[15]

World Mental Health Day emphasizing need to address inequality[16]
[17]

World Mental Health Day is Oct. 10, 2021, and this year's theme is 'Mental Health in an Unequal World.'[18]

Mental health is critical to overall health and well-being, no matter who you are. But here in the U.S. and abroad, millions of people aren't getting the care they need. World Mental Health Day is a time to bring awareness to the underlying issues and inspire people to take action.

Mental health stigma: This refers to widespread misconceptions about mental health, such as belief that seeking help for mental health makes someone weak. Stigma is harmful because it can cause people to avoid acknowledging, addressing or even talking about mental health concerns out of fear they'll be judged or suffer professional consequences.

Stigma can disproportionately impact people from marginalized communities, such as people of color or LGBTQ+ individuals. Due to historical and ongoing injustice and discrimination, people from certain communities lack trust in any part of the health care system. People also may feel reluctant to take on an additional marginalized identity such as "mentally ill." In some cultures, it's also looked down upon to seek help, and can be seen as "airing dirty laundry."

Socioeconomic inequality: The World Federation for Mental Health notes that health, economic and social inequalities continue to grow. A person's socioeconomic status — their combination of education, income and occupation — plays a large role in their mental health status as well. People with less disposable income are less likely to be able to afford care.

Seeking and engaging with mental health care doesn't just take money; it also requires non-monetary resources like

time, transportation and even child care. People who don't have a car, or whose jobs lack flexibility, often simply can't find the time to get the care they need.

What can you do to help? Worldwide inequalities affecting the mental health of millions is a heavy topic, and it can leave us wondering what can possibly be done. But every little bit counts, so here are a few suggestions:
Look after your own mental health: Making your mental health a priority will help you live a better life, and show up for the people you love, and even set an example for someone who's hesitant to seek help. **Take a stand against stigma:** You can practice using "person-first" language to break down stigma: For example, saying "a person with schizophrenia" instead of "a schizophrenic." **Spread awareness:** The more we know about mental health inequalities, the more we can take action in our everyday lives. Start by sharing the World Mental Health Day website[19] with friends or family.
A digital solution for poor sleep: If you've been struggling with sleep, your mental and physical well-being may be affected. CU Health Plan offers a benefit that may be able to help.

Sleepio is an online sleep improvement program proven to help you clear your mind, improve your sleep, and help you have better days in just six weeks. The program uses cognitive behavioral techniques that are backed by decades of clinical research, and has been shown in studies to help people fall asleep 54% faster, spend 62% less time awake at night, and have 45% better functioning the next day. Try Sleepio today and start sleeping better tonight.

Sleepio is available at no additional cost to members enrolled in any CU Health Plan administered by Anthem/CVS.

Get started[20]

Disclaimer: Sleepio may not be suitable for everyone, please review the associated safety information by going to the Suitability Page[21] for more details prior to starting the program.

Content provided by CU Health Plan

Specific UV light wavelength could offer low-cost, safe way to curb COVID-19 spread[22]

Photo Feature: EthicsFirst brings accountability to the front of the room[23]

CU Denver kicks off yearlong brand refresh[24]

New CU School of Pharmacy center sets path toward drug discovery hub [25]

Brock welcomed as new Associate Dean of Education at CU Pharmacy [26]

Colorado Law professor Malveaux honored with LGBTQ advocacy award[27]

Bianco on Puerto Rican identity and Latinx students[28]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/cu-regent-kroll-will-not-seek-reelection-2022[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/kroll_01.jpg[3] https://www.colorado.edu/today/2012/03/19/cu-boulder-host-military-student-day-march-21[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/alumni-admissions-offices-take-phones-early-welcome-students[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/university-colorado-pueblo-leaders-discuss-needs-southern-colorado[6] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/saliman-outreach_05.jpg[7] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/saliman-outreach_01.jpg[8] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/saliman-outreach_04.jpg[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/revolutionize-your-teaching-role-playing-games[10] https://click.communications.cu.edu/?qs=d1e0aa0343eb718023c2981136445252caa5cd86b294cd242f6bef51d6367cd7ff5dd0816788dad36c2734c323748725bd3684444e438f1e[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/games_01.jpg[12] https://www.colorado.edu/polisci/people/faculty/michaele-ferguson[13] https://forms.gle/MyxoBXcDpVdiK5Hq6[14] https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7lJLCMg4n5Hl5VF8Q3DcJdr8C-HerwVl8pgC7-iN5QdnKhg/viewform[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-president-saliman-engages-uccs-community[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/world-mental-health-day-emphasizing-need-address-inequality[17] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/mental-health-day_sleepio_top.png[18] https://wfmh.global/2021-world-mental-health-global-awareness-campaign-world-mental-health-day-theme/[19] https://nationaltoday.com/world-mental-health-day/#why-we-love[20] https://onboarding.sleepio.com/sleepio/cuhealthplan/78#1/1?utm_medium=blogpost&utm_source=proactive[21] https://www.sleepio.com/suitable/[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/specific-uv-light-wavelength-could-offer-low-cost-safe-way-curb-covid-19-spread[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/photo-feature-ethicsfirst-brings-accountability-front-room[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-denver-kicks-yearlong-brand-refresh[25] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-cu-school-pharmacy-center-sets-path-toward-drug-discovery-hub[26] https://connections.cu.edu/people/brock-welcomed-new-associate-dean-education-cu-pharmacy[27] https://connections.cu.edu/people/colorado-law-professor-malveaux-honored-lgbtq-advocacy-award[28] https://connections.cu.edu/people/bianco-puerto-rican-identity-and-latinx-students