CU sees record-breaking year for sponsored research funding[1]

The University of Colorado reached a new record for research funding in the 2017-18 fiscal year, as faculty merited $1.053 billion in federal, state and local awards, based on preliminary figures.

This is the second consecutive year the four-campus university system has topped $1 billion in annual sponsored research funding. This year's preliminary total shows a 1.8 percent increase over last year; final figures are expected later this year.

Most sponsored research funding is awarded by federal agencies. In 2017-18, CU received $663.5 million in federal awards (up 4.2 percent) and $389.6 million in non-federal awards (down 1.9 percent).

"One key way that the University of Colorado improves people's lives is through the research conducted by our world-class faculty," said CU President Bruce D. Benson. "Because of this impressive level of investment by federal, state and local entities, CU grows even stronger in its ability to advance knowledge that makes all of us better."

Following are the year's totals in sponsored research funding at CU campuses, along with examples of the leading-edge endeavors that are elevating life across Colorado and the United States:
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus: $516.2 million. As part of a research partnership designed to speed up development of new treatments to address the greatest health needs of Coloradans, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) earlier this year awarded $46.5 million to the campus and its Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI). In 2008, the CCTSI was launched with a grant of $76 million – the largest biomedical research and training award in the state's history. This new five-year award brings the total funding from NIH to the CCTSI to more than $187 million. **University of Colorado Boulder: $511.1 million.** A six-year, $50 million grant from NASA is supporting the work of the CU Boulder-based National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC). The center manages and operates NASA's Earth Observing System Data and Information System Snow and Ice Distributed Active Archive Center. The data and information provided via the NSIDC supports NASA's mission in understanding how the planet's natural resources and climate are changing now and might change in the future. **University of Colorado Denver: $18.8 million.** Researchers in the College of Liberal Arts and Science received $466,498 from the NIH's National Institute of General Medical Sciences to continue a study of the toxic deposits (or "plaques"), commonly found in brain tissue that characterize Alzheimer's disease. A team led by Liliya Vugmeyster, associate professor, Department of Chemistry, is investigating the factors responsible for formation and stabilization of these plaques, which is key to discovering the molecular basis of the disease, revealing potential targets and enhanced strategies for pharmaceutical interventions. **University of Colorado Colorado Springs: $6.9 million.** A $432,000 award from the NIH is supporting Eugenia Olesnicky Killian, associate professor, Department of Biology, for her work in identifying the impact of abnormal splicing by RNA-binding proteins on neurological diseases. Recent research has implicated inappropriate splicing in spinal muscular atrophy and other neurodegenerative disorders, yet the question remains how aberrant splicing results in neurodegeneration.
Sponsored research funding from federal, state and local entities targets specific projects to advance research in laboratories and in the field. Research funding also helps pay for research-related capital improvements, scientific equipment, travel and salaries for research and support staff and student assistantships. CU cannot divert this funding to non-research-related expenses.

A great deal of sponsored research funding is directed to departments and researchers with unique expertise, such as biotechnology and aerospace, which stimulates industry.

CU opens nominations for Presidential Search Committee[2]

The University of Colorado Board of Regents has opened the nomination process for faculty, staff and others who wish to serve on the Presidential Search Committee.

The committee will search for a leader to replace President Bruce D. Benson, who announced he intends to retire from

CU in July.

The board selected Regents Heidi Ganahl and Irene Griego to co-chair the committee. Its composition is proscribed in Regent Law and Policy to include one dean, four faculty members, one student, one staff member, four community members and two alumni. Those wishing to apply may do so at http://www.cu.edu/presidential-search[3].

The nomination process will be open through Oct. 8, with the board scheduled to select members by Oct. 24.

Meetings of the search committee, whose work is expected to run from early November through late spring, are scheduled for Tuesdays in the early evening. Members must commit to regular participation. A full schedule will be released when the committee is empaneled.

At the Board of Regents meeting today and Friday at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, board members will interview search firms to work with the committee on the search.

Innovation in mental health the topic of CU Advocates forum[4]

The CU Advocates program in the Office of the President is promoting an educational program featuring Matt Vogl, executive director of the National Mental Health Innovation Center at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. He'll highlight how innovation and technology are being used to address mental health issues.

The event, which also will be live streamed, is set for 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Sept. 25 in the Terrace Room at CU Denver, 1380 Lawrence St. September is National Suicide Prevention Month.

CU's National Mental Health Innovation Center is using new solutions that can be quickly and effectively scaled to help more people, earlier. With an estimated one in five Americans struggling with mental illness or substance abuse every year, the center has received state and private donations to support its cause. Studies show that 80 percent of those with a mental illness don't get the care they need.

Vogl is a national leader for real-world implementation of virtual reality (VR) to treat mental health. The center established the Technology Innovation Network (TIN).

More than a decade ago, Vogl nearly succumbed to his mental illness. He harnessed his experience, making it a major driver for him to discover services and treatments to help people with behavioral health issues understand what "better looks like, or if better is even possible."

Registration to attend in person or participate in the webinar is at cu.edu/cuadvocates/events[5], cuadvocates@cu.edu [6] or 303-860-5633. Cost to attend the program is $15, which includes lunch; members of the CU Advocates program receive a $5 discount.

There is no cost to view the webinar or to request a video of the program.

Food is medicine and your doctor just prescribed Zipongo[7]

You may have heard the saying, "Food is medicine." It's a sentiment that is gaining popularity[8] as the public becomes more conscious about eating habits and medical institutions emphasize food as a formal part of treatment.

The idea: By eating healthily, we can avoid chronic illnesses and other health issues while enhancing our overall

wellness and satisfaction with life.

Considering how much time and money it takes to combat illnesses like diabetes and heart disease, eating healthily seems like a wise alternative. When you realize the other positive effects of a healthy diet – like increased energy, a better immune system and sharper focus, to name a few – the argument for a cleaner diet seems hard to ignore.

There are many reasons to eat healthily yet many people struggle to do so. Why is that? For some people, it's an issue of time. Often, it's a lack of culinary capability. Maybe it's both.

The CU Health Plan recently introduced a new wellness program that addresses both issues – it's an app called Zipongo[9].

"We wanted to make sure members have a fun, easy way to answer the age old question, 'What's for dinner tonight?' We wanted to make sure the answer is always something healthy," said CU Health Plan Health Coordinator Mallory Bergen.

That sentiment is at the heart of the program, and the service goes even further. Zipongo[9] empowers people to make better decisions about what to eat – at home and on the go – by providing options like meal planning tools, a robust recipe library, instant grocery ordering, healthy meal delivery and advice on healthy restaurant menu items.

The app is free for medical CU Health Plan members and up to four household members.

"Our hope is that people gain the skills and information they need in order to make great food choices throughout the day, no matter where they are," Bergen said.

International English Center seeks host families[10]

For over 40 years, the International English Center (IEC)[11] at the University of Colorado Boulder has welcomed international teens, undergraduate and graduate level students, providing a safe, nurturing and dynamic environment where students develop their English language skills, explore U.S. culture and connect with other students from around the world.

The IEC is looking for local families to welcome international students as members of their families. Host families are required to provide well-balanced meals, reasonable use of the home and amenities, and transportation as necessary.

By opening your home to an international student, you open a student's eyes to life in the U.S., helping to foster cross-cultural communication and understanding. The student becomes a part of your family, creating a lifelong friendship.

Those interested in becoming a homestay family must submit an application, complete a criminal background check, provide two non-relative personal references and permit an annual in-home, in-person interview.

Please feel free to share this information with colleagues, friends and neighbors.

For more information or to apply, email Eriko Yatabe-Waldock at eriko.yatabewaldock@colorado.edu[12] or call 303-735-9590.

UCCS remains a top-10 public institution in the West [13]

What do 250 pieces of plywood make? A Mobius Lynx [14]

Lack of diversity in medical studies can cost lives [15]

Baker receives high honor in geophysics [16]

Davila joins CU Cancer Center [17]

JILA, CIRES, NOAA researchers honored with 2018 Governor's Awards [18]

Coleman Institute Conference set for Oct. 3[19]

The Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities' 18th Annual Conference[20], Advancing Accessibility for All, is set for 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Oct. 3 at the Omni Interlocken Hotel in Broomfield. Registration[21] is still open and is free for students.

The conference explores innovative technology solutions and promising practices that promote quality of life for people with cognitive disabilities and their families. It's the only event of its kind sharing such knowledge while cultivating relationships between public and private entities.

Highlights of this year's presentations include "Implications of Developments in Machine Learning for People With Cognitive Disabilities," by Bill Coleman, founding donor, Coleman Institute for Disabilities, and "Promoting Self-Determination: Development of the Goal-Setting Challenge App," by Karrie Shogren from the University of Kansas.

The conference also will feature keynotes from Patrick Mannix, senior adviser, Office of Disability Employment Policy, US Department of Labor and John L. Martin, director, Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities.

Participants may choose from over 20 breakout sessions and spend time meeting and learning about the latest technology resources from many sponsors and exhibitors. The event also features a free lunch.

Certificates of attendance will be emailed to individual attendees following the completion of an online post-conference survey.

To keep track of conference updates and learn more about the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities, please visit:

https://www.colemaninstitute.org/2018-conference/[20]

To register for the 18th Annual Coleman Conference, Advancing Accessibility for All, please visit: https//events.cu.edu/coleman2018[21]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-sees-record-breaking-year-sponsored-research-funding[2] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-opens-nominations-presidential-search-committee[3] http://www.cu.edu/presidential-search[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/innovation-mental-health-topic-cu-advocates-forum[5] https://www.cu.edu/cu-advocates/events[6] mailto:cuadvocates@cu.edu[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/food-medicine-and-your-doctor-just-prescribed-zipongo[8] https://www.npr.org/sections/thesalt/2017/01/17/509520895/food-as-medicine-it-s-not-just-a-fringe-idea-anymore[9] https://www.becolorado.org/program/zipongo/[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/international-english-center-seeks-host-families[11] http://iec.colorado.edu/[12] mailto:eriko.yatabewaldock@colorado.edu?subject=Inquiry%20via%20CU%20Boulder%20Today[13] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-remains-top-10-public-institution-west[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/what-do-250-pieces-plywood-make-mobius-lynx[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/lack-diversity-medical-studies-can-cost-lives[16] https://connections.cu.edu/people/baker-receives-high-honor-geophysics[17] https://connections.cu.edu/people/davila-joins-cu-cancer-center[18] https://connections.cu.edu/people/jila-cires-noaa-researchers-honored-2018-governors-awards[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/coleman-institute-conference-set-oct-3[20] https://www.colemaninstitute.org/2018-conference/[21] https://events.cu.edu/coleman2018