CU's economic impact: $12.35 billion annually[1]

Providing an unequaled level of teaching, research, service and health care in the region, the University of Colorado also generates a remarkable economic impact: $12.35 billion annually for the state.

The figure headlines a new economic impact study[2] completed by the Business Research Division of the CU Boulder Leeds School of Business. Based on data from the 2015-16 fiscal year, the report was presented Sept. 7 to the CU Board of Regents[3].

"The study demonstrates what we have long known – the University of Colorado is a substantial driver of Colorado's economy," said CU President Bruce D. Benson. "We're proud of the many contributions we make to our state and its quality of life and we intend to continue our efforts to advance Colorado."

The CU system and its four campuses – CU Boulder, CU Colorado Springs, CU Denver and the CU Anschutz Medical Campus in Aurora – directly employed 32,386 faculty, staff and student workers in FY2016, making CU the third-largest employer in the state of Colorado.

Funding from tuition, grants, contracts, gifts and appropriations largely is returned via spending in private industry. This purchasing amounted to an $8.3 billion economic impact for Colorado – nearly $4 billion of that from direct university spending – and employed or supported 53,442 workers in the state.

Adding to the campuses' impact are the economic contributions of the two hospitals based at CU Anschutz, University of Colorado Hospital and Children's Hospital Colorado. Their impact was $4 billion, thanks in large part to CU Anschutz health care providers serving more than 475,000 patients.

CU employs tens of thousands of workers, buying from local vendors, importing investment, educating the local workforce, and exporting research discoveries. Additionally, CU students and their families contribute through direct spending.

Besides the direct impact, CU facilitates company growth and job creation through research, technology transfer and spinoff companies.

A by-campus breakdown of the economic contribution:
CU Boulder, $3.85 billion CU Colorado Springs, $593 million CU Denver, $802 million CU Anschutz Medical Campus (not including hospitals), $2.91 billion
Research expenditure activities alone across CU had nearly a $1.7 billion impact.

Student and visitor spending also make an impact. Students spent $797 million in 2016, according to a survey. Spending estimates are based on students who indicated they would not be in Colorado had they not enrolled at CU. Campus-related spending by visitors was an estimated $37.3 million.

Construction activity accounted for $486 million of the impact.

The economic impact study was conducted in cooperation with the University of Colorado system and the four campuses. Economic contributions on Colorado were estimated by examining operating expenditures and capital expenditures, including employee salaries and benefits.

CU operated on $3.5 billion in noncapital revenues in FY2016. State funding for the university topped $197 million that year, contributing to substantial economic activity generated by the university — a 20-to-1 return based on direct university spending.

CU enrolled 61,016 students in the fall of 2015 and awarded 14,479 degrees in FY2016. About 252,000 alumni live in Colorado.

Evidence of the university's educational impact can be found in the leadership of private businesses, teachers in

classrooms, health care professionals and policymakers. Alumni are an integral part of the Colorado labor force, particularly in high-tech industries, and contribute to the state's rank as second in the nation for educational attainment.

Regents voice support for DACA students, workers[4]

Underscoring an earlier statement by University of Colorado leadership[5], the CU Board of Regents on Sept. 7 urged Congress to take action to allow DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) students and employees to continue to study and work beyond March.
[6]

The board's statement, as read by Immediate Past Chair Irene Griego during the meeting at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus:

"The University of Colorado Board of Regents calls upon the United States Congress to take timely and effective legislative action to ensure that University of Colorado students and employees, who have lived peacefully and productively in our communities, completed their high school studies in the United States, and enriched and contributed to our communities through their participation in the DACA program, are permitted to continue and complete their studies, participate in our workforces, and contribute to society; and to reform the immigration laws of the United States in a manner that honors the rule of law and provides legal pathways to work, education, residency and citizenship."

Griego said she attended the Sept. 5 student walk-out and rally at the Auraria Campus, where protesters decried the day's announcement by U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions on rescinding the DACA program through a phased approach by March 2018.

"Students of the past, present and future showed up," said Griego, who noted seeing CU Denver and UCCS students welcoming high school students. "They came in orderly, respectful fashion, and were very well-organized. They came with heart – that was our future."

Griego, who spoke of her experience working in public schools as a teacher and administrator, said she was proud of the students who attended and proud of the public school system.

"It gives me hope that as elders – that's us – we can support the dream," Griego said. "Watching that dream come alive can be the greatest gift we ever receive."

During his report to the board, CU President Bruce Benson said university leaders had spent much of the week in communication regarding the DACA situation.

"I think it's important that everyone knows their (students') concerns are what we're paying attention to," Benson said.

Faculty Council Chair Ravinder Singh, during his report to the board, said DACA students "have my support and heart." Griego thanked Faculty Council for the support it has shown to DACA students.

CU undergraduate programs make the grade nationally[7]

The University of Colorado continues to be recognized for its high level of excellence in the new edition of U.S. News & World Report's Best Colleges rankings, which focus on the academic quality of undergraduate programs across the country.

Just released, the list of Best National Universities for 2018 has the **University of Colorado Boulder** at No. 39 among top public national universities. CU Boulder is 90th among all public, private and for-profit universities in the country. See more rankings in CU Boulder Today[8].

Among publics, the **University of Colorado Denver** is No. 113 on the Best National Universities list. It lands at No. 207 among all national universities.

The **University of Colorado Colorado Springs** is sixth on the list of top public regional universities of the West and 35th overall among regional universities of the West.

Other Best Colleges highlights from U.S. News & World Report:
CU Boulder's undergraduate engineering program is 16th among public institutions whose highest degree is a doctorate; 30th among all national universities. CU Boulder's undergraduate business program at the Leeds School of Business ranks 20th among public universities and 31st overall. CU Denver's undergraduate business program is 58th among public universities and 91st overall among national universities. The undergraduate program in the UCCS College of Business is 79th among public universities and 128th overall among national universities. CU Denver also is included on a list of the national universities where students graduate with the lightest debt load. In 2016, just 54 percent of graduates had debt, which averaged $19,378.
The rankings made available in advance by U.S. News & World Report are incomplete; more CU schools and programs are included on expanded lists in the publication.

U.S. News & World Report's annual rankings are based on measures of academic peer assessment, graduation and retention rates, faculty resources, student selectivity, financial resources and alumni giving. "National Universities" are the 311 institutions – 190 public, 114 private and seven for-profit institutions – that offer a wide range of undergraduate majors as well as master's and doctoral degrees; some emphasize research.

The rankings are posted at https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges[9].

The U.S. News rankings also will be published in the "Best Colleges 2018[10]" guidebook, which begins shipping in late September and will be available Oct. 10 on newsstands.

U.S. News' annual rankings for graduate programs are issued in the spring.

Fall enrollment 'exceptional' at four CU campuses[11]

A record 64,922 students are attending the University of Colorado's four campuses in fall 2017, an increase of 1,720 students – or 2.7 percent – over fall 2016 (63,202).

Todd Saliman, vice president and chief financial officer, presented the preliminary numbers[12] to the CU Board of Regents during its regular meeting Sept. 7 at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus. Census enrollment numbers will be finalized this week.

"We are having an exceptional year as far as enrollment," Saliman said. "Enrollment is up on all of our campuses, and this is contrary to the national trend that we've seen for many institutions."

Each campus's enrollment showed collective gains, with CU Boulder seeing the largest jump at 4.3 percent. CU Colorado Springs enjoyed the second largest increase at 4 percent, assisted by a 9.8 percent gain in graduate student enrollment.

The **University of Colorado Boulder's** head count is 33,220 – 27,602 undergraduate and 5,600 graduate students. Enrollment for underrepresented minority students set a record at 4,600, a 10.5 percent increase compared to last

year. Undergraduate transfer students increased by more than 100 students – or 17 percent – in the past year. CU Boulder's freshmen retention rate has risen to 87 percent from (historic) 84 percent. Chancellor Phil DiStefano said the magic number for retention is 92 percent, which typically converts into an 80 percent six-year graduation rate.

Enrollment at the **University of Colorado Colorado Springs** is 12,476 – 10,491 undergraduate and 1,985 graduate. The campus saw a 1.2 percent decline in new freshmen and a 7.7 percent dip in international student enrollments, following the national trend. Colorado residents account for 82 percent of new enrollees and 85 percent overall. The UCCS retention rate dropped from 68 percent to 65 percent in the past year. Chancellor Venkat Reddy said the campus is looking at programs that might be affecting the percentage. Read more on UCCS enrollment in Communique.[13]

The **University of Colorado Denver** reached 15,000 students, 1.6 percent more than in fall 2016. Of those, 10,783 are undergraduates and 4,217 are graduate students: A 1.4 percent decrease in graduate students was offset by a 2.8 percent rise in undergraduates. The freshman class is its most diverse yet with 55 percent being students of color. CU Denver's freshmen retention rate is 71 percent, up from 68 percent a year ago, Chancellor Dorothy Horrell said. Retention for students of color is slightly higher at 71.7 percent.

Students at the **University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus** number 4,226, showing 1.4 percent growth overall, with 492 undergrads and 3,734 graduate students. The College of Nursing is seeing strong enrollment in its B.S. to Doctor of Nursing Practice Program, which launched this fall. The Master of Public Health Program Health program increased 8.5 percent. Retention across CU Anschutz has historically remained in the high 80s, Chancellor Don Elliman said. He noted diversity has been consistent overall, and has grown considerably this year in the School of Dental Medicine. In the past, the school has had one or two African-American students; fall's class includes 11.

Retention is strong across the campuses, Saliman said.

"The increases in enrollment at every campus are lower than the increase in the freshman class," Saliman said. "That means that each campus is doing a good job of recruiting transfer students and retaining current students."

Regents notes: Civic literacy; tenure approval[14]

During the Sept. 7 Board of Regents meeting at the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, the University Affairs Committee reported that it intends to engage faculty in a conversation about potential for promoting civic literacy education across the university.

Committee Chair John Carson, R-Highlands Ranch, said he wanted to explain the committee's position to the board in light of media reports indicating he and others had called for a civic literacy requirement for CU students.

"We are exploring whether we need to have more focus on (civics) in the academic realm," Carson said. "I recognize the faculty takes the lead on these matters. But it is very appropriate for the Board of Regents to put the question out there. We want to open a dialogue with (faculty) and get some ideas put out on the table.

"I think it might have come off initially as some sort of mandate we were going to push, but that's not the way we come to decisions at the university."

As Sunday's 230th anniversary of the ratification of the U.S. Constitution approaches, Carson said he has grown concerned over the country "failing to teach young people the fundamentals of American civics," citing the writing of Hillsdale College President Larry Arnn.

Regent Irene Griego, D-Lakewood, said she firmly believes curriculum is the faculty's responsibility. "I'm very excited about hearing from our faculty regarding how they see not only this topic but future topics we should be looking at – what is taught and what should be taught at our university."

Regent Heidi Ganahl, R-Superior, said she appreciates Carson's efforts on the topic, and that the university shouldn't be dissuaded from examining the issue because of those who believe the responsibility for teaching civics should be that of the K-12 system. Griego said it's important to consider the pre-K-16 continuum and potential partnerships between higher education and public schools.

In other business at last week's Board of Regents meeting:
The board approved[15] one appointment with tenure: Catherine A. Simmons, School of Public Affairs, UCCS, effective Sept. 9. Faculty Council Chair Ravinder Singh read a statement from the governance group that followed the previous week's discussion[16] on Regent Carson's involvement in a legal matter: "The Faculty Council endorses Regent Law Article 10 relating to non-discrimination, and appreciates the deliberate efforts made by our university to prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation and to provide benefits to same-gender couples. We thank Regent John Carson and appreciate him for clarifying his position and clearly articulating his support for the Regent Law on non-discrimination and for the university's provision of benefits to same-gender couples. We recognize the importance of the university's support of the LGBTQ+ community and the impact of that support on members of the CU community as well as people across the state of Colorado. We are all committed to having an open dialogue as these issues arise. The Faculty Council endorses Regent Laws and Policies and expects all members of the University of Colorado community to uphold them." The board heard a report[17] on how the staff compensation merit pool was distributed for the current fiscal year. The board approved a Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree program at CU Boulder, as well as plans there for a 19th Street bridge and pedestrian path. Read more in CU Boulder Today[18]. Distinguished Professors John Hobbins, M.D., and Ernest E. Moore, M.D., both of the CU School of Medicine at the Anschutz Medical Campus, were formally recognized for their designations, which were announced last year[19].

Scientists are analyzing your tweets and FB posts: Is it ethical?[20]

Faculty profile: Being a librarian is about more than books for Tabby Farney [21]

Collaboration creates business confidence index [22]

Postdoctoral Appreciation Week celebrations set at CU Anschutz[23]

The Postdoctoral Association (PDA) at the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus is celebrating the National Postdoctoral Appreciation Week (NPAW), Sept. 18-22.

NPAW consists of a series of exciting on-campus and off-campus events to celebrate the contribution of postdoctoral fellows or "postdocs." According to the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA), postdocs are trainee scientists with Ph.D. degrees who are currently preparing for their future career through "mentored advanced training to enhance the professional skills and research independence."

Postdocs make vital contributions to our university, the economy and science as a whole, but historically the contributions of postdocs have not been well-recognized. To address this, NPAW was started in 2009 by NPA, a nonprofit educational association. By 2016, NPAW expanded to 350 events in the U.S. and abroad, including CU. NPAW 2017 at CU Anschutz will be even bigger with several new events and further support from the administration, for postdocs at the university and its affiliated hospitals.

PDA will kickoff NPAW with “Gong a Scientist” night at Spangalang Brewery in Denver, where postdocs will describe their research without jargon. This event encourages a positive interaction between postdocs and the Denver community by explaining science in an accessible way, and provides postdocs with valuable speaking, presenting, and networking opportunities.

Tuesday consists of networking on-campus with fellow postdocs over hors d’oeuvres.

Wednesday will be an approved day-off from campus for community service in collaboration with the Community-Campus Partnership, further supported by the dean of the Graduate School.

Thursday takes us to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science for the Science Lounge event “Beer,” where postdocs will celebrate the art of brewing with local experts and network over beer. The PDA is sponsoring 30 free tickets for postdoc attendees there.

Friday and Saturday offer a PDA-sponsored ice-cream social and a “Postdoc Parents Picnic” for postdoc families along with our Women in STEM group at Fred Thomas Park in Denver, respectively.

Additionally, our PDA and its subcommittees volunteer all year to support our postdocs through the monthly seminar series, hikes and the annual Postdoctoral Research Day, which was attended by multiple government representatives this year.

We hope that the CU community joins the NPAW celebrations to meet and support the postdocs.

Event details bit.ly/NPAW2017[24]

Acknowledgements: PDA Committee members[25] for putting NPAW together mentored by Bruce H. Mandt, Ph.D., director of the Postdoctoral Office; Hannah Hathaway, Ph.D., and president of PDA, for providing resources and critical comments on this article.

Submitted by Rwik Sen, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Fellow at Artinger Lab

Next Mini Med School Online session begins Oct. 2[26]

The pioneering CU Mini Medical School has been reimagined as a massive open online course (MOOC).

It covers many of the areas medical students learn about in their first two years, from anatomy and physiology to molecular biology, immunology, neuroscience and cancer biology. The focus is on the science, but clinical relevance is always made clear.

Thousands of students from over 150 countries have ranked the course No. 6 worldwide in the health sciences. It’s suitable for anyone from high school on up, regardless of background. And it’s fun!

Optional self-tests, lively discussion forums, and much more.

Cost: Free.

MORE INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION[27]

Canto-Soler joins Ophthalmology and Gates Center for Regenerative Medicine team[28]

Newly minted professors of distinction to be celebrated[29]

Brock leads student tour to Peru, named honorary professor[30]

Communication faculty collaborated on new book[31]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-s-economic-impact-1235-billion-annually[2] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/AQYKJP521FBC/$file/CU%20Economic%20Impact%20Study%20(August%202017).pdf[3] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/AQYKJR521FC9/$file/CU%20Economic%20Impact%20Study%202017%20Presentation.pdf[4] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-voice-support-daca-students-workers[5] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-leaders-urge-action-colorado-lawmakers-daca[6] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/griego_irene.jpg[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-undergraduate-programs-make-grade-nationally[8] http://www.colorado.edu/today/2017/09/11/cu-boulder-maintains-high-marks-among-college-rankings-2017-2018[9] https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges[10] https://www.usnews.com/products/features/education-products-best-colleges[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/fall-enrollment-exceptional-four-cu-campuses[12] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/AQYL7Q5534F5/$file/FY%2017-18%20Preliminary%20Fall%20Enrollment%20(Final).pdf[13] http://communique.uccs.edu/?p=27607[14] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-notes-civic-literacy-tenure-approval[15] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/goto?open&id=APPLY358C722[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-council-expected-make-statement-legal-matter-involving-regent[17] http://www.boarddocs.com/co/cu/Board.nsf/files/AQYKG751BF71/$file/FY%2017-18%20Compensation%20Summary%20Report%20(Final).pdf[18] http://www.colorado.edu/today/2017/09/07/board-regents-hears-report-cus-economic-impact-preliminary-enrollment-numbers-more[19] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/leaders-science-medicine-named-distinguished-professors[20] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/scientists-are-analyzing-your-tweets-and-fb-posts-it-ethical[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/faculty-profile-being-librarian-about-more-books-tabby-farney[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/collaboration-creates-business-confidence-index[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/postdoctoral-appreciation-week-celebrations-set-cu-anschutz[24] http://bit.ly/NPAW2017[25] http://www.ucdenver.edu/faculty-staff/postdoctoral/ucdpostdoctoralassociation/about/Pages/UCD-PDACouncil.aspx[26] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/next-mini-med-school-online-session-begins-oct-2[27] http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/community/MiniMed/mmmooc/Pages/default.aspx[28] https://connections.cu.edu/people/canto-soler-joins-ophthalmology-and-gates-center-regenerative-medicine-team[29] https://connections.cu.edu/people/newly-minted-professors-distinction-be-celebrated[30] https://connections.cu.edu/people/brock-leads-student-tour-peru-named-honorary-professor[31] https://connections.cu.edu/people/communication-faculty-collaborated-new-book