CU Innovation Day celebrates bold ideas, breakthrough ventures[1]
[2]

Invention, entrepreneurship and impact across the University of Colorado were the focus of CU Innovation Day on Sept. 14, an event that drew more than 500 attendees to History Colorado in downtown Denver.

With a theme of “Deep roots. New routes,” CU Innovation Day – held in partnership with Colorado Startup Week[3] – celebrated the university’s 150-year history as a hub of bold ideas and innovation, and showcased work by the CU community that is changing the way we live and work and creating new possibilities for the future.

“CU is Colorado’s University. In fact, we were established the same year as our great state – 150 years ago,” CU President Todd Saliman said in his welcome remarks to a standing-room-only audience. “During that time, CU has been a place of discovery, creativity and innovation, and an integral part of Colorado’s rich innovation ecosystem, which impacts the nation, the world and beyond.”
[4]

More than 60 innovators from all of CU’s campuses showcased their work in Inspiration Hall, with projects spanning arts, culture and storytelling; biotech and medical innovation; community, mental and digital health; emerging and deep tech; and games and playful innovation.

Other highlights included a keynote presentation featuring Ibotta[5] Founder and CEO Bryan Leach and innovators from CU’s four campuses, as well as a panel discussion on CU and the future of the arts in the Rocky Mountain West that included a representative from the Sundance Film Festival. Additionally, CU hosted about 150 students from the Denver School of Science and Technology and Valor High School at the event.
[6]

Now in its third year, the annual showcase is a product of the President’s Innovation & Entrepreneurship Initiative[7], an effort to amplify and connect work happening systemwide in innovation and entrepreneurship, research, creative works, immersive education, and private and public partnerships to generate substantial real-world impact.

For more information about CU’s work in innovation, read the latest CU System Innovation & Entrepreneurship Impact Report.[8]

Fall 2026 enrollment declines slightly driven by international student losses[9]

AURORA – The University of Colorado’s estimated fall 2026 enrollment is 66,769 students, a decline of 926 students, or -1.4% from fall 2025, with nearly two-thirds of the systemwide decrease attributable to fewer international students.

Preliminary figures were presented to the Board of Regents during its Sept. 10-11 meeting at CU Anschutz.

International enrollment declined by 583 students, or -17.8%, across the CU system compared with fall 2025. The largest decrease was among international graduate students, whose enrollment fell by 465 students, or -22.5%. International undergraduate enrollment decreased by 118 students, or 9.7%. CU Anschutz saw an overall gain of 64 students.

Despite the overall decline, new first-year undergraduate enrollment increased slightly systemwide. The CU system enrolled an estimated 10,480 new first-year students in fall 2026, an increase of 50 students, or 0.5%.

“Despite some challenges with enrollment, CU continues to attract students to all four of our campuses. Heading into the fall, CU is seeing systemwide growth in resident student enrollment, including more than 47,000 Colorado residents,” said Chad Marturano, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer for CU. “CU continues to invest significantly in both scholarships and financial aid as well as important efforts like concurrent enrollment that help

speed time to degree. All of this saves Colorado families money and makes the prospect of a CU degree a good return on the investment."

Here's a look at projected enrollment at each of CU's four campuses:
CU Boulder enrollment is estimated at 38,510 students, down 298 students, or -0.8%. University of Colorado Colorado Springs enrollment is estimated at 9,901 students, down 493 students, or -4.7%. CU Denver enrollment is estimated at 13,654 students, down 199 students, or -1.4%. CU Anschutz enrollment is estimated at 4,704 students, up 64 students, or 1.4%.
Final census numbers for all campuses will be completed by Sept. 30.

In other business at last week's regents meeting:
The board voted to approve a resolution affirming its support of CU's new systemwide Strategic Plan, as presented on the plan's website[10]. Regular updates to the site, as well as annual reports provided to the board from administration, will show progress toward the goals described in the plan. The board approved a resolution[11] in solemn remembrance of 9/11, followed by a moment of silence. Friday marked 25 years since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that killed nearly 3,000 people in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Among those lost, the resolution notes, were 10 CU Boulder alumni and former students: Nina Patrice Bell, Chris Ciafardini, Scott Thomas Coleman, Brian Thomas Cummins, Leslie Whittington Falkenberg, Christopher Faughnan, Allison Horstmann Jones, Chandler "Chad" Keller, Joshua "Rosie" Rosenblum and Adam Shelby White, "whose lives of professional achievement, academic distinction, and personal promise were cut short in the World Trade Center and at the Pentagon." Read more here.[12] Regent Emeritus Robert Earl "Bob" Caldwell was honored with the board's passage of a memorial resolution[13]. Caldwell died Aug. 4, 2026, in Boulder at age 88. A CU Boulder alumnus, he was elected to the Board of Regents and served from 1986 through 1992. Read more here.[14] The board formally recognized Marc Moss, M.D., as a member of the most recent cohort of Distinguished Professors[15], CU's highest honor for faculty across the four-campus system. Moss is the Roger S. Mitchell Professor of Medicine-Division of Pulmonary, Allergy, and Critical Care Medicine in the CU School of Medicine at CU Anschutz. This year's other Distinguished Professors were formally recognized at the board's February meeting[16] at CU Boulder. The board approved two appointments with tenure[17] at CU Boulder, effective Sept. 10, 2026: Bohyun Kim, Professor, University Libraries; and Maxwell Robb, Professor, Chemistry, College of Arts and Sciences.

UCCS welcomes Air Force ROTC detachment with ribbon-cutting ceremony[18]

New systemwide AI policy expected to evolve with feedback from community[19]

The start of this academic year at CU brought with it the launch of a new administrative policy statement (APS) to provide shared expectations for the responsible use of artificial intelligence across the university.

APS 6012, titled Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)[20], took effect Aug. 24. The policy addresses topics including academic integrity, data protection, transparency and the need to review AI-generated information for accuracy.

As the policy's justification document[21] explains, AI has been used in higher education for years, but expectations and guidance for its use have not always been consistent. The emergence of genAI has heightened the need for such guidance. APS 6012 is intended to provide a common foundation while allowing each CU campus to develop guidance suited to its own community and academic needs.

Scott Munson, CU system Chief Information Officer, noted an ongoing feature of the system administrative policy as it appears on the OPE website: a button linking to a form where users may submit feedback on the policy's current iteration.

“This policy is a starting point, not the end of the conversation,” Munson said. “We will continue listening to the university community and updating the policy as technology, university practices and our understanding of AI evolve.”

That means input from the university community, which already has helped shape the policy since its initial draft first was posted in November 2025, will inform the evolution of APS 6012 on a continuing basis.

The policy got its start last year at the direction of university leadership. Dan Montez, OPE director, said several feedback submissions were made in the ensuing months, with redline changes noted in drafts.

“The draft really changed over time,” Montez said.

Munson said that while the initial draft was good, “the feedback made it much stronger. There were really thoughtful comments.”

The systemwide policy was designed to be broad enough to allow for the campuses to develop more granular, campus-specific AI policies.

As provided for in APS 6012, President Todd Saliman is expected to soon establish a systemwide AI group, set to meet regularly, following the prior establishments of four campus AI groups and a system administration group. Campus chancellors have submitted names to the president for consideration for the systemwide group, as have the systemwide governance groups.

“We know there is more work to do,” Munson said. “Continued participation from faculty, staff, and the broader CU community will be essential as we evolve the policy.”

The policy was part of the conversation at a meeting of the Faculty Council earlier this month. Faculty Council Chair Diana White added a special meeting, focused strictly on AI, to the governance group’s calendar.

Munson, who also attended the Sept. 3 meeting, thanked the council and its Educational Policy and University Standards (EPUS) Committee for its feedback. White thanked committee Chair Ravinder Singh and the committee members for tireless work over the summer.

Faculty Council also has established an AI Committee, chaired by Joanne Addison and co-chaired by Jed Brown. While not focused on campus policy, Addison said the group plans to issue a series of guidance documents on how to operationalize AI tools.

“We still have challenges,” White said at the conclusion of the meeting. “But it feels like we are more structured than we were a year ago.”

Call for submissions: President’s Fund for the Humanities Grants, Chase Faculty Community Service Award[22]

The CU system Office of Academic Affairs[23] is soliciting submissions for its annual awards and grants.

President’s Fund for the Humanities Grant[24]

The President’s Fund for the Humanities (PFH) Grant was established to promote the research and scholarly activities of faculty in the arts and humanities at CU. The fund aims to preserve balance in the university’s education and research programs, and to support dynamic and innovative research and creativity in the arts and humanities. Successful proposals for the PFH program describe a well-developed scholarly or creative project rooted in the arts and humanities with clear and feasible outcomes. The award is up to $15,000 for one year. This may include one course buyout and funding to be used towards a faculty member's scholarly and creative work.

Eligibility: Proposals must be authored by full-time CU tenured faculty, tenure-track faculty, or full-time CU instructional and clinical teaching faculty with 20% or greater differential workload for scholarly work. There are no disciplinary restrictions on applicants so long as the work fits solidly within an artistic/humanistic framework. Proposals will not be considered if submitted by faculty who have not completed their final report from a previous PFH award.

Deadline: Apply by Oct. 26. Learn more here.[24]

Chase Faculty Community Service Award[25]

The Chase Faculty Community Service Award, which is sponsored by an endowment from the Chase Corporation through the CU Foundation, is a $10,000 award honoring a University of Colorado faculty member who, in addition to their university responsibilities, has, pro bono, provided exceptional educational, humanitarian, civics or other service in the community.

Eligibility: Full-time CU tenured, tenure-track faculty, instructional, research, and clinical faculty. Self-nominations are not allowed, and previous winners are not eligible to be nominated.

Deadline: Nominations are due Jan. 19, 2027. Learn more here.[26]

Questions?Contact the Office of Academic Affairs.[27]

Firefighter deaths afflict surviving colleagues, research finds [28]

Annual Dr. Mary E. Guy Distinguished Lecture fosters dialogue and learning [29]

FDA clears clinical trial using CAR T-Cells to fight colorectal cancer [30]

Federal update: NSF Golden Age of Science strategy, more [31]

From Sept. 11, this update from CU Federal Relations and Counsel includes information on NSF Golden Age of Science Strategy, NIAID/DOW Interagency Agreement, DHS Non-Immigrant Grace Period Proposed Rule, and DOE Genesis Mission Town Hall.

Click here to read the post.[32]

For the latest communications and federal memos, please visit the CU System Federal Updates and Actions[33] page.

Stenehjem named senior associate dean for Clinical Affairs [34]

Fields named Chief of Police [35]

Feature documentary by Taylor, Clark now streaming via PBS [36]

A documentary co-directed by two faculty members of CU Boulder's College of Communication, Media, Design and Information has made its way to the Public Broadcasting System and is currently streaming.

Ross Taylor, associate professor, and Pat Clark, assistant professor, in 2024 received a President's Fund for the Humanities[24] grant, which supported the creation of their documentary feature film.

"A Refuge in Scouting" tells the story of an all-refugee scout troop based in Aurora. One of the only troops of its kind in the nation, Troop 1532 serves as a beacon of hope for area refugees. The troop was chartered 10 years ago by P.J. Parmar, who also runs Mango House – the largest shared space for refugees in the region.

Learn more about the production in CMDI Now[37] and click here to stream the film on PBS[38].

AI-native government: Infrastructure, not authority[39]

These lessons from 'The Oregon Trail' could help you survive in the wild[40]

This tiny raccoon turned trash into toys – and taught her family how, too[41]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/cu-innovation-day-celebrates-bold-ideas-breakthrough-ventures[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/cu_innovation_day_lead_edit_09-17-2026.jpg[3] https://www.costartupweek.com/[4] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/cu_innovation_day_todd_edit_09-17-2026.jpg[5] https://home.ibotta.com/[6] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/cu_innovation_day_panel_edit_09-17-2026.jpg[7] https://www.cu.edu/impact-cu/[8] https://cu-innovation-impact-report.com/[9] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/fall-2026-enrollment-declines-slightly-driven-international-student-losses[10] https://www.cu.edu/system-strategic-plan/[11] https://cu.community.diligentoneplatform.com/document/31442/?lastModified=639244831772830000[12] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-consider-resolution-solemn-remembrance-sept-11[13] https://cu.community.diligentoneplatform.com/document/eb3a7973-40fa-400b-afc6-078b8d0f18a4/[14] https://www.dailycamera.com/obituaries/robert-earl-caldwell/[15] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/cu-designates-

seven-new-distinguished-professors[16] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/budget-scenarios-2026-27-presented-board-regents[17] https://cu.community.diligentoneplatform.com/document/e6361480-2316-48fe-a86f-bf234b149a69/[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uccs-welcomes-air-force-rotc-detachment-ribbon-cutting-ceremony[19] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/new-systemwide-ai-policy-expected-evolve-feedback-community[20] https://www.cu.edu/ope/aps/6012[21] https://www.cu.edu/sites/default/files/aps/347904-APS%206012%20-%20Responsible%20Use%20of%20Artificial%20Intelligence%20%28AI%29/justification/6012Justification.pdf[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/call-submissions-president-s-fund-humanities-grants-chase-faculty-community-service-award[23] https://www.cu.edu/oaa[24] https://www.cu.edu/oaa/grants/presidents-fund-humanities[25] https://nam02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.com.cu.edu%2F%3Fqs%3DABB7InYiOjEsImQiOjQ5Nzh9AAcAAAAABa3gwce5LNByDVNhPUSqPCPyVNkayfQN9Tuuw3jHtESr4qIgHsRUy0kGFTlOKoraV3UV3L27T9sLCttgg6rKdAHkpLPYWSCCR8g&data=05%7C02%7Csusan.youtz%40cu.edu%7Cb204615e2eb24eaa1cbd08df021e9f65%7Ce889e28f74d447f287e853732cbbe7ec%7C0%7C0%7C639232002707204661%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5WEDy%2BgBKXnrmgz1%2BZ99efnYxnSdEhqwQ6FT2vmaY8k%3D&reserved=0[26] https://www.cu.edu/oaa/recognitions/chase-faculty-community-service-award[27] mailto:academicaffairs@cu.edu[28] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/firefighter-deaths-afflict-surviving-colleagues-research-finds[29] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/annual-dr-mary-e-guy-distinguished-lecture-fosters-dialogue-and-learning[30] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/fda-clears-clinical-trial-using-car-t-cells-fight-colorectal-cancer[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/federal-update-nsf-golden-age-science-strategy-more[32] https://www.cu.edu/blog/government-relations/federal-government-update-91126[33] https://www.cu.edu/office-government-relations/federal-relations/federal-updates-and-actions[34] https://connections.cu.edu/people/stenehjem-named-senior-associate-dean-clinical-affairs[35] https://connections.cu.edu/people/fields-named-chief-police[36] https://connections.cu.edu/people/feature-documentary-taylor-clark-now-streaming-pbs[37] https://www.colorado.edu/cmdinow/2026/03/24/education-empathy[38] https://www.pbs.org/show/a-refuge-of-scouting/[39] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/ai-native-government-infrastructure-not-authority[40] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/these-lessons-oregon-trail-could-help-you-survive-wild[41] https://connections.cu.edu/itn/tiny-raccoon-turned-trash-toys-and-taught-her-family-how-too