CU community members honored for multi-faceted leadership[1]
[2]

Three University of Colorado community members have been named recipients of the 2020 Thomas Jefferson Award, among the highest honors bestowed at the state's largest institution of higher education.

The recipients, who were celebrated Sept. 16 during a virtual awards ceremony, are:
[3]

Named for the third U.S. president and a Founding Father who greatly influenced American arts, sciences, education and public affairs, the annual Jefferson Award[4] recognizes CU faculty, staff and students who demonstrate excellence in the performance of regular responsibilities at the university while also contributing noteworthy service to the broader community.

The awardees were chosen for embodying and advancing the ideals of Thomas Jefferson: broad interests in literature, arts and sciences, and public affairs; a strong concern for the advancement of higher education; a deeply seated sense of individual civic responsibility; and a profound commitment to the welfare and rights of the individual.

Professor Maxwell Boykoff is director of the environmental studies program at the University of Colorado Boulder. He also is a Fellow at the Cooperative Institute for Research into Environmental Sciences (CIRES) and the co-founder and co-director of Inside the Greenhouse, an initiative to inspire creative climate communication, as well as co-founder of the Media and Climate Change Observatory, which tracks media coverage of climate change around the world.

Boykoff is a contributing author to the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report, and has served on an Independent Science Panel for the Deep South Challenge, led by the New Zealand government (since 2015), as well as on the Research Oversight Committee (ROC) for the societal research aspects of the 'CoAdaptree Genome British Columbia' research project in Canada (since 2017). Internationally, he is an Advisory Board member for the Global Sustainability Film Awards.

At the national level, Boykoff has participated in three Scientific Integrity Roundtables in the U.S. Senate offices. These have involved U.S. Congressional Senate leadership along with U.S. House leadership and leading researchers and practitioners who work on elements of climate change, policy and public engagement.

Nelia Viveiros currently is associate vice chancellor for academic operations and interim vice chancellor for diversity and inclusion, the latest of many key roles she has held at the University of Colorado Denver | Anschutz Medical Campus.

In her role as associate vice chancellor for academic operations, she continues with the oversight and leadership roles of previous positions, but also has several additional critical responsibilities, including liaison to the CU Board of Regents Governance Committee. In this role, she streamlines university policy and procedure and ensures consistent messaging between the system office and campuses.

In her normal course of work, Viveiros has re-envisioned and implemented entire offices of critical importance to the success of the Denver and Anschutz campuses. One example is the development and implementation of the Office of Equity at the downtown and Anschutz campuses. She worked to reformulate the office from the ground up by developing new policies and procedures.

Viveiros is actively publishing in the areas of equity and conflict in higher education and has a forthcoming book to be published by Cognella Press. She is an active member of the Latin American Educational Foundation and mentors several minoritized individuals in the community; she also belongs to the University Club of Denver Women of the Vine and the Denver Women's Chamber of Commerce, where she is a volunteer adviser.

Jake Reagan graduated summa cum laude this spring from CU Boulder with a bachelor's degree in Spanish and Political Science. He is a true scholar across a wide range of subjects and methods.

Reagan served as Student Body President from 2018 to 2019. As Sandy Jones, former dean of students, characterized the job, “It requires a considerable amount of high-level management work, including recruiting, training, motivating and inspiring a team of over 20 legislative council members, dozens of paid commissioners and hundreds of committee members.”

One of Reagan’s primary focuses as Student Body President was gun violence. Jones wrote, “As a direct result of Jake’s initiative in bringing campus stakeholders together, the CU Boulder campus instituted an enhanced educational strategy for active-shooter response that educates students, staff and faculty on how to be effective bystanders in times of crisis.” During this project, Reagan orchestrated an effort by CU Student Government to work with Colorado’s Democratic and Republican lawmakers to craft state-level, gun-safety legislation for universities across Colorado.

In his capacity as Student Body President, Reagan also worked alongside fellow tri-executives, other student leaders and university administrators to preserve student control of CU Student Government’s budget and operations. Facing a budget reduction of over 90%, not only did he work with CU administration to avoid these cuts, he also sought to mend the relationship between CU Student Government and the CU administration by building cooperative ties and improving trust between the two constituencies.

Apart from his work at CU, Reagan has interned with the U.S. Senate and the World Bank, has been mentored by Nobel Peace Laureates through the PeaceJam Foundation, and served as a Spanish language interpreter for the Emergency Family Assistance Association. He also worked last summer as a Teach for America Accelerate Fellow, living and working in rural and urban areas in the United States to understand the complex array of issues facing the education system.

In recognition of his commitment to leadership and public service, Reagan was awarded a prestigious Truman Scholarship. Last November, he was selected as a Rhodes Scholar[5], the second CU Boulder student to win the award in over 25 years. He will continue his studies this fall at Oxford University.

Winners of CU’s Thomas Jefferson Awards are selected by a committee of CU faculty, staff and students. Recipients receive an engraved plaque and a $2,000 honorarium.

The Thomas Jefferson Award was established at the University of Virginia in 1951 by the Robert Earll McConnell Foundation to honor teaching faculty who exemplified the humanistic ideals associated with Jefferson. By 1962, six other institutions – including CU – had established a Jefferson Award. In 1980, the university added a student category; in 1988, the staff category was approved. Funding for the awards is derived from earnings on an endowment provided by the McConnell Foundation and from a bequest by Harrison Blair, a CU alumnus.

IT procurement a key piece of puzzle for Transformation and Innovation Program[6]
[7]

New approaches to procurement of Information Technology (IT) are being examined as part of CU’s Transformation and Innovation Program[8] (TIP), which continues to gain ground.

“A CU-wide vision for technology investment requires a systemwide approach to IT Procurement,” said Harper Johnson, Associate Vice President of Transformation and Innovation. “Our effort last year to advance a systemwide approach to Adobe resulted in $1.1 million in projected savings over the four years of the contract.”

The projects within TIP are continuing to solidify the scope of their activities, define deliverables and identify potential timelines and milestones. This body of work will be formally documented into each project’s charter; charters will be reviewed by campus and system leaders to ensure alignment.

Stakeholder interviews are underway primarily with members of the IT Governance Executive Committee[9] and other leaders from across CU.

As the program's name indicates, the projects that make up the program are transformational in nature. Stakeholders will need to be open to new ways of doing things and to consider the perspectives of others whom they may not have worked with before. The goal is to emerge operationally stronger and more efficient by leveraging technology as a key enabler of CU's mission.

Why the need for change? The Technology Assessment completed in spring 2020 showed that 45% of CU's IT spend occurred outside of the Offices of Information Technology, University Information Services, and Advancement IT. There is a significant amount of information technology-related goods and services that are purchased by the individual below $10,000.

Campus/department-level autonomy has been the norm for CU, but we now recognize that we are not effectively leveraging the scale of CU for improved contracts and better pricing.

When analyzing the IT buying patterns of CU holistically, there were many examples of separate contracts and pricing with the same vendor across CU; this duplicative spend means there are efficiencies to be gained.

Purchasing processes currently in place have room for improvement in terms of efficiency, and we lack consistent monitoring and reporting to help make the best decisions we can in terms of sourcing and contracting for IT goods and services.

Goals of the IT Procurement project:
[10]

The main goals of the 2.2 Effective and Efficient Procurement of Information Technology project include:
A stronger, more strategic approach to IT Category Management. This is supported by strategic work underway in the Procurement Services Center, under the direction of Chief Procurement Officer Ed Mills.
"Through engagement with campus customers, the PSC developed a series of initiatives to improve efficiency, visibility, data analytics and product pricing," Mills said. "We are pleased to continue partnering with our customers and the TIP projects to deliver transformation and innovation in IT investments."
Improving our master contract agreement language, templates, and supporting processes to ensure consistent workflow and efficiency while also mitigating risk. Clarifying and improving policies related to the use of PCards, including direction on when to use CU Marketplace rather than a PCard for IT purchases. Refined end-to-end IT purchasing process with clarifications made to roles and responsibilities including approvals, better understanding of risk and compliance criteria.
Expected benefits of the project:
Increased visibility and transparency into IT purchases across CU. More oversight into IT spend and the contracting processes by IT groups can improve financial planning and reduce risk. Reduced dispersion and duplication of IT spend across similar vendors. Improved vendor relationships, leading to better leveraging of IT spend. Modernized vendor contracting templates and processes. Consistency in reporting for IT spend.
A project Steering Committee has been named that includes campus and system representation:

Name	**Office**
Larry Levine	CIO, Boulder
David Lowry	Interim CIO, Denver
Laura Morris	Interim CIO, Anschutz
Chris Smith	

Technology Strategy Officer and Assistant Dean of Admin & Finance, Anschutz -- School of Medicine

Greg Krems

UCCS OIT Operations

Terry Lee

Chief Risk Officer

Jeremy Hueth

Senior Managing Counsel

Scott Munson

CIO, UIS

Dan Jones

Chief Information Security Officer (CISO)

To accomplish the work of the project, the following workstreams have been defined and are led by:

Workstream Lead

IT Category Management

Duane Tucker, PSC

Master Service Agreements and Contracts

Jenny Casanova, PSC

PCard

Mary Martin, PSC

IT Reporting

Shonna Hughes, PSC

IT Purchasing Process & Roles

Crystal DiCino, PSC

Project Manager Kristen Quintana is working with the workstream leads to define activities and tasks needed to complete the defined scope. This includes identifying the deliverables they will produce, such as process and policy change recommendations that the Steering Committee will review and validate.

Once the activities, tasks and deliverables are defined, the project's key milestones will be scheduled and shared among the customer advisory groups, which have yet to be formed.

For more information on CU's Transformation and Innovation Program, please see the TIP website[8], which also invites stakeholders to share their input.

TIP is committed to sharing regular updates and information as the work progresses.

Online course free to CU community examines race and social justice[11]
[12]

A new course available free to the CU community aims to stimulate meaningful discussion and engagement on the topics of racial discrimination and social justice.

“Anti-Racism I” recently was added to the slate of offerings from CU on Coursera[13], a suite of over 150 online courses taught by faculty from across the University of Colorado. The courses are available at no cost to faculty, staff, students and alumni from all four campuses and the system offices.

The course was developed by CU Boulder’s Shawn O’Neal, a doctoral candidate in ethnic studies, and Jennifer Ho, professor of ethnic studies and director of the Center for Humanities and the Arts. Read more[14] in CU Boulder Today.

The course also is featured by Coursera in a collection[15] titled “Learn about race, inequality, and social justice.”

Over 1,000 faculty, staff and students across all CU campuses enrolled in Coursera courses in 2019. CU on Coursera is sponsored by the Provost’s Office for Academic Innovation[16] at CU Boulder and the Office of Digital Education and Engagement[17] at the University of Colorado system.

District 6 candidates for Board of Regents slated for virtual forum[18]

Candidates for the CU Board of Regents in the 6th Congressional District are slated to present their views in an Oct. 5 virtual forum.

CU faculty, staff, students and the general public are invited to take part in the event, which is presented by the University of Colorado Staff Council, University of Colorado Faculty Council and the CU Anschutz Faculty Assembly.

The 6th Congressional District encompasses a wide swath of the north, east and south Denver area. Republican Richard Murray and Democrat Ilana Spiegel are the major-party candidates vying for the seat being vacated by Republican John Carson, elected in 2014 and not seeking a second term on the board.

The event is from 3-4:30 p.m. and limited to 3,000 participants; register here[19] to reserve your spot.

To submit a question for the candidates, please fill out this Qualtrics form[20]. Questions are subject to review and will be shared in advance with candidates.

Awards highlight innovation in the time of COVID[21]
[22]

It took some innovation on the part of the Office of University Controller (OUC), but the 2020 CU Innovation and Efficiency Awards voting finally took place in August via Zoom, aided by some great motion graphics presentations

created by Michael Edwards, the OUC's motion and graphic designer.

In a normal year, all award semi-finalists would be showcased at an expo where CU employees are invited to browse exhibits created by each of the teams and view their innovations in action. Because that is not possible this year, the controller's office invites you to a virtual expo, https://www.cu.edu/controller/innovation-efficiency-awards[23], where the 2020 award winners are announced and celebrated, along with a taste of the exciting innovations they've created.

After viewing the video, click through the website to view or read about all of the great submissions received in 2020, as well as those from years past.

On behalf of the CU Innovation and Efficiency Awards, the OUC thanks the winners, semi-finalists and all CU employees who took the time to submit this year. Your vision and efforts to improve business processes at CU are appreciated, and we hope to hear more from you in the future.

Next year's program gets underway Dec. 1.

For flu season, give yourself a shot at good health[24]

The CDC recommends that you and your family members get a flu vaccine in September or October. Because it takes about two weeks for the flu vaccine to provide protection, it is recommended that you and your family members get vaccinated before the flu begins spreading in the community.

This year, flu shots are highly recommended as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to change and evolve on a global scale. Both flu and COVID-19 are serious respiratory illnesses. Because some symptoms of the flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, and testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis.

Getting the flu vaccine later in the season is still beneficial – assuming flu viruses are prevalent – and can protect you and your family members from serious flu illness and flu-related complications.

The number of immunizations created each season are limited and it is expected flu shots will be in high demand as long as the COVID-19 pandemic remains an active threat.

Previous flu seasons may have had less emphasis on the advantages of making an appointment to receive your flu shot. "Walk-ins welcome!" has long been a popular approach to checking your flu shot immunization off the to-do list. Employees and their families are encouraged to make an immunization appointment early in the season, before demand really starts to increase. Appointments save the time and inconvenience of waiting out long lines for walk-in immunizations, in addition to increased sanitization between patients waiting for their flu shots.

Check with your doctor directly regarding their specific flu shot administration process to determine details, including flu shot availability, appointment requirements and applicable co-payment/co-insurance costs. Some doctors' offices may offer a tiered approach to flu shot administration that could entail scheduled appointments, drive-up immunizations or walk-in flu shots. Your doctor can help determine the best approach for you and your family.

If your doctor is unable to provide you with a flu shot, many other locations will continue to offer flu shot immunizations this season, including pharmacy clinics such as participating CVS and Walgreens locations, and participating Walmart, King Soopers and Safeway pharmacies. Flu shot availability and administration may vary by location, so it is best to call ahead with any questions.

For CU Health Plan – Exclusive members, UCHealth primary care clinics will begin to offer patients and Exclusive plan members the flu shot beginning in mid-September. There is no extra cost when an Exclusive plan member receives a

flu shot during an office visit. If a member would like to receive their flu shot from a UCHealth clinic without an office appointment, there will be a designated nurse in each clinic to administer the shot. There is no extra cost when a member receives a flu shot from this designated nurse.

Check out the following additional resources, which vary by CU Health Plan, and give yourself a shot at good health!

Flu shot resources for CU faculty and staff by CU Health Plan

Exclusive, Extended, High Deductible and Medicare

The flu shot is covered under Anthem plan members' preventive care benefits at 100% when you go to a health professional in your plan. Contact your primary care doctor for information about receiving your flu shot. Members can also get a flu shot at urgent care facilities, retail health clinics, many pharmacies or walk-in doctors' offices in their plan.

Call the number on your Anthem member ID card or visit anthem.com[25] to find a health professional in your plan near you. Members may also visit timewellspent.anthem.com/employee-education/cold-flu[26] for more information on flu shot season.

For additional questions, call the Anthem Dedicated Customer Service team at 1-800-735-6072.

CVS

CVS Caremark administers the pharmacy benefits of Anthem CU Health Plans. There will be no cost to members who receive their flu shot at any network pharmacy. Find network pharmacy locations at Caremark.com. Visit CVS.com/immunizations/flu[27] for more information.

Questions? Contact CVS Caremark's dedicated CU Health Plan Customer Care team at 1-888-964-0121, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

Kaiser

CU Health Plan – Kaiser members will receive either an email, direct mail and/or text message about flu shots in August and September. Members may visit kp.org/flu[28] or call the flu hotline at any time for a listing of all medical offices offering flu shots and get the most up-to-date information on flu vaccine supply.

Members can call the 24/7 Flu Hotline anytime, day or night:
Denver/Boulder: 303-344-7600 Mountain/Northern/Southern Colorado: 1-866-868-7091
Kaiser is offering a phased approach to flu shot immunizations for the 2020-21 flu season:
Scheduled appointments (which began Sept. 1): Members can receive a flu shot at their next scheduled appointment at a KPCO medical office. **Drive-up flu shots:** Sept. 1-30, by appointment only, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday **Walk-in flu shots:** Oct. 1-Nov. 30, no appointment necessary, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday
Beginning Dec. 1, members will need to make an appointment to get a flu shot at a KPCO medical office.

Members in the Southern, Northern or Mountain Colorado service areas may also get a flu shot at an affiliate provider or a community retailer. Applicable copayment/coinsurance may apply. Members should keep their receipt, download a medical claim form from kp.org, and send it in with the flu shot receipt to the address on the claim form. Members can call Member Services to have a claim form mailed to them.

Campus options

CU Anschutz

Students, faculty and staff can get a flu vaccination through the CU Anschutz Campus Health Center by calling 303-724-6242 to make an appointment. Drive up or walk up to the tent located in the Monte Vista parking lot south of

the Anschutz Health and Wellness Center at your scheduled time. Please do not arrive early or late to your appointment time. Do not enter the Wellness Center building.

Appointments are offered most Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, until Oct. 15, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and 2 p.m.-5 p.m.

Overall enrollment declines, but historic gains in diversity, graduation rates provide bright spots [29]

September Town Hall provides update on enrollment, budget and testing procedures [30]

Visiting Author Series set for October[31]

A grant from the President's Fund for the Humanities is supporting a Visiting Author Series in October at UCCS.

Leslie Rapparlie, senior instructor of rhetoric, writing and creative writing, said the virtual events will feature authors Nick Arvin and Nate Marshall. Both will provide a craft talk and reading.

Arvin, set for Oct. 1, is a two-time Colorado Book Award winner and an engineer, demonstrating how science and creativity can come together for working writers. His information can be found here https://www.nickarvin.com/bio[32].

Marshall, set for Oct. 21, is a prominent local author whose writing is focused on "themes of blackness, urbanity, and community." His background is in hip-hop and rhythmic poetry and is committed to "the role of literature to reach towards other people." More information can be found here[33] and here[34].

The events are sponsored by the Creative Writing Minor and are supported by the President's Fund for the Humanities, the Faculty Minor Affairs Committee, and the Office of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion at UCCS.

For more information and to learn how to take part in the virtual events, contact Rapparlie at lrapparl@uccs.edu[35].

Department of Energy awards $1 million to CU Denver-led team for computational biology[36]

CU scientists secure $1 million to explore COVID-19 and Down syndrome [37]

Caronan named Faculty Fellow to support diversity, equity and inclusion at CU Denver [38]

Linhart to retire in February 2021 [39]

CU Boulder names four finalists for College of Music dean [40]

Links
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/cu-community-members-honored-multi-faceted-leadership[2] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/tj_top.jpg[3] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/tj_boykoff-viveiros-reagan.jpg[4] https://www.cu.edu/office-academic-affairs/awards-grants/thomas-jefferson-award[5] https://www.colorado.edu/today/2019/11/24/jake-reagan-awarded-prestigious-2020-rhodes-scholarship[6] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/it-procurement-key-piece-puzzle-transformation-and-innovation-program[7] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/tip_top_0.jpg[8] https://www.cu.edu/tip[9] https://www.cu.edu/it-gov/members[10] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/tip_it-category-mgmt-strategy.jpg[11] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/online-course-free-cu-community-examines-race-and-social-justice[12] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/news_mooc_justice_thumb.jpg[13] https://www.coursera.org/programs/cu-on-coursera-sqyue?authProvider=uofc[14] https://www.colorado.edu/today/2020/08/07/free-anti-racism-course-opens-door-some-very-difficult-questions[15] https://www.coursera.org/collections/race-inequality-social-justice[16] https://www.colorado.edu/oai/[17] https://www.cu.edu/oaa/office-digital-education-engagement[18] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/district-6-candidates-board-regents-slated-virtual-forum[19] https://ucdenver.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BV2J0pjwRyiwc0WxxUgdqw[20] https://ucdenver.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6Ed0NlapR3sYOc5[21] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/awards-highlight-innovation-time-covid[22] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/cu-ie_top_0.jpg[23] https://www.cu.edu/controller/innovation-efficiency-awards[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/flu-season-give-yourself-shot-good-health[25] http://www.anthem.com/[26] https://timewellspent.anthem.com/employee-education/cold-flu[27] https://www.cvs.com/immunizations/flu[28] https://healthy.kaiserpermanente.org/health-wellness/flu?kp_shortcut_referrer=kp.org/flu[29] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/overall-enrollment-declines-historic-gains-diversity-graduation-rates-provide-bright-spots[30] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/september-town-hall-provides-update-enrollment-budget-and-testing-procedures[31] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/visiting-author-series-set-october[32] https://www.nickarvin.com/bio[33] https://www.coloradocollege.edu/academics/dept/english/people/profile.html?person=marshall_nate[34] https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/nate-marshall.[35] mailto:lrapparl@uccs.edu[36] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/department-energy-awards-1-million-cu-denver-led-team-computational-biology[37] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-scientists-secure-1-million-explore-covid-19-and-down-syndrome[38] https://connections.cu.edu/people/caronan-named-faculty-fellow-support-diversity-equity-and-inclusion-cu-denver[39] https://connections.cu.edu/people/linhart-retire-february-2021[40] https://connections.cu.edu/people/cu-boulder-names-four-finalists-college-music-dean