[The affordable-housing crisis and building transportation, health and wealth in underserved areas][1]

[Office of Digital Education expects growth in hybrid learning][2]
[3]

CU's [Office of Digital Education][4] (ODE) continues to provide service to the campuses while undergoing a reframing that best considers ongoing changes to the world of online education.

Faculty Council heard that update during its Sept. 23 meeting, held virtually.

"I think this is a really positive move," said Faculty Council Chair Mary Coussons-Read.

Courtney Borton, acting associate vice president and head of ODE, joined in a discussion with council members after being introduced by Michael Lightner, vice president for academic affairs.

President Todd Saliman earlier this month announced Borton's appointment to the new role, which she holds while maintaining her position as assistant vice president of marketing and communication for ODE.

"We are fortunate to have Courtney at the helm," Saliman wrote in a communication. "She has more than 10 years of experience dedicated to online higher education at five major universities. More importantly, she has embraced the challenge of evolving digital education to meet the service requirements of a hybrid future. She will maintain the current operations of ODE to support the existing CU Online programs. She will also work to ensure internal ODE operations aligns with the needs identified by the campus planning processes."

Saliman said after consulting with the chancellors he decided to pause the search for a permanent head of ODE. Appointing an acting leader allows time to determine a path for the future.

"It is an understatement to say that opinions of online and hybrid learning have evolved during the last 18 months," said Saliman, referencing the pandemic. "Colleges and universities have relied heavily on digital education to continue our mission of graduating students during this extraordinary moment in history. Now, higher education leaders are reevaluating the role that online learning will play in the future, where students are expecting flexibility and options in the online and hybrid campus experiences.

"It makes sense for us to take some time and think about what this means for the University of Colorado's campuses. Our success in serving Colorado, our community and students depends on our campuses creating and realizing a vision for online and hybrid learning."

Increasingly, Lightner said, on-campus students are asking that online education be part of their experience. "We call this, 'The future is hybrid.'"

Borton noted that students who are learning exclusively online often decide to add some on-campus courses, but don't want to sacrifice the support and coaching they receive online.

Borton said she is optimistic and excited for the coming evolution of education.

"COVID has changed a lot of things not only for us but for our students," Borton said. "I call this a refreshing reset, because it's so needed. We need to ask, how can we best support students?"

In other business at last week's Faculty Council meeting, Lightner reminded council members of the state's continuing work spurred by this year's passage of the [Higher Education Student Success legislation][5] ([House Bill 21-1330][6]). A Student Success and Workforce Revitalization Task Force and its working groups began meeting earlier this month and have meetings scheduled through November. [Click here][5] for meeting details and more information.

Regents help showcase STEM careers at CU Boulder event[7]
[8]

CU partnered with the American Heart Association to present Friday's STEM Goes Red event at CU Boulder.

CU Regents Lesley Smith and Ilana Spiegel took part in the day's presentations, part of an initiative bringing interesting careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics to life for young women. Students from Northglenn High School attended. Angie Paccione, executive director of the Colorado Department of Higher Education, moderated.

The American Heart Association is working to engage more women in STEM through STEM Goes Red[9]. The program draws from the association's strong legacy of science, education and discovery to help propel young women into rewarding STEM careers.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month elevates culture of safety[10]
[11]

The University of Colorado Office of Information Security points to October's Cybersecurity Awareness Month as an opportunity to continue fostering a security culture at CU.

The university joins a growing global effort to promote the awareness of online safety and privacy. The Cybersecurity Awareness Month Champions Program is a collaborative effort among colleges and universities, businesses, government agencies, associations, nonprofit organizations and individuals committed to the month's theme of "Do Your Part. Be CyberSmart."

This year, Cybersecurity Awareness Month's main weekly focus areas will revolve around:
Understanding and implementing best security practices, including the importance of strong passphrases, using multi-factor authentication, performing software updates and backing up data. Recognizing suspicious emails that attempt to trick you into providing your personal information, installing malicious software or sharing access to your accounts. Empowering individuals to not only practice safe online behavior, but consider joining the mission of securing our online world by considering a career in cybersecurity. Making cybersecurity a priority in business by making products and processes "secure by design" and considering cybersecurity when purchasing new internet-connected devices. Beginning Monday, the OIS website — cu.edu/security[12] — will be the CU community's source for Cybersecurity Awareness Month content and activities, including weekly articles, Zoom webinars and quizzes in which participants compete for prizes.

Now in its 18th year, Cybersecurity Awareness Month continues to build momentum and impact with the ultimate goal of providing everyone with the information they need to stay safer and more secure online. CU is proud to support this far-reaching online safety awareness and education initiative which is co-led by the National Cyber Security Alliance [13]and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security[14].

For more information about Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2021 and how to participate in a variety of activities, visit CU's Office of Information Security[12] website.

## Early-bird registration for Accessing Higher Ground Conference ends Friday[15]

Early-bird registration for the Accessing Higher Ground: Accessible Media, Web and Technology Conference[16] has been extended through Friday.

This year's event runs Nov. 15-19 at the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel. The 2021 edition of the conference also will have a virtual option[17].

CU campus affiliates who use their campus email address receive a 5% discount off registration fees. CU Boulder affiliates will receive a 10% discount.

Accessing Higher Ground focuses on the implementation and benefits of accessible media, universal design and assistive technology in the university, business and public setting; legal and policy issues, including ADA and 508 compliance; and the creation of accessible media and information resources, including webpages and library resources. For institutions of higher education, there is a strong focus on campus accommodation, universal design and curriculum accessibility.

Keynote speaker is Jaipreet Virdi[18], historian of medicine, technology, and disability. She is an assistant professor at the Department of History at the University of Delaware and the author of "Hearing Happiness: Deafness Cures in History."

Click here for the full agenda[19] or register now[20].

Questions: Contact Howard Kramer, 720-351-8668 or hkramer@ahead.org[21].

## Upcoming virtual event: The Dalai Lama on compassion and dignity for educators[22]

## Immersive Global Middle Ages institute will recreate worlds that no longer exist [23]

## "This Is CU Denver's Moment" – Key Takeaways from Inaugural Future Fest[24]

## Cyclist back on road thanks to aortic valve expertise at CU Anschutz [25]

## Celebrating exceptional women in medicine during National Hispanic Heritage Month[26]

Mbue to make virtual Visiting Author appearance for UCCS[27]
[28]

UCCS Creative Writing Minor faculty are hosting New York Times best-selling author Imbolo Mbue[29] at 11 a.m. Oct. 13 as part of the biannual Visiting Author Event Series.

Held virtually, the conversation will last about an hour and contain a short reading by the author, followed by an interview and finally an open question-and-answer session. Click here[30] for an excerpt of the author's work.

Mbue is the author of The New York Times bestseller "Behold the Dreamers," which won the PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction and was an Oprah's Book Club selection. The novel has been translated into 11 languages, adapted into an opera and a stage play, and optioned for a miniseries.

Her new novel, "How Beautiful We Were," is about what happened when a fictional African village decided to fight against an against American oil company that had been polluting its land for many years.

A native of Limbe, Cameroon, and a graduate of Rutgers and Columbia Universities, Mbue lives in New York.

For more information and to request the link to join the event, contact Leslie Rapparlie, lrapparl@uccs.edu[31].

**Links**
[1] https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/affordable-housing-crisis-and-building-transportation-health-and-wealth-underserved-areas[2] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/office-digital-education-expects-growth-hybrid-learning[3] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/online-learning_top.jpg[4] https://www.cu.edu/digital-education[5] https://cdhe.colorado.gov/higher-education-student-success-legislation-hb21-1330-authorizes-federal-american-rescue-plan[6] http://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/documents/2021A/bills/2021a_1330_enr.pdf[7] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/regents-help-showcase-stem-careers-cu-boulder-event[8] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/bor_stem_top.jpg[9] https://www.heart.org/en/get-involved/attend/stem-goes-red[10] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cybersecurity-awareness-month-elevates-culture-safety[11] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/cybersec_month_top.jpg[12] https://www.cu.edu/security[13] https://staysafeonline.org/[14] https://www.dhs.gov/CISA[15] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/early-bird-registration-accessing-higher-ground-conference-ends-friday[16] https://accessinghigherground.org/[17] https://accessinghigherground.org/virtual-2021/[18] https://www.history.udel.edu/people/faculty/jvirdi[19] https://accessinghigherground.org/schedule-2021/[20] https://cvent.me/7yOMKW[21] mailto:hkramer@ahead.org[22] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/upcoming-virtual-event-dalai-lama-compassion-and-dignity-educators[23] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/immersive-global-middle-ages-institute-will-recreate-worlds-no-longer-exist[24] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-denver-s-moment-key-takeaways-inaugural-future-fest[25] https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cyclist-back-road-thanks-aortic-valve-expertise-cu-anschutz[26] https://connections.cu.edu/people/celebrating-exceptional-women-medicine-during-national-hispanic-heritage-month[27] https://connections.cu.edu/people/mbue-make-virtual-visiting-author-appearance-uccs[28] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/p_women-in-medicine_hispanic-heritage-month_p.jpg[29] https://www.imbolombue.com/[30] https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/10/books/review/how-beautiful-we-were-by-imbolo-mbue-an-excerpt.html[31] mailto:lrapparl@uccs.edu