



Moderna coronavirus vaccine trial at CU Anschutz shows 94.5% efficacy^[1]

In Coleman, CU had visionary leader, tremendous philanthropist^[2]

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Bill Coleman, one of CU's most generous benefactors, passed away this week. He and his wife, Claudia, are the namesakes of the university's Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities.

The institute celebrated its 20th year in 2020 and is one of the most notable university institutes focusing on policies and technologies helping people with cognitive disabilities. The Colemans established the institute with what at the time was the largest gift to an American public university, \$250 million.

"The CU family lost a visionary leader and tremendous philanthropist with the passing of Bill Coleman," said CU President Mark Kennedy. "The Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities has for 20 years had a profound impact on the lives of tens of thousands of people with cognitive disabilities and their families.

"Bill's energy and passion helped move CU and Colorado to the forefront of service, research and policy work in the community of those working to improve the lives of those with cognitive disabilities. Quite simply, he made a significant difference."

The institute's mission is to catalyze and integrate advances in technology to promote the quality of life of people with cognitive disabilities. Some 30 million people in the U.S. have a cognitive disability, such as intellectual disability, brain injury, Alzheimer's disease, stroke and serious, persistent mental illness. An estimated 449,000 persons in Colorado have cognitive disabilities.

Bill Coleman was a successful Silicon Valley technology entrepreneur who earned degrees from the U.S. Air Force Academy and Stanford before working at and leading various tech firms. He and Claudia's inspiration for the Coleman Institute came when they saw how technology opened a world of possibilities for a niece with a cognitive disability.

In a posting on the institute's website, Coleman wrote, "If these technologies are made affordable, accessible and adaptable for people with cognitive disabilities, everything about their lives will improve. Think of a world where your identity is protected but in which everything can adapt to your abilities and disabilities in the context of where you are, what you need, and what you are doing or planning to do. For those with cognitive disabilities, this world holds the promise of being able to live mostly independent lives, to work and become productive, contributing members of society."

The Coleman Institute's signature event was an annual conference that drew hundreds of people from across the country and around the world. It explored topics at the confluence of technology, policy and research regarding cognitive disabilities. Additionally, researchers affiliated with the institute gave talks and presentations around the world.

The Coleman Institute was the first systemwide institute at CU, engaging researchers and technologists from all of CU's campuses. Those researchers, along with affiliated researchers at universities and medical facilities across the country, had a strong track record for securing grants that advanced the institute's mission, said Michael Lightner, system vice president for academic affairs, who has worked with the institute since its inception.



“Those grants led to new technologies that improved the lives of people with cognitive disabilities, as well as white papers that had a significant impact on policies at the state and national levels,” Lightner said.

An important initial framing was adopting a “people first” perspective, which put people, not their abilities, at the forefront. The goal was, and is, integrating people with cognitive disabilities into society to the greatest extent possible. The institute also developed and disseminated a widely regarded “Declaration of the Rights of People with Cognitive Disabilities to Technology and Information Access.” The Declaration has been adopted/endorsed by 645 organization across 19 countries.

The institute also develops apps and computer-based programs ranging from accessible website monitoring technology to an app that allows for greater mobility using the RTD transportation system. In recent months, it has been working to develop applications that help those with cognitive disabilities address COVID-related issues including the Colorado Emergency Response Desktop. It created coaching technology that helped people complete everyday activities such as cooking meals, taking medications and performing various work tasks.

“The Coleman Institute has an incredibly successful track record that has had a dramatic impact on the lives of people with cognitive disabilities,” Lightner said. “Bill Coleman’s legacy is that he made our world a better place for thousands and thousands of people and that legacy lives on in the Coleman Institute.”

Bolstering efforts to fight student food insecurity^[5]

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Students across CU experiencing food insecurity will get a boost after President Mark Kennedy designated \$300,000 from his office to support campus efforts to address the issue.

“Our students can’t be at their best when a basic need such as food isn’t being met,” Kennedy said. “Food pantries across CU are doing a great job tackling the problem and I was happy to be able to augment their funding so they can continue, and in some cases grow, their operations.”

Of the total amount, \$125,000 will be directed to the CU Boulder campus, \$75,000 to the CU Anschutz Medical Campus, and \$50,000 each to UCCS and CU Denver. The additional funding comes from initiative funds, which are interest earnings on CU’s investments. Kennedy said he became aware of the issue and need after conversations with some regents and student leaders.

“I worked my way through college, in part working in the cafeteria, so I have some insight into food insecurity issues, which have been around for some time,” he said. “I’m glad we’re having this discussion at CU and happy to be able to help address food insecurity.”

Intercampus Student Forum President Isaiah Chavous brought the issue to the fore in November during his regular presentation to the Board of Regents. His comments heightened the awareness of Kennedy and the regents.

“Food insecurity has been a topic of increasing importance on the Boulder campus and across the CU system,” Chavous said. “Students, and particularly graduate students, have some substantial needs. I felt it was important for the Board of Regents and university leadership to understand the depth of the issue.”



Regent Lesley Smith, vice chair of the board, subsequently met with student leadership to discuss sustainability issues. In addition to discussion about green funds to support a variety of sustainability initiatives and talk about a one-stop campus office to direct students to various support services, Smith said food insecurity was a topic at the front of students' minds.

"Given that student leadership viewed this as one of three critical areas to discuss, it's important to give it the attention it deserves," she said.

Smith also had a personal view of the issue after seeing a tweet from one of her former graduate students, who shared that while trying to get food for him and his family, the drive-thru pantry he visited ran out of food 30 minutes after opening.

"There is more need than resources to meet it, so this additional funding will certainly help," Smith said. "We need to find ways to get this program to continue beyond this year."

Board of Regents Chair Glen Gallegos said the attention the issue is getting will help keep it at the forefront of discussions.

"Many people are surprised that some of our students are dealing with food insecurity and they shouldn't be," Gallegos said. "This has been an issue for some time and the pandemic has certainly made it worse."

"We have to do what we can to ensure that CU students don't have to worry about where their next meal is coming from when they're trying to focus on their studies," he said. "I applaud President Kennedy for taking action that will help them do that, and regents for engaging."

Hannah Wilks, director of the Volunteer Resource Center at CU Boulder, which oversees the campus food pantry, had submitted a request to Kennedy for additional funding.

"What it will mean is we can take a look at the highest need going into spring semester," she said. "We'll consider whether there are other types of food distribution we could add."

Currently, the Volunteer Resource Center has a variety of food assistance resources, including a food pantry in the University Memorial Center, a mobile food pantry, a donation program (for food and funding), and connections to resources in the community.

"We've become an essential service," Wilks said.

She cited figures that before COVID, some 38% of CU Boulder students experienced food insecurity, and the figure is even higher since the pandemic. And the issue is by no means limited to CU or any one campus.

"Basic need support is popping up all over, from community colleges to Ivy League schools," she said.

She is grateful not only for the contribution from Kennedy, but for the awareness and understanding of the center's mission from the president, regents and administration.

"We're grateful for the questions, the attention, the understanding of our intention and the understanding of what students are going through so we can provide interventions," Wilks said. "Investing in students is always the best investment a university can make."

Infectious disease containment, anxiety disorder interventions among



collaborative projects funded by AB Nexus grants ^[7]

CU University Counsel Padilla named president at Valparaiso ^[8]

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José Padilla, CU's university counsel and secretary to the Board of Regents, will leave the university this month to [become president](#)^[10] of Valparaiso University in Indiana.

"This is definitely bittersweet for me because the University of Colorado is a great institution with wonderful people, but the opportunity to serve as a university president has been a longtime dream of mine," Padilla said.

He will succeed Mark Heckler, who retired after 12 years as president. Heckler went to Valparaiso after serving as provost at CU Denver.

Padilla will assume his new position Jan. 2. Valparaiso University, located in Valparaiso, Ind., was founded in 1859 and is a selective, independent Lutheran institution with 2,737 undergraduates and 399 graduate students.

"We wish José the best in his new position," said Glen Gallegos, chair of the CU Board of Regents. "He's accomplished some good things in his short time at CU and helped advance the board's priorities."

Padilla was named to his CU position in May after a national search. Managing Associate Counsel Jeremy Hueth has been selected to serve in Padilla's position in the interim. The regents will discuss next steps regarding the position when they meet in early 2021.

CU President Mark Kennedy said he will miss Padilla's counsel and work with the Board of Regents, but understands his decision.

"We obviously would have liked to have Jose's talents for longer than we did, but I know he is passionate about serving as a university president," Kennedy said. "Our loss is Valparaiso's gain."

Incoming members of Board of Regents to take part in virtual forum ^[11]

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The [three regents-elect](#)^[13] to the University of Colorado Board of Regents are set to introduce themselves to the CU community in a Dec. 10 virtual forum.

CU faculty, staff, students and the general public are invited to take part in the event, which is presented by the four campus Staff Councils, Faculty Council and Boulder Student Government, with welcoming remarks from CU Boulder Chancellor Philip DiStefano.

The event, which will run 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Dec. 10, is limited to 3,000 participants. [Registration](#)^[14] is required.



The welcome session is designed to allow incoming regents Callie Rennison, Ilana Spiegel and Nolbert Chavez to introduce themselves and speak about their vision for the board. The last 30 minutes of the event will be a Q&A session.

[Click here](#)^[14] for registration and more information.

UIS Impact Report: Adapting and growing technologies for future needs^[15]

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The latest University Information Services Impact Report details ways the department innovates and adapts technology to prepare the University of Colorado for the future.

UIS provides technical services and enterprise applications to all CU campuses and system administration. From student technology services to research and grant systems to human resources, UIS supports CU's daily activities, in collaboration with its technology partners throughout CU.

The report details how UIS staff is adapting, connecting and growing CU's technological prowess.

"In this report, there are countless examples of UIS not just maintaining but innovating with technology to move CU forward, adapting to the changes around us," said Scott Munson, Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer at CU system. "UIS also continues to drive forward with foresight, collaborating with all University of Colorado campuses, looking for new opportunities to leverage technology that can make a positive impact for you, our community and society."

A few report highlights:

See how Research and Grants systems support the management of \$1.4 billion in sponsored research each year
Understand the ways UIS is aiding the growth of CU's online learning capabilities
See how data is gathered from many systems and delivered across CU's campuses
Discover a key UIS activity that helps to protect CU from costly cyberattacks, which are increasingly common among public research universities
Learn about a variety of technology projects that saved time and money, from tracking tuition assistance applications and transfer credits to making it easy to correctly pronounce someone's name

[Read the UIS Impact Report](#)^[17]

From the Office of Information Security: Tips for secure online shopping^[18]

CU Boulder welcomes applications for the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer^[19]



CUPD leads Boulder County law enforcement agencies in lethality assessment training^[20]

November Town Hall reinforces mental health, enrollment as top priorities^[21]

Film field trip gives students a wild experience ^[22]

CU Anschutz researcher offers new theory on ‘Venus’ figurines^[23]

Conlin recognized as top archaeology teacher^[24]

Reuer elected Deputy Dean of Fellows for the Strategic Management Society^[25]

In memoriam: Jim Eberhart^[26]

Links

- [1] <https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/moderna-coronavirus-vaccine-trial-cu-anschutz-shows-945-efficacy>
- [2] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/coleman-cu-had-visionary-leader-tremendous-philanthropist>
- [3] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/coleman_top_1.jpg
- [4] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/coleman_01_0.jpg
- [5] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/bolstering-efforts-fight-student-food-insecurity>
- [6] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/pres_food-insecurity_top.jpg
- [7] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/infectious-disease-containment-anxiety-disorder-interventions-among-collaborative-projects>



- [8] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-university-counsel-padilla-named-president-valparaiso>
- [9] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/padilla_01.jpg
- [10] <https://www.valpo.edu/news/?type=post&site=239&id=12122>
- [11] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/incoming-members-board-regents-take-part-virtual-forum>
- [12] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/new-reg-virtual-mtg_top.jpg
- [13] <https://connections.cu.edu/spotlights/voters-send-rennison-spiegel-chavez-board-regents>
- [14] https://cuboulder.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jz8r0vYCRXiixK7TJBhgTA
- [15] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/uis-impact-report-adapting-and-growing-technologies-future-needs>
- [16] https://connections.cu.edu/sites/default/files/uis-rpt_top.jpg
- [17] <https://www.cu.edu/uis/about-uis/uis-impact-report>
- [18] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/office-information-security-tips-secure-online-shopping>
- [19] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-boulder-welcomes-applications-executive-vice-chancellor-and-chief-operating-officer>
- [20] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cupd-leads-boulder-county-law-enforcement-agencies-lethality-assessment-training>
- [21] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/november-town-hall-reinforces-mental-health-enrollment-top-priorities>
- [22] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/film-field-trip-gives-students-wild-experience>
- [23] <https://connections.cu.edu/stories/cu-anschutz-researcher-offers-new-theory-venus-figurines>
- [24] <https://connections.cu.edu/people/conlin-recognized-top-archaeology-teacher>
- [25] <https://connections.cu.edu/people/reuer-elected-deputy-dean-fellows-strategic-management-society>
- [26] <https://connections.cu.edu/people/memorial-jim-eberhart>