

Kevin Ann Oltjenbruns
Award for Outstanding Leadership

This award is named for Dr. Kevin Ann Oltjenbruns who served the Colorado State University community for more than 30 years. Kevin was passionate about higher education and dedicated to CSU and its land grant mission of excellence in research, teaching, and engagement. While at CSU, she served in various leadership roles including Department Chair, Associate Dean, and Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs.

Due to her exceptional and versatile leadership skills, Kevin was often asked to assume interim department head positions at critical transition periods, including units such as Communication Disorders, Construction Management, Design and Merchandising, and Education. Kevin's accomplishments were recognized with numerous honors and awards, including the all-university Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Pennock Award for Outstanding Service.

Dr. Oltjenbruns was a tireless advocate for students, and mentor and champion for faculty. With her indomitable spirit and natural enthusiasm, she enjoyed every moment of life and enriched the lives of all who knew her. She had the knack of making every person feel special as she cheered them on. She was guided by the principles of inclusiveness and integrity, and believed we are most productive and impactful when we operate with recognition, appreciation, and respect of each other and our differences.

As a lifelong learner herself, Kevin was instrumental in bringing the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute to the CSU campus. After co-writing the grant application, the institute was provided grant monies in 2006 and has been offering classes since.

Kevin's impactful service extended into the Fort Collins community as well. More than forty years ago, she was involved in launching the organization that is now Pathways Hospice, one of the first hospices in the country. As CSU faculty, she developed the first course on campus with a focus on grief and loss, and taught many students who are now professionals in the field. She also co-authored two editions of a textbook on dying and grieving used at colleges and universities across the United States.

This award serves to highlight and reward the extraordinary efforts of truly outstanding CSU faculty and staff who, through their leadership and mentoring/advising, go above and beyond the standard expectations for employees with similar responsibilities.

Two CSU employees will be honored each year – one faculty member and one staff member.