

December 9, 2021



**OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY**

Dear Faculty and Staff:

I want to express my sincere appreciation for all you have done to support our students and enable them to reunite this Fall in a residential learning environment and engage in an in-person college experience. Thank you for your hard work, dedication, and for providing the students the opportunity to be on campus with in-person courses, advising, programming and mentoring with you.

Thank you for all you continue to give of yourselves intellectually, emotionally and physically in pursuit of our mission. Your hard work is a central reason for our strong return this Fall. You represent all that is good about this university, the strength of our values, our collective character, and a commitment to a better world.

I have said this before, and it is worth repeating – you are at the core and heart of CSU’s success. Our students know this to be true and have benefitted from your dedication and compassion over and over again. You are extraordinary and I am proud to be part of this caring community with you. I hope you will have the opportunity to take some time over the holidays to relax, rejuvenate, and enjoy time with family and friends. Celebrate and enjoy this time!

Please find below the message Vice President Blanche Hughes and I sent to students as they enter the final stretch of the semester.

Sincerely,

Mary Pedersen
Provost and Executive Vice President

Subject: Best of Luck for a Strong Fall Finish!

Dear Rams:

As you prepare to turn your focus to finals week, we want you to know we are thinking of you and wishing you success with the end of the semester. You are an important part of this Ram Family, and we respect all you have navigated academically and personally to get to this point in the semester. You have played an important role in CSU’s return to a full in-person experience this Fall. We are proud of you and grateful you are part of CSU, you make us better and stronger.

This Fall reunited our Ram community in a way we have not experienced since pre-pandemic times, and it has been both rewarding and challenging. We appreciate all you have done to follow health protocols to keep us open. As you prepare for final exams, we want you to know faculty, staff and the CSU leadership team are in your corner, rooting for you to finish strong. In this final stretch, make sure you take care of yourself:

- Get plenty of sleep and eat well
- Exercise your [body](#) and [mind](#) to help manage stress
- Lean on your faculty, advisors, trusted staff members and friends for support (Rams take care of Rams)
- Reach out if you feel overwhelmed –seeking help is a sign of strength (<https://health.colostate.edu/mental-health-resources/>)

For those of you graduating this December, ***congratulations!*** We know you are ready to celebrate with your families and loved ones. Ceremonies will be in-person this semester, with public health protocols in place for everyone’s safety. For information on commencement and commissionings, schedules of ceremonies and health protocols, visit: <https://commencement.colostate.edu/>.

For those of you returning in the spring, ***we will see you after winter break!*** If you have not yet registered, talk with your advisor and confirm your schedule to increase your ability to get the classes you want and need. We hope winter break provides an opportunity for you to rest and recharge.

Best of luck to all of you for ***a strong Fall Finish.***

Sincerely,
Mary Pedersen
Provost and Executive Vice President

Blanche Hughes
Vice President for Student Affairs