



OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Message from the Provost & Executive Vice President



Dear Colleagues:

My first communication to you as Provost & Executive Vice President was four months ago, which at times seems like just yesterday and at other times feels like I have always been a CSU Ram. Just as I did on January 2 when I began my journey here, I want to thank you for the warm welcome you have given me. It has not stopped since the day I stepped into this role. I am proud to be with you at Colorado State University.

The Provost & Executive Vice President is, of course, a dual role and has a broad portfolio of units it oversees ([Reporting Units & Areas of Oversight Chart](#)). The Provost is the institution's chief academic officer with the responsibility to provide academic vision and leadership to fulfill our land-grant mission.

As Executive Vice President, I serve as second in command within CSU's administration. This means I am involved in helping identify and implement key strategies to advance [the President's institutional priorities](#), which include student success, compensation, and advancing democracy, and to provide leadership and guidance on matters such as budget management and institutional strategic planning.

These are challenging times for higher education, and universities today face many pressing issues, such as the threat of political interferences; finding new paths to financial stability (leading many institutions, including CSU, to consider new budget models); improving enrollment, recruitment, and retention; showing families how college can be affordable without incurring large debt; responding to the largest campus protest movement of the 21st century; and other internal and external forces. Even technology advancements like artificial intelligence disrupt our thinking and force us to adapt. Change is the constant.

But we do this work because we are driven by a passion and commitment to our students and the mission of access to education and inclusive excellence. The lives and communities you impact through your teaching and research are among the most important work in the world. What you do improves quality of life for current and future generations, benefits our shared humanity, and gives promise of a brighter future.

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,
Marion



Academic Leadership Searches

With a modified position title and expanded qualifications, the search for CSU's [Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Affairs](#) is underway. The VPDUA full-consideration application deadline is July 31. Effective July 1, Dr. Michelle Stanley of the College of Liberal Arts will serve as interim VPDA. We are grateful to Interim Vice Provost Tom Siller, who will retire at the end of June.

The four finalists for the [CLA dean position](#) are being interviewed this month. Open fora recordings and feedback forms will be available on the search webpage until May 14 at 5 p.m.

Open fora for the [College of Agricultural Sciences dean](#) finalists have concluded. The Search Committee is compiling feedback collected during the finalist interviews and open fora.

Faculty Success

Program Report

In only its first year, [Faculty Success](#) provided over 1,000 hours of collaboration and programming, reaching all deans, 65% of chairs/heads, and 31% of all CSU faculty. Learn more about program activities and outcomes in the [May 2024 Faculty Success Program Report](#).

Elevating Equity Blog

The [Spring 2024 Faculty Success blog, Elevating Equity](#), is live with 20 posts highlighting an array of insights, research and best practices around faculty equity.

Annual Review Rating System

The faculty annual review rating system is being updated to promote communication and provide useful feedback about job performance, facilitate better working relationships, provide an historical record of performance, and contribute to professional development of faculty. Department head/chair training is underway now, and discussions with faculty are planned for early in the fall semester. 2024 will be a transition year from the old system to the new. [More information on the new annual review rating system](#).

Student Success

Student Advising Evaluation

University Academic Advising and the Office of the Provost & Executive Vice President commissioned nationally recognized experts from peer institutions to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the University's academic advising network. Weeks of system review and two days of on-campus interviews culminated in a full report with 16 recommendations.

Committee Recommendations

The [six subcommittees](#) of the Student Success Implementation Leadership Team, created in the [initiative's restructuring](#), presented their findings to the Strategic Leadership Team. Their reports detail direct and achievable recommendations developed through cross-campus collaboration, and subsequent implementation work is slated to begin in the fall.

Core Curriculum

Honors Director Shawn Bingham and College of Natural Sciences Associate Dean Lisa Dysleski will co-chair a new task force in revising CSU's Institutional Learning Objectives and All-University Core Curriculum to best deliver an innovative, compelling, and mission-oriented core curriculum to undergraduates.

Announcements

- **CSU employees will receive three well-being days (Nov. 25-27) during Fall Break.** These are in addition to the designated holidays on Nov. 28-29. [More information on the 2024 Fall Break days of leave.](#)
- **The Institute for Learning and Teaching's [annual Summer Conference](#) is May 15-16.** It is free for all instructors across campus, and the theme is "Supporting Today's Students." Deborah Santiago, CEO and co-founder of *Excelencia* in Education, will be the keynote speaker and workshop leader. Two days of workshops, panels, and informational sessions will cover a wide variety of topics.
- **This year's [Symposium for Inclusive Excellence](#) is October 21-25.** The Symposium is a jam-packed week of incredible workshops, powerful guest speakers, and thoughtful events centered on diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. Registration is free and open to all.
- **The Institute for Learning and Teaching is on the verge of finalizing the [TILT Faculty Research Fellowship](#) recipients.** Throughout the upcoming academic year, the selected individuals will spearhead groundbreaking advancements in teaching methodologies and research within the realms of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning or Discipline-Based Education Research.

Higher Education News

Campus protests have dominated media coverage for several weeks and have, of course, been heavily covered by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

- One *Chronicle* article that might be of particular interest is "[How Colleges Have Responded to Student Encampments](#)" (published May 1, 2024).
 - Additionally, news organizations in Colorado have been covering protests at universities in the state, including: [CU, DU, UNC and Colorado College](#); see [Denver Post](#) and [Coloradoan coverage](#) of CSU-Fort Collins and [KMVT](#) of CSU-Pueblo.
- Another worthy read is *The Chronicle's* "[The Trends Report 2024](#)."
- *The Chronicle* describes the report as: "Our annual investigation into the most consequential developments in higher education. We hope the report will help you understand the forces shaping higher ed (and) what's behind them."

The CSU Libraries provide a [campus subscription to The Chronicle](#).



Points of Pride

- In late April, the National Academy of Sciences honored University Distinguished Professor **Dr. Ellen Wohl** from the Department of Geosciences with the **G.K. Warren Prize for her expansive research and advancements in river and watershed science**.
- **Dr. Allen Robinson**, dean of the Walter Scott, Jr. College of Engineering, and **Dr. Melinda Smith**, chair of Faculty Council and professor in the Department of Biology, were **named as 2023 Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science**.
- The **Department of Ethnic Studies** received a **\$100,000 Mellon Grant** (the first Mellon Grant at CSU) to fund a lecture series in academic year 2024-25 that will explore race, gender, and ethnic studies.
- **Dr. Geoff Morris**, associate professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, received a **\$10M grant from the Gates Foundation** to expand his work using advanced breeding techniques [to find and enhance optimal traits to make crops more resilient and productive](#).
- TILT's [Teaching Effectiveness Initiative](#) team, founded in Fall 2021, is honoring **Dr. Jennifer Reinke** in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies. She is **the first faculty member to earn all seven domains of the Teaching Effectiveness Framework**.