Smart Choices: Academic Excellence is CSU’s Top Priority


These are core elements of our culture at Colorado State University. Our faculty and students continuously push the boundaries of knowledge, creating new ways of teaching and learning on the path to new ideas. To fuel their momentum, the University is investing in academics in unprecedented ways.

**Students**
- CSU students have more academic choices than ever: In 5 years, we’ve added 6 new academic departments/units, 13 new graduate degree programs, 12 new undergraduate majors, and 17 new undergraduate minors.
- Even with a boom in enrollment, our student-faculty ratio is holding steady at 17:1.
- Cutting-edge learning technology: All of our general assignment classrooms have been upgraded into technology-enabled “smart” classrooms.
- Thanks to our investments in student success, 76 percent of CSU students who complete their programs of study now do it in 4.5 years or less.

**Faculty**
- We’ve revamped our funding structure so money raised through differential tuition goes straight back to the academic colleges – infusing $45 million into the colleges in the last 3 years.
- While growing the total faculty 13 percent in 5 years to keep pace with enrollment, we’ve also had a 13 percent increase in women tenure-track faculty and a 17 percent increase in minority tenure-track faculty.
- The number of endowed faculty chairs is up 12 percent – to a record 38.
- The first new classroom buildings in decades – Computer Science ($14 million), Scott Bioengineering Building ($75 million), Rockwell Hall West ($17.5 million), and Behavioral Sciences ($45 million in Phase I) – have been completed in the last 5 years.

**Beyond the Classroom**
- Investments in academics aren’t limited to the classroom but include all dimensions of the student learning experience – service learning, education abroad, student research opportunities, internships, and more.
- The number of CSU students pursuing education abroad is up 42 percent in 5 years – from 964 to 1,372.
- We’re invested in access: Scholarship and need-based aid is up 51 percent overall – driven by a 129 percent increase in institutional aid during a time of state and federal cuts.
Students

• With the addition of The Cube, students now have 24/7 access to study space at Morgan Library.

• The number of CSU students involved in undergraduate research has more than tripled – from fewer than 1,400 in FY10 to more than 5,000 in FY14.

• The largest share of our Education and General budget now goes to Instruction, Academic Support, and Scholarships – only 4 percent of CSU’s budget goes to administration.

• Targeted investments in advising and student achievement have driven freshman retention to a record 86.6 percent – and 6-year graduation rates to 65.2 percent.

• 59 percent of CSU classes have 30 or fewer students.

Faculty

• Major additions or renovations have improved teaching, lab, and office spaces in Rockwell Hall, Eddy Hall, the University Center for the Arts, Industrial Sciences, Animal Sciences, Clark Building, Atmospheric Sciences, Morgan Library, and more.

• A new $55.4 million chemistry building and $81.6 million biology building are in the works, along with an expansion of the Warner College of Natural Resources facility.

• CSU has made a strong commitment to supporting non-tenure-track faculty including improved benefits and contract options and representation in University governance.

• With a $1 million investment in Unizin, CSU joined Indiana University, University of Michigan, and University of Florida to build a faster, more user-friendly digital learning ecosystem that can improve student learning while offering faculty groundbreaking new teaching resources.

• The Institute for Learning and Teaching upholds our commitment to faculty professional development and teaching excellence. Today, TILT partners with Online Plus to provide a 21st-century learning environment for students on campus and off.

Beyond the Classroom

• We’ve made dramatic improvements and additions to student housing that integrate learning and living experiences within the same facilities. Academic Village and the new Laurel Village are key examples.

• We’ve invested in growing and expanding programs to challenge academically accelerated students, including nearly $5 million in total funding for the Honors Program over the past 5 years.

• The new Anderson Academic Training Center promotes the classroom success of our student-athletes.

• The $70 million Lory Student Center renovation transformed an aging structure into a premier facility for student life and culture, with improved spaces for study, meeting, and diving into extracurricular and multicultural learning experiences.

• Donors invest in a great learning environment for students and faculty – private gifts have increased 147 percent in the past 5 years to a record high $143.3 million in FY2014.

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