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DOCTORS AND SCIENTISTS

# DOCTOR'S ORDERS

HEALTH EDUCATION OUTREACH CENTER  
MEETS RISING DEMAND FOR  
WORLD-CLASS MEDICAL EDUCATION

By Rhea Maze

**E**mily Cunis has been interested in pursuing medicine since junior high school. After living in Bushnell, Neb., population 118, Cunis was inspired to write a paper on health care in remote areas of the United States. "There's a huge lack of basic resources,"

*Emily Cunis is a junior in biomedical sciences and environmental health. She also works as vice president of leadership development for CSU's Residence Life's Student Leadership Program. "I love interacting with people," Cunis said. "My job allows me to gain experience communicating, managing conflicts, and problem solving – key skills that will help me succeed in my medical career."*

Cunis said. “Doctors who treat patients in remote settings have to maneuver around so many challenges, but they can really impact people’s lives.”

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**“I want to help alleviate some of the health care disparities faced by the most vulnerable populations in the United States.”**

Cunis chose to study biomedical sciences at Colorado State University after hearing about its renowned anatomy program and low student-to-cadaver ratio. Her ultimate goal is to attend medical school to become a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine and practice family medicine for underserved populations.

“CSU’s anatomy program is awesome,” Cunis said. “The abundance of resources available to students is

phenomenal, and the instructors are always there to help. This program got me even more excited to practice medicine because it allowed me to apply what I learned in an interactive, hands-on way.”

The Department of Biomedical Sciences is gearing up to break ground on a new facility that will allow more students like Cunis to achieve their goals of working in health care, while also connecting them with an even larger network of students, professionals, and opportunities to engage with the public. The Health Education Outreach Center will continue CSU’s exceptional anatomy and neuroanatomy instruction for all interested students, while also attracting new cohorts of future health care professionals and physicians to Colorado.

“Our goal is to build a state-of-the-art facility that rivals those of the best medical schools in the United States,” said Tod Clapp, assistant professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and head of its human anatomy program. “The center will allow us to provide students and clinicians access to a world-class facility and many

*The Health Education Outreach Center will increase undergraduate enrollment in biomedical sciences and expand access to experiential learning for students and professionals of all ages.*





High school students traveled from across Colorado and the nation to attend Anatomy Camp in 2016. Many campers took their first steps toward careers in health and medicine during the weeklong immersion in human gross anatomy.

opportunities to interact and learn from each other.” The center will enable the department to gradually increase undergraduate enrollment, expand its experiential learning opportunities for high school students, and potentially offer classes to medical students through collaborations with the National Western Center in Denver and the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

The center’s partnership with the National Western Center will bring its renowned educational outreach programs in health care and the life sciences to visiting students and families from around the world. Proposed

programs include providing both urban and rural populations with unique opportunities to dissect organs, participate in simulations, and actually see the difference between healthy and diseased parts of the body. These interactive learning opportunities provide students who’ve never before considered a career path in science or medicine with exposure to new possibilities. ■

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