



McConnell Embraces Land-Grant Mission

Joyce McConnell became the 15th president and the first woman president in Colorado State University's 150-year history in 2019. Prior to stepping into the presidency at CSU, McConnell spent more than 20 years at another flagship land-grant institution, West Virginia University. She joined the faculty of the WVU College of Law in 1995 and held progressive leadership positions thereafter.

McConnell is proud to lead one of our nation's best land-grant universities and equally proud to embody the progress that CSU has made in embracing and celebrating the diversity of its campus community. In her Fall Address, McConnell announced a Race, Bias, and Equity Initiative to directly address the challenges that CSU faces today. She said CSU must continue to serve all citizens of Colorado, making education accessible, inclusive, and affordable.

"Every single member of our community deserves to know that they are welcomed and valued for every aspect of their identity, for their race, gender, religion, ethnicity, immigrant status, socioeconomic status, disability status, age, or veteran status," she said. "They deserve a place where there's no question – theirs or anyone else's – whether they belong, because they do."

McConnell's predecessor, Tony Frank, served as president for 11 years and is now the chancellor of the CSU System. ■

— TONY PHIFER



TOP: WILLIAM A. COTTON / LEFT CENTER: JOE A. MENDOZA / RIGHT CENTER AND BOTTOM: JOHN EISELE



TRAILBLAZERS ATTEND MEDICAL SCHOOL IN FORT COLLINS

An inaugural class of medical school students will enroll at Colorado State University in Fall 2021. The collaboration between CSU and University of Colorado's School of Medicine to open a medical school branch in Fort Collins will expand medical education opportunities in Colorado and build on the strengths of both universities through an innovative, far-reaching curriculum.

Housed on the fourth floor of CSU's Health and Medical Center, the new medical education program is busy establishing local partnerships, hiring faculty and staff, and revamping curriculum with a commitment to current teaching methods, including the use of virtual reality and artificial intelligence.

"No lectures," said Suzanne Brandenburg, associate dean of the new program. "Our goal is to push the envelope and focus on active, integrative learning while taking advantage of technology."

WILLIAM A. COTTON

The Fort Collins branch will also allow students to have more direct opportunities to work with clinicians and more continuity with patients than some traditional models, all while enjoying a smaller class size and community.

"Being in a slightly smaller community than in Denver, our hope is that students at the Fort Collins branch will get an even better sense of how many different factors interconnect to impact health and individual patients," said Brandenburg. "From the social determinants of health, to when and how human health is impacted by climate, to the interaction between humans, animals, and our planet, we're trying to give students a very broad perspective as they launch their medical careers." ■

— RHEA MAZE