



SUCCESSES

Land-swap savvy

CSU and the city of Fort Collins exchanged land in an agreement that will allow the University to develop a prime research center at the gateway to the city and the city to expand a premier foothills natural area. The transaction will provide CSU a 143-acre parcel at the southwest corner of Prospect Road and I-25. In exchange, the city's Natural Areas Program will receive 267 acres near CSU's Foothills Campus to expand the Reservoir Ridge Natural Area. The I-25 land will support renewable energy companies, including AVA Solar, whose pioneering, patented technology was developed at CSU.

Presidential honors

Two CSU scientists were acknowledged by President George Bush as emerging leaders in science and engineering. Amy J. Pruden-Bagchi and Jacob Roberts received the Presidential Early Career Award at the White House, the only two researchers from Colorado universities honored this year. Pruden-Bagchi was recognized for her work using molecular biology to investigate antibiotic-resistant genes in the environment. Roberts was honored for investigating ways to cool super-cold gasses of atoms, permitting more accurate study of the size, shape, and behavior of quantum objects. The two CSU scientists were among 56 researchers honored nationwide.

Business buzz

What is the most current economic forecast for Colorado? What business start-ups are creating a buzz? Colorado leaders, decision-makers, industry stakeholders, and concerned citizens learn about issues important to the state's economy through *The Competitive Edge*, a free, monthly, online e-business newsletter. Subscribe by visiting <http://edge.colostate.edu>. *The Competitive Edge* is a publication of the CSU Office of the President.

Runaway champs

The CSU women's cross country team captured the 2007 Mountain West Conference Championship for the first time in the conference's nine-year history. For seven out of the past eight years, the Rams have been runners-up to the BYU Cougars, who had won the conference title for 19 consecutive years. Coach Bryan Berryhill received women's Coach of the Year honors.

APPOINTMENTS

Board-selected

Patrick McConathy, a rancher from McCoy, Colo., was named to the Board of Governors of the CSU System. The nine-member board appointed McConathy to the position held by Jeff Shoemaker of Denver, who resigned earlier this year. Board members are typically appointed by the governor, but mid-term vacancies are generally filled by the Board, according to Colorado law.

PARTNERSHIPS

Engineering support

Woodward Governor Company has pledged \$1 million to support an endowed professorship in systems engineering at CSU. The most complex engineering problems require critical thinking at a systems level, said Thomas A. Gendron, Woodward president and chief executive officer, but there are relatively few systems engineering programs in the United States. Ronald M. Sega, former NASA astronaut and undersecretary for the U.S. Air Force, will develop the new program at CSU. "The contributions that will be made through this program will serve society by solving problems of global importance," said Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter.

Global commitment

The Bohemian Foundation has committed \$400,000 to CSU's College of Business for its new program in Global Social and Sustainable Enterprise. The 18-month Master of Science program focuses on entrepreneurial, sustainable approaches to address the global challenges of poverty, environmental degradation, and poor health. GSSE students take traditional master's-level business courses but receive deeper coverage of cross-cultural issues, non-profit perspectives, and environmental and social policy.

Online conservation

Colorado is one of five states selected to pilot the \$5 million LandScope America project, an online conservation-preservation guide to the nation's lands and waters. LandScope Colorado, headed by the CSU-based Colorado Natural Heritage Program, will provide information about the state's natural areas. The project will rank individual counties and states on various conservation measures and provide aerial,

topographical, and detailed maps. Online viewers will be able to zoom from a national view to state and local perspectives anywhere in the country. GIS-developed data will offer critical information on the condition of a specific Colorado or U.S. location and the threats it faces. www.landscape.org

RESEARCH

Fire-prone

Months before fires raged through Southern California, CSU researchers released a national study warning Americans that 12.5 million homes are at an increased risk of severe wildfires. The danger zone, where homes and urban sprawl meet wildland, has grown to an area larger than the state of California. The National Fire Plan of 2001 and the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 address hazardous wildfire in the United States, but researchers say more must be done. The wildland-urban interface expanded by 52 percent since 1970, the study found, and likely will expand by another 10 percent by 2030.

C2B2

The Colorado Center for Biorefining and Biofuels has awarded \$500,000 in grants for renewable energy research. Three CSU scientists received four grants: Daniel Bush will study the genetic engineering of sugar beets; Keith Paustian will develop an analysis of a thermochemical plant to produce biofuels from cellulose; and Ken Reardon will study new ways to stimulate algae to produce oils that can be converted into biodiesel; he will also study the use of genetic tools to engineer microbial communities known as biofilms that adhere to surfaces.

Wildlife partners

Beer and wildlife have converged but not in a typical television-ad moment. Anheuser-Busch has committed a \$50,000 fellowship to Colorado State University's Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology for the study of wildlife habitat and the environment on Anheuser-Busch properties. CSU and the Anheuser-Busch Fort Collins brewery also are partnering with the Platte River Power Authority to evaluate the use of alternative fuels and working with the brewery's Nutri-Turf farm to assess biofuel crops as a reliable fuel source.



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CSU matters

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