NCAA honors CSU for diversity, inclusion
CSU’s efforts to increase diversity and foster an environment of inclusion were rewarded when the NCAA presented the University with the NCAA and Minority Opportunities Athletic Association’s Award for Diversity in January. The award celebrates colleges or athletics conferences that embrace diversity and inclusion initiatives in ways that may include hiring practices, programming activities, professional development, and community service.

Parker excited to be CSU’s new A.D.
Joe Parker, a proven athletics administrator with experience at some of the nation’s finest collegiate programs, is the new athletics director at Colorado State University. He assumes his duties at CSU in April.

National Hispanic Institute names CSU “University of the Year”
Colorado State University was recently recognized as the University of the Year by the National Hispanic Institute. The honor recognized CSU’s 25-year-long partnership promoting and encouraging higher education within the Latino community.

Plant research to get a new home
A state-of-the-art, $7.5 million CSU horticulture education and research center, adjacent to a popular community garden and federal research center, will open this summer. The new center will expand opportunities for joint research and programming while improving the learning environment for CSU students. It replaces the existing 65-year-old Plant Environmental Research Facility.

Ram athletes excel in classroom
CSU’s Fall 2014 student-athletes had the highest collective term grade-point average of 3.096 since CSU began records in 2006, and 42 percent had GPAs of 3.25 or higher. Among that 42 percent, 47 student-athletes had GPAs above 3.5, and 61 had GPAs above 3.75.

National Academy of Engineering adds Stephens
Graeme Stephens, a University Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Colorado State University, has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering – the third CSU professor in less than a year to be elected to a prestigious national academy. Stephens, a former professor of atmospheric science and lead researcher on the NASA-funded CloudSat project, is the 12th CSU faculty member to join the ranks of the National Academies.

Edwards home becomes part of CSU
Fort Collins community leaders Dave and Paula Edwards have transferred ownership of their stately home on Magnolia Street in Fort Collins to CSU to serve as home for future University presidents. CSU has not had an official President’s House for more than four decades and expects to use the one-of-a-kind house, built in 2001, to host alumni gatherings, special events, and visiting dignitaries.

Beth Walker new College of Business dean
Beth Walker, chair of the marketing department at Arizona State University and an accomplished scholar and leader, has been named dean of the Colorado State University College of Business. Walker, the first female dean of the college in its 50-year history, will replace Ajay Menon, who is returning to the classroom after a dozen years as dean. She starts July 1.
New medical center planned

CSU will build a $59 million on-campus medical center to enhance medical services for students and the community and bolster the University’s research capabilities related to health care and medicine. The 113,000-square-foot building will be home to the existing CSU Health Network, which provides a full range of medical, mental health, and health education and prevention services to CSU students. Its location at College Avenue and Prospect Road will serve as a gateway to the southeast portion of campus.

Everitts honored with Founders Day Medal

Bob and Joyce Everitt are the 2015 CSU Founders Day Medal recipients, honoring their philanthropic, community, and business contributions to Fort Collins and CSU. Their Everitt Companies has been a fixture in Fort Collins for 52 years. “Together, Bob and Joyce set an extraordinary example of what it means for business leaders to give back to the community that they call home. It is largely thanks to their example that Fort Collins and CSU are the exceptional places we know today,” said President Tony Frank.