



PARTNERSHIPS **Solar startup positions University, state as sustainable energy leaders**

A CSU-developed method for manufacturing low-cost, high-efficiency solar panels is nearing mass production and will bring hundreds of jobs to the region, dramatically reduce the cost of generating solar electricity, and potentially power homes and businesses around the world with clean energy. AVA Solar Inc. will start production by the end of next year on the pioneering, patented technology developed by CSU mechanical engineering Professor W.S. Sampath. Colorado State's Office of Economic Development and the Northern Colorado Economic Development Corp. have supported the startup, and the Colorado State University Research Foundation holds equity in the company as part of a licensing arrangement.

Biodiesel production facility breaks ground

San Juan Biodiesel LLC broke ground Sept. 8 on a 5 million-gallon per year oil-crush and biodiesel production facility at the Weber Industrial Park in Dove Creek, Colo. In 2007, the company contracted with 41 farmers for nearly 11,000 acres of sunflower crops stretching from Alamosa, Colo., to Price, Utah. CSU has assisted with the development of the facility since 2004, working to develop a grower base and ensure the business park was ready to handle a major processing facility. The Colorado State University Agricultural Experiment Station's Southwestern Colorado Research Center retooled its research planting program in 2005 to include sunflower-variety testing for yield and oil-seed quality.

New online university to meet growing needs

The CSU Board of Governors in August approved the creation of a new online university, CSU-Colorado, to meet the growing need for education and skills training throughout the state. The CSU System – which includes campuses in Fort Collins and Pueblo – and the Colorado Community College System are working together to ensure that students have four-year and advanced degree options in their communities. CSU-Colorado expects to enroll students the second quarter of 2008. Additional baccalaureate, master's degree, and professional development programs are scheduled to debut continuously. "Colorado needs such innovative solutions or we

will face increasing numbers of poorly educated young people with inadequate skills," said CSU Chancellor Larry Edward Penley.

APPOINTMENTS **Air Force, energy expert joins CSU**

Ronald M. Sega, former NASA astronaut and under secretary for the U.S. Air Force, joined Colorado State University as professor of systems engineering and vice president for Applied Research for the Research Foundation. As Director of Defense Research and Engineering at the U.S. Department of Defense, Sega focused his efforts on energy and power, aerospace, and knowledge and surveillance. Sega also served as dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs from 1996 to 2001. A former astronaut, Sega flew two missions into space – on the Space Shuttle Discovery in 1994 and aboard Atlantis in 1996.

RESEARCH **CSU hits research-expenditure record**

Colorado State University's pioneering work in renewable energy and its excellence in infectious disease and biomedical research helped push research expenditures to \$296 million in fiscal year 2007 – among the highest levels of federal funding for universities nationwide. Annual research expenditures were 11 percent and \$29 million more than the previous year, and an increase of 49 percent over the past five years. Colorado State's average rate of increase based on the last three years of reported data has surpassed that at Texas A&M, Purdue, North Carolina State University, University of California-Davis, and all the campuses of the CU system.

Colorado's agritourism market climbing

Colorado's abundant wildlife, vineyards, and agricultural landscapes help draw thousands of visitors to the state and have potential to anchor emerging agritourism markets, according to a recent study by Colorado State University's Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Colorado State Extension, and the Colorado Department of Agriculture Market's Division. Farm and ranch activities – which include camping, bird watching, wildlife viewing, fishing, and horseback riding – were the top draw. Culinary activities were second. Heritage activities such as visiting farms,

ranches, or museums that showcase the state's agricultural history were third. Counties in Colorado's Central mountain region experienced the most agritourism visits followed by the Western Slope and Southwestern Colorado.

SUCCESSSES **CSU in top tier of 2008 rankings**

Colorado State University is ranked among the best colleges in the nation in 2008, according to the *U.S. News and World Report's* "America's Best Colleges" released in August. The magazine listed CSU in the top tier of public and private doctoral universities and 62nd among public universities, closely ranked with such institutions as Florida State University, University of Oregon, University at Buffalo-SUNY, and Kansas State University. Visit <http://www.usnews.com> for a complete list of rankings and methodologies.

CSU colleges, departments also rank

Eight Colorado State University colleges and departments placed in the top 100 in *U.S. News and World Report's* annual rankings. The College of Engineering placed 35th among all public universities and 57th overall. The College of Business ranked 59th among all public research universities. CSU departments named among the top 10 in 104 disciplines were the College of Agricultural Sciences Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, first in agricultural economics; College of Natural Sciences Department of Biology, second in zoology; Warner College of Natural Resources Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology, fifth in fisheries science and management; College of Applied Human Sciences Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, eighth in food science; College of Agricultural Sciences Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, ninth in soil science and 10th in agronomy/crop science.

CSU sets enrollment record

Colorado State University enrolled 4,392 freshmen this fall, the largest freshman class ever at the University. The number of in-state residents enrolling as freshmen increased 5.7 percent while out-of-state residents enrolling as freshmen increased 13.5 percent. Overall enrollment for Fall 2007 totaled 24,983 students, including 20,765 undergraduates – up 1.3 percent from 24,670 in Fall 2006.



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CSU matters

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