HAPPY NEW YEAR!

LET’S GO “BEYOND A BILLION”

GROWTH IN WILDFIRE RISK ZONES

PREDICTING SEVERE WEATHER

PREVENTING OPIOID ABUSE

LEADING THE WAY IN STUDENT SUCCESS

JANUARY 2019

PHILANTHROPY

NEW FUND-RAISING PHASE LEADS TO UNIVERSITY’S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

It’s time to join together and go “Beyond a Billion.”

With support from more than 113,000 donors during the State Your Purpose philanthropic campaign, Colorado State reached its ambitious $1 billion fund-raising goal nearly two years early – an amazing feat.

To keep the momentum going, University Advancement has kicked off a final phase of fund-raising, called Beyond a Billion, leading into Colorado State’s 150th anniversary in 2020.

Beyond a Billion has 10 key goals, and each alludes to the 150th anniversary:

- Add $150,000 to the Oval Preservation Fund endowment to maintain the American elms and other features on the historic site at the heart of campus.
- Endow 150 new scholarship funds for students.
- Attract 1,500 new Ram Club members to support student-athletes.
- Raise $150,000 for the CSU Parents Fund to finance programs that help keep parents connected to their students and campus life.
- Endow 15 faculty positions to recruit and retain outstanding educators and researchers.
- Increase CSU’s endowed assets by $150 million to ensure the University’s long-term financial health and stability.
- Recruit 1,500 new members to the CSU Alumni Association to strengthen the Ram family.
- Add 150 new members to the Frontier Legacy Society. Society members support the University through planned giving.
- Enlist a total of 150,000 campaign donors at any level because every gift, in any amount, sustains CSU’s mission in teaching, research, and service.
- Generate support for the Celebrate 150 Fund, which will help preserve University history by digitizing thousands of historical photos and hours of video for a special documentary film.

These goals are fully described and may be supported with online donations at giving.colostate.edu.

A student celebrates Fall 2018 commencement on the Oval. New student scholarships and Oval preservation are among the fund-raising goals of Beyond a Billion.
RESEARCH
HALF OF STATE POPULATION LIVES IN WILDFIRE DANGER ZONES

The Colorado State Forest Service raised a red flag about wildfire danger in a new assessment showing about half of Colorado’s population now lives in the wildland-urban interface, where risks are greatest for destruction of life and property during wildfires.

In interface zones, housing development abuts forest and grasslands – proximity that carries inherent risks when dry vegetation ignites and grows into fast-moving wildfire.

Nearly 3 million people lived in interface zones in 2017, according to new Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment data. That was an increase of nearly 50 percent over five years.

The population data are included in updates to the Colorado Wildfire Risk Assessment Portal, an online mapping tool that helps community leaders, planners, and interested citizens determine wildfire risk and where forest management actions can achieve the greatest impact to reduce risk. Access the tool at coloradowildfirerisk.com.

ENGAGEMENT
EXTENSION AGENTS HELP COMBAT OPIOID ABUSE IN RURAL COLORADO

CSU Extension agents are joining other community professionals in rural Colorado in a new collaborative project to prevent opioid abuse among adolescents and their families.

The project is funded with $1.4 million in federal grants and arises from the concept that professionals who live and work in rural communities are best positioned to help fellow residents avoid drug abuse.

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, opioid abuse and overdose deaths form a growing epidemic in the United States, and the crisis is acute in many rural communities. Opioids include many prescription painkillers and heroin; illegally made fentanyl, a highly potent painkiller, is especially problematic.

RESEARCH
SCIENTISTS PREDICT HAIL AND TORNADOES WEEKS IN ADVANCE

In newly published research, Colorado State atmospheric scientists demonstrate the ability to predict severe weather, including hail and tornadoes, between two weeks and five weeks in advance of damaging storms across the Plains and in the southeastern U.S.

The research, published in the Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres, finds predictive value in the activity of a tropical weather pattern called the Madden-Julian Oscillation, which influences weather in distant parts of the Earth by sending out powerful atmospheric waves.

STUDENT SUCCESS
CSU JOINS NATIONAL EFFORT TO IMPROVE DEGREE ATTAINMENT

As a national leader in boosting student success, CSU is participating in a massive new effort in which 130 public universities and systems will work together to increase college access, close achievement gaps, and award hundreds of thousands more degrees by 2025.

Participating institutions will work in clusters to identify and use innovative practices that improve student success on their campuses. Collectively, the institutions enroll 3 million students, including 1 million who receive Pell Grants based on financial need. CSU will serve as lead institution in the Western Area cluster.