Colorado State University is one of the nation's top public research universities and continues to be an institution on the rise. The key to our success is a combination of outstanding quality and commitment to excel in all we do.

CSU was founded as the Colorado Agricultural College in 1870, six years before the Colorado Territory was granted statehood, and was one of 68 land-grant colleges established by President Abraham Lincoln's signing of the Morrill Act (http://www.colostate.edu/morrillact). Our land-grant tradition of providing a high-quality, affordable higher education to all who have the desire and ability to achieve it runs deep, and CSU remains the "university of choice" for Colorado residents -- more Colorado high-school students choose CSU than any other campus. Thirty percent of the state's science, math, engineering, and technology majors pursue degrees at CSU.

Our world-class research -- in infectious disease, atmospheric science, clean energy technologies, biomedical sciences, translational medicine, chemistry, environmental science, and more -- attracts more than $300 million in research funding every year. We offer exceptional academic programs in veterinary medicine, health and human sciences, agriculture, business, fine and liberal arts, engineering, environmental and natural sciences, many of which are ranked among the best in the nation and world.

Faculty at CSU are some of the best in their fields and combine classroom learning with experiential learning in the field and laboratory. More than 5,000 CSU students participate in undergraduate research opportunities every year. Fifty-nine percent of classes have 30 or fewer students, and our top faculty and researchers are in the classroom daily.

The land-grant mission of education, research, and extension permeates our campus community. Two out of every three students participate in some sort of community service during their time at CSU, and the number of students involved with study abroad has increased 70 percent in the past five years. By the time they graduate, more than 72 percent of our seniors have secured employment in their degree fields. It's no wonder more that 92 percent of graduates say they would choose CSU again.

Total enrollment at CSU has grown to more than 27,000 regular, on-campus students. In 2014-2015, CSU granted 4,962 bachelor's degrees, another 1,975 earned advanced degrees including 139 professional veterinary medicine degrees from our prestigious College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. And thanks to our commitment to affordability and student aid, 42 percent of our students graduated with zero student debt.

Colorado State University educates students both to make a living and to make a difference -- and our faculty transform the world through their research, scholarship, and teaching. This is what it means to be a land-grant university in the 21st century.