UNIVERSITY MISSION, VALUES, AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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By statute, Colorado State University is a comprehensive graduate research university with selective admission standards. Charged with offering a comprehensive array of baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral programs, it holds exclusive statewide authority for programs in agriculture, forestry, natural resources, and veterinary medicine.

In May 2010, the Board of Governors adopted the following mission statement for Colorado State University:

Mission

Inspired by its land-grant heritage, Colorado State University is committed to excellence, setting the standard for public research universities in teaching, research, service and extension for the benefit of the citizens of Colorado, the United States and the world.

CSU has further adopted the following values:

Values
• Be accountable
• Promote civic responsibility
• Employ a customer focus
• Promote freedom of expression
• Demonstrate inclusiveness and diversity
• Encourage and reward innovation
• Act with integrity and mutual respect
• Provide opportunity and access
• Support excellence in teaching and research

Guiding Principles

CSU is a community dedicated to higher learning in which all members share in pursuit of knowledge, development of students, and protection of essential conditions conducive for learning. These protections are presented in the form of university policies, applicable federal and state laws, and statements of fundamental rights and responsibilities, which govern both the academic setting and the university community as a whole. Some of the policies and expectations described in this Catalog are among those most relevant to students, faculty, and staff; others are focused specifically on the student population but are not intended to serve as an exhaustive list of all policies that pertain to students or life on campus. A complete guide to CSU policies is available online through the Office of Policy and Compliance (http://opc.prep.colostate.edu).

CSU expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution; to observe national, state, and local laws, and University regulations; and to respect the rights, privileges, and property of other people. Principles of academic honesty, respect for diversity, and pursuit of lifestyles free of alcohol and drug abuse are examples of these standards. Students are not only members of the academic community; they are, additionally, members of the larger society and thus retain the rights, protection guarantees, and responsibilities which are held by all citizens.

Commitment to Diversity

CSU has a unique mission in the State of Colorado. As a land grant university we are committed to a foundational principle of inclusive excellence recognizing that our institutional success depends on how well we welcome, value, and affirm all members of the CSU community. Only through the inclusion of the rich diversity of students, staff, faculty, administrators, and alumni can we truly be excellent in our pursuits.

Our inclusive excellence efforts hinge on four key ideas:

Broad and inclusive definition of diversity.

We recognize that to truly be inclusive we must draw attention to the depth and breadth of the diversity represented at CSU. Our definition includes age, culture, different ideas and perspectives, disability, ethnicity, first generation status, familial status, gender identity and expression, geographic background, marital status, national origin, race, religious and spiritual beliefs, sex, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and veteran status. We also recognize that the historical exclusion and marginalization of specific social groups must be addressed to promote equity.

Inclusiveness and excellence are interdependent.

We recognize that to continue to stay current in the global marketplace and stay relevant in an increasingly diverse world, we must embody inclusion. To practice inclusiveness is excellence.

Everyone is responsible for inclusive excellence.

All members of the campus community (administrators, faculty, staff, students, and alumni) must recognize and assume responsibility for the climate of the university. A unit or person can drive the process, but every individual at CSU assumes responsibility for positive change.

Inclusive excellence goes beyond numbers.

Historically, diversity has been gauged by demographics or numbers; we must move beyond solely numbers toward an inclusive community that embeds diversity throughout the institution in multiple areas including demographics, policies, and communications; curriculum, pedagogy, and student learning; recruitment, hiring and retention, evaluation and supervision.

Achieving inclusive excellence is a long-term commitment and must have a comprehensive broad approach, embedding appreciation of all members and inclusion best practices into the very fabric of CSU’s organizational culture.

Equal Opportunity and Nondiscrimination

Colorado State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, creed, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, gender, disability, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or pregnancy and will not discharge or in any other manner discriminate against employees or applicants because they have inquired about, discussed, or disclosed their own pay or the pay of another employee or applicant. The University complies with Titles VI and VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, related Executive Orders 11246 and 11375, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 402 of the Vietnam
Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act of 1974, as amended, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as amended, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Civil Rights Act of 1991, the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008, and all civil rights laws of the State of Colorado. Accordingly, equal access and opportunity in treatment, employment, admissions, programs and activities shall be extended to all persons. The University shall promote equal opportunity and treatment in employment through a positive and continuing affirmative action program for ethnic minorities, women, persons with disabilities, and veterans. The Office of Equal Opportunity (http://oeo.colostate.edu) is located in 101 Student Services Building.

The Title IX Coordinator is the Executive Director of the Office of Support and Safety Assessment, 123 Student Services Building, Fort Collins, CO 80523-2026, (970) 491-7407.

The Section 504 and ADA Coordinator is the Associate Vice President for Human Capital, Office of Equal Opportunity, 101 Student Services Building, Fort Collins, CO 80523-0160, (970) 491-5836.

Admission of students, employment, and availability and access to CSU's programs and activities are made in accordance with these policies of nondiscrimination. Off campus householders who desire to list student accommodations with CSU must certify that they will comply with CSU's policy on nondiscrimination in student housing.

Any student or University employee who encounters acts of discrimination, either on or off campus, is urged to report such incidents to the Office of Equal Opportunity (http://oeo.colostate.edu) of CSU, located in 101 Student Services. Any person who wishes to discuss a possible discriminatory act without filing a complaint is welcome to do so.

Any of the above discriminatory acts can also be the subject of complaints to the Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, as well as to the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Colorado Civil Rights Division; information on filing complaints with any of these agencies is available in the Office of Equal Opportunity (http://oeo.colostate.edu).

Freedom from Personal Abuse
CSU acknowledges the right of all people to freedom from personal abuse. Abusive treatment of individuals on a personal or stereotyped basis prevents the attainment of CSU's objective to create and maintain an environment that supports, nurtures, and encourages people to excel in teaching, learning, and creativity. Therefore, CSU deplores, condemns, and will act energetically to prevent all forms of personal abuse, including sexual harassment. For statements of university policy concerning discrimination, harassment, sexual harassment, and other misconduct, see the University Policies section of this Catalog.

Inclusion: We create and nurture inclusive environments and welcome, value and affirm all members of our community, including their various identities, skills, ideas, talents and contributions.

Integrity: We are accountable for our actions and will act ethically and honestly in all our interactions.

Respect: We honor the inherent dignity of all people within an environment where we are committed to freedom of expression, critical discourse, and the advancement of knowledge.

Service: We are responsible, individually and collectively, to give of our time, talents, and resources to promote the well-being of each other and the development of our local, regional, and global communities.

Social Justice: We have the right to be treated and the responsibility to treat others with fairness and equity, the duty to challenge prejudice, and to uphold the laws, policies and procedures that promote justice in all respects.

Strategic Plan
The Colorado State University Strategic Plan (2016-2018) (http://provost.colostate.edu/strategic-plan) is organized around five broad objectives:

1. We will champion student success.
2. We will make a global impact and translate discoveries into products of knowledge, creative artistry, and innovation.
3. CSU will engage with people and communities to solve problems, share knowledge, and support progress.
4. CSU will be a rewarding, inspiring, productive, and inclusive community for all employees – and enhance faculty as its foundation.
5. CSU will be accountable, sustainable, and responsible.

Consistent with the university’s mission statement, these broad objectives reflect our heritage commitments to teaching and learning, research and discovery, and engagement and service. The fourth section addresses our responsibility to create a university community that effectively embodies our Principles of Community (http://diversity.colostate.edu/principles-of-community). Finally, we are determined to develop financial and other resources that are critical to supporting CSU’s mission, in a transparent way consistent with a dedication to accountability.