Can Democrats and Republicans work together? Bennet, Gardner show it’s possible during CSU discussion

By Allison Sylte

As Congress worked to come up with a compromise to pass an aid package to Ukraine, Sen. Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) reached out to someone who, at first glance, might seem unexpected: a former Republican senator.

“I called Cory (Gardner) to get his advice about how we should be thinking about it,” Bennet said.

This was hardly the first time Bennet and Gardner have asked for the other’s guidance. They represented Colorado in the U.S. Senate from 2015-2021, and worked together to pass numerous pieces of bipartisan legislation.

They shared their lessons about crossing the aisle during an April 22 event on the Colorado State University campus called “Building Bridges: Bipartisan Perspectives on Democracy.”

“It is incredibly important that we have the ability to talk to each other when we disagree with each other, and to know that what comes across on the other side is something that we can be proud of as Americans,” Gardner said.

Bennet added: “I feel like you put the old band back together. I think the two of us enjoyed working together, we enjoyed representing this state together, and we worked well together on many, many things, and I miss Cory Gardner being around.”

The event was part of CSU’s Thematic Year of Democracy, a university-wide initiative that invites members of the campus community to participate in a diverse variety of events centered around preparing the next generation to participate in all facets of civil society.

CSU President Amy Parsons, who moderated the discussion, centered her questions around how current students can get involved with politics and improve a discourse that has become increasingly divisive.

“I see the polarization out there, and I worry we’re not going to get our best and brightest to run for office,” she said.

Both Gardner and Bennet responded with hope.

“I guarantee you that when citizens are doing something that makes a difference … they will get noticed. They will be seen,” Gardner, a CSU alumnus, said.

“Our entire democracy depends on the willingness of the students at the university and your peers from across the state to be involved,” Bennet said.

Gardner said his experience as a CSU student working at the Colorado Capitol as part of the Straayer internship was formative in his career in public service, especially since he found himself working for former House Speaker Russell George, a legislator who later became one of his greatest mentors.

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APPLAUSE

College of Liberal Arts
Colorado State University Associate Professor of History Michael Childers has been named one of 31 National Humanities Center Fellows for the 2024-25 academic year. Childers, who specializes in the modern American West and the environment, is also the author of “Colorado Powder Keg: Ski Resorts and the Environmental Movement,” which looked at the history of Colorado’s ski industry and the emergence of the postindustrial West, where mountains became more valuable as ski resorts than as rangelands.

CSU Health Network
A national organization dedicated to student health and wellness recently celebrated Colorado State University for an innovative peer education group that helps students make safer, healthier decisions about alcohol, sexual health and nicotine. The American College Health Association honored CSU Health Network’s peer education group, CREWS — Creating Respect, Educating Wellness for and by Students — and Gwen Sieving, the manager of sexual health initiatives and peer education, with its Best Practices in College Health award, recognizing the group’s Rams Take Care, Rams Take Action Football Game Bystander Intervention.

College of Health and Human Sciences
Jen Currin-McCulloch, assistant professor in the School of Social Work at Colorado State University, was recently awarded a prestigious grant to support young adults with cancer and raise national awareness of this often-overlooked population. As a part of the Sojourns Scholar Leadership Program funded by the Cambia Health Foundation, Currin-McCulloch will spend the next two years training mental health providers to run virtual photovoice group interventions with young adults living with cancer.

EXPERIENCE MORE OF CSU LIFE ONLINE
Print editions of CSU Life are being delivered in smaller batches to campus buildings this semester as some university community members are working remotely. Additional copies are available in the Lory Student Center. Read more stories about faculty, staff and the CSU community online at csulife.source.colostate.edu.
CSU FACULTY & STAFF MILESTONES

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Carl Patton

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Zella Brink
Patrick Burns
David McKelfresh
Howard Seim III
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Kristen Otto
Jennifer Palmer
Donald Radford
David Randall
Dale Reineke
Steven Rutledge
Linda Stanley

Patricia Vigil
Dave Watson
Bryan Willson
Maria Zavala

Kenneth Carlson
Kimberly Carr
Rich Conant
Doug Couch
Barbara Dennis
Carol Dollard
David Domenico
Stephanie O’Schwind
Mercedes Gonzalez-Juarrero
Terry Gray
Larry Grosse
Shelley Haddock
Connie Hale
Paul Hamer
Okee Hanna
Tom Harmon
Jennifer Hawley
Marie Held
James Hennigan
Ann Hess
Peggy Howard
JuliaHurdebrink
Karen Hyllegard
Jay Jablonski
Christopher Kawcak
Robert Killian
Kristine Kofron
Mary-Ann Kokoska
Stephen Koontz
Kathy Kreil
Paul Layden
Debra Luptak
Megan Lucas
Catriona MacPhail
Kurt Mackes
Ken Manning
William Marvin
Christie Mathews
Pamela McCracken
Jennifer McLean
Anne Marie Merline
Donna Merwath
Lisa Metz
Kevin Nolan
Stephanie O’Meara
Jay Oaks
Jennifer Ogle
Elsy Palma
Vanessa Palomino
Julie Paolucci
Evan Polster
Ronald Price
Scott Ratchford
Tracy Richards
Patricia Ryan
Ann Schofield
John Schurman
Carol Seger
Nolan Smith
Tyrone Smith
Karen Sprouse
Joe Strecke
Jose Suarez Garcia
Kevin Tanabe
Joe Tressor
D Tobiassen Baitinger
Mary Van Buren
Maura Velazquez-Castillo
Jonathan Vrabec

Glenda Wentworth
John Wilson
Jim Zakely
Robert Zimdahl

Salah Abdel-Ghany
Terry Adams
Griselda Alvarez
Anita Amin
Kelly Anderson
Lisa Angeloni
Francis Antonelli
Laura Ashton
Rebecca Atadero
Jyvena Baaza
Susan Baker
Haley Bates
Heather Bean
Jery Becker
Steve Benoit
Marni Berg
Laurie Biela
Gabriel Boucha
Karima Bounini
Brian Butki
Martin Carcasson
Jonathan Carlyn
Chung-Yu Chang
Leigh Cheatwood
Chuchang Chiu
Mary Colasanti
Matthew Cooperman
Jessica Cordova
Kevin Crooks
Aaron Darnell
Deana Davalos
Kurt Davis
Vicki Diehl
Gregory Dooley
Christy Elyar
Christina Fallgren
Greg Fencil
Maria Fernandez-Gimenez
Michelle Fink
Deborah Gority
Phillip Gowns
Jeffrey Hansen
Janet Hardin
Dennis Harry
Crystal Hart
Marisa Haron
Marcela Henao Tamayo
Patrick Hillreth
Juliana Hissrich
Joseph Hoffman
Michael Hogan
Eric Hollandbeck
Timothy Holt
Rupa Idate
Tobi Jacobi
Sean Jaster
Keith Jentzsch
Zachary Johnson
Matthew Johnston
Bridget Julian
Soo Kang
Katie Kellertynn
MILESTONES CONT.
Celebrate! Colorado State awards for 2024

Each year, Colorado State University celebrates the teaching, research and service achievements of CSU students, alumni and friends, academic faculty, administrative professionals and classified staff as part of the Celebrate! Colorado State Awards.

All of the winners are listed below, and more information about the top provost award winners is available on SOURCE at https://col.st/4QHWG.

University
Distinguished Professor
Jeffrey L. Collett, Jr., Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Atmospheric Sciences

Monfort Professor
Justin Sambur, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Chemistry

Board of Governors’ Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award
Jeffrey Wilusz, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology

Board of Governors’ Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award
Jennifer McLean, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology

Inclusive Excellence Award-Staff
Kyle Oldham, Ed.D.
Director of Workplace Inclusion and Talent Management
Housing and Dining Services

Inclusive Excellence Award-Faculty
Paul James Laybourn, Ph.D.
Professor
Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Lincoln Laureate
This award celebrates exceptional balance and joint excellence across teaching, scholarly or creative activity and service in the best spirit of the land-grant university mission.

Jennifer Bousselot
Associate Professor
Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

14'er Award
This award recognizes exceptional innovative achievements demonstrating unique vision, creativity and grit.

Kit Hughes
Associate Professor
Department of Communication Studies

Provost Teaching Scholar
This award is for especially notable teaching and learning impact by an early career professor represented by innovative teaching, course design, curriculum or other accomplishments that enhance student success.

Jessie Luna
Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology

Provost Research Scholar
This award recognizes an especially notable scholarly or creative achievement of an early career professor represented by a high-impact publication; establishment of an exceptional center or research team; or outstanding invention, innovation, or artistic accomplishment.

Josiane Broussard
Associate Professor
Department of Health and Exercise Science

Jack E. Cermak Outstanding Advisor Award
This award serves to highlight and reward the extraordinary efforts of outstanding advisors.

Gene Gloeckner
Professor
School of Education

Kelly McGregor
Academic Advisor
College of Liberal Arts

Andrea Purdy
Associate Professor
Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Star Sullivan
Academic Advisor
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Oliver P. Pennock Distinguished Service Award
This award recognizes meritorious and outstanding achievement over a five-year period by full-time members of the academic faculty and administrative professional staff.

Shannon Archibeque-Engle
Associate Vice President
Office of Inclusive Excellence

Greg Ebel
Professor
Department of Microbiology, Immunology and Pathology

Frank Garry
Professor
Department of Clinical Sciences

Kevin Ann Oltenbruns Award for Outstanding Leadership
This award celebrates the significant and lasting impact of leadership for those who work to ensure the success of others with a commitment to equity and fairness.

Sandra Quackenbush
Associate Dean for Academic and Student Affairs
College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

Scholarship Impact Award: Career Achievement
This award recognizes those whose scholarship has had a major impact nationally and/or internationally.

Charles “Chuck” Henry
Professor
Departments of Chemistry and Chemical and Biological Engineering

Scholarship Impact Award: Recent Achievement
This award recognizes those whose scholarship has had a major impact nationally and/or internationally.

Ronald Tjalkens
Professor
Department of Environmental and Radiological Health Sciences

Interdisciplinary Scholarship Award – Individual
The Interdisciplinary Scholarship Award – Individual recognizes a faculty member or research scientist/scholar whose interdisciplinary scholarship has had a major impact nationally and/or internationally, or who have demonstrated their potential to do so.

Wolfgang Bangerth
Professor
Department of Mathematics

Interdisciplinary Scholarship Award – Team
The Interdisciplinary Scholarship Award – Team recognizes a team whose interdisciplinary scholarship has had a major impact nationally and/or internationally, or who have demonstrated their potential to do so.

Joshua Chan
Assistant Professor
Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering

Ed Hall
Associate Professor
Department of Ecosystem Science and Sustainability

Jessica Metcalf
Associate Professor
Department of Animal Sciences

Erika Szymanski
Associate Professor
Department of English

Pankaj Trivedi
Associate Professor
Department of Agricultural Biology

Mike Wilkins
Associate Professor
Department of Soil and Crop Sciences

Kelly Wrighton
Professor
Department of Soil and Crop Sciences

Provost’s N. Preston Davis Award for Instructional Innovation
This award recognizes technology-related instructional innovation or the significant encouragement of such innovation. It is named for N. Preston Davis, who retired in 1992 after serving the CSU community for more than four decades.

Samuel Bechara
Associate Professor
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Christianne Magee
Associate Professor
Department of Biomedical Sciences

Boris Nikolaev
Assistant Professor
Department of Management

Outstanding RSO Advisor of the Year
This award recognizes a faculty/staff RSO advisor who demonstrates strong relationships with students, employs effective interpersonal skills, respects
students’ agency and supports their holistic development.

Samuel Bechara
Associate Professor
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Albert C. Yates Student Leadership Award
The Albert C. Yates Student Leadership Award is given to a student who demonstrates strong involvement, demonstrated leadership and a commitment to upholding CSU’s values, traditions and spirit.

Reham Abdunabi
Graduating senior
Department of Political Science

Advancing Education Scholarship: Honoring the Legacy and Memory of Martin Luther King Jr.
The Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship is presented each year to a CSU student who demonstrates service to and advancement of underrepresented student education and personal academic excellence.

Miguel (Mikko) Jimenez
Climate Equity Committee member and Ph.D. student
Department of Ecology

Office of International Programs Distinguished Service Award
This award is given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the internationalization of CSU.

Travis Maynard
Senior Associate Dean for Academic Programs
College of Business

Angie Nelson
Director
Office of Budgets

Erika Osborne
Professor
Department of Art and Art History

Extension Distinguished Service Award
This award is to recognize individuals for outstanding commitment to CSU Extension and contributions made toward Extension’s mission of providing information and education on various issues affecting individuals and communities of Colorado.

Tony Koski
Professor

Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture

Multicultural Staff and Faculty Network Distinguished Service Faculty Award
This award is presented to faculty members in recognition of their outstanding contributions to their profession and the multicultural community.

Edwin Chong
Professor
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Multicultural Staff and Faculty Council Distinguished Service Administrative Professional Award
This award honors and celebrates employees who have made outstanding contributions within CSU as well as the surrounding communities.

Josh Baros
Academic Advisor
College of Business

Aki Hosoi
Associate Director, Training Director
CSU Health Network

Classified Personnel Council Outstanding Achievement Award
This award celebrates meritorious and outstanding achievements to the University by state classified employees.

Kristin Berthold
Program Assistant II
Department of Chemistry

Shelly Lynch
CAS HR Operations Specialist
College of Agricultural Sciences

Valerie Romero
Accounting Tech III
Warner College of Natural Resources

Karen Solomon
Administrative Assistant III
Department of Biomedical Sciences

Kelly White
Veterinary Technology III
Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Distinguished Administrative Professional Award
This award is presented to administrative professional staff for continuing meritorious and outstanding achievement in the areas of outreach, teaching, administration, and/or research.

Carolyn Bell
Director of Facilities
Housing and Dining Services

Abhimanyu Chawla
Systems Administrator
Department of Computer Science

Lelee Kates
Associate Executive Director
CSU Health Network

Lillian Nugent
Finance Manager
College of Liberal Arts

Ellen Plese
Strategic Planning and Operations Manager
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Faculty Institute for Inclusive Excellence Diversity Impact Award
This award recognizes one Faculty Institute for Inclusive Excellence Fellow who has actively transformed their classroom and positively influenced the campus climate.

Dr. Shari Lanning
Assistant Professor
Department of Clinical Sciences

Positive Action Award
The Positive Action Award recognizes individuals, groups, units or departments that have made a positive contribution to state classified employees at CSU by fostering a supportive work environment, improved campus climate and/or positive work experiences for state classified employees.

Harrison Bridge
Civil Engineer Project Manager I
Facilities Management

Lakesha Hershfeldt
Extension Regional Assistant
CSU Extension – Eastern Region

Joan Paulsen
Custodian III
Facilities Management

Exceptional Achievement in Community Engaged Learning, Student Award
This award celebrates social or environmental contributions achieved through an academic service-learning course, a supervised internship or professional project, or community-engaged research.

Student Teaching Staff, Middle School Outreach Ensemble and Trying-On-Teaching program
School of Music, Theatre and Dance

Spirit of Philanthropy
Given by the Division of University Advancement, this award recognizes a current, emeritus or retired faculty or staff member whose longstanding commitment and passion for CSU has made a significant impact to university fundraising efforts by influencing philanthropic support of alumni, friends, donors, and corporations.

Lt. Col. Matthew Tillman
Professor of Military Science
Division of Military Studies

Exceptional Achievement in Community Engaged Learning, Community Partner Award
This award is presented to a CSU community partner for their commitment to building university-community partnerships that meet community-articulated needs and challenges while supporting the holistic education of the next generation of professionals, leaders, and citizens.

Stephen Walker
Project Manager
FCI Constructors, Inc.

Marcy Yoder
Neighborhood Service Manager
City of Fort Collins

Distinguished Community Engagement Scholarship Award
In recognition of a collaboration, a project or a program with a long-term record of sustained impact, achievement and scholarship.

Deborah Fidler
Professor
Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Division of the Prevention Research Center

Emerging Community Engagement Scholarship Award
In recognition of a collaboration, a project or a program with a growing record of sustained impact, achievement and scholarship.

David Pyle
Instructor
Community Engagement and Arts Program

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Best Teacher Awards: Celebrating CSU’s best teachers

Ramadan Abdunabi, Ph.D. (M.C.S., '10; Ph.D., '13)
2024 Best Teacher Award recipient College of Business, Department of Computer Information Systems

Holding an M.C.S. and Ph.D. in computer science from Colorado State University, Dr. Ramadan Abdunabi became a CSU faculty member in 2015. He is passionate about teaching as a means to elevate both himself and the world. He aims to inspire students to explore their purpose and potential by teaching beyond knowledge transmission alone. Dr. Abdunabi emphasizes real-world experience and mentors students in field projects and internships. His promotion of inclusive education guarantees students with diverse abilities, backgrounds, and learning styles have equal access to quality education. Dr. Abdunabi’s research focuses on software engineering and computer security, particularly in creating efficient, secure resource access to sensitive data. Additionally, Dr. Abdunabi explores the use of technology as an intervention to enhance teaching and learning methodologies.

“Professor Abdunabi’s unwavering commitment to CSU and its students resonates through his multifaceted dedication. He consistently pioneers innovative teaching methodologies, ensuring an exceptional standard of education that captivates and engages students. It was invigorating to be part of a classroom environment where collaboration and dialogue were encouraged.”

– Neethu Choudary, graduate student ('25)

Lorie Barker, OTD, OTR, CHT (B.S., '98)
2024 Best Teacher Award recipient College of Health and Human Sciences, Department of Occupational Therapy

Lorie Barker graduated from Colorado State University in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy. She has more than 25 years of clinical experience as an occupational therapist, with an emphasis in upper extremity rehabilitation, and is currently working in a dynamic outpatient clinic specializing in the management of upper extremity conditions. Barker served in the military for more than 10 years as a first-line provider and neuromusculoskeletal evaluator where she gained extensive experience in managing traumatic upper extremity injuries. As a teacher and guest lecturer, Barker is invested in helping nurture the future of occupational therapy.

“Even in those 8 a.m. classes, Dr. Barker is extremely engaging and strives to ensure we understand the material and know how to apply it. She has motivated me to push myself harder to learn more and I am thankful to have such a knowledgeable and caring professor.”

– Julienne Harris-McMaster, graduate student ('26)

Shane Kanatous, Ph.D.
2024 Best Teacher Award recipient College of Natural Sciences, Department of Biology

A native of Brooklyn, New York, Dr. Shane Kanatous first became enamored with the ocean and marine life while watching the Undersea World of Jacques Cousteau as a child. That love turned into a dream of becoming a marine biologist/physiologist, which led him to pursue a degree in marine science at Southampton College of Long Island University. Dr. Kanatous received his Ph.D. in exercise and skeletal muscle physiology from Texas A&M University, before joining the faculty at Colorado State University. As a teacher, Dr. Kanatous stresses to his students to do whatever it takes to achieve your dream and enjoy the journey getting there.

“Dr. Kanatous always encourages you to ask questions, and he encourages you to push through your comfort zone because he wants you to grow and become the best version of yourself. Volunteering in his lab has given me more confidence to accept challenges and grow as a researcher.”

– Catalina Mazariegos, senior ('24)

Traci Kinkel, Ph.D. (B.S., '03)
2024 Best Teacher Award recipient College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology

Traci Kinkel graduated from CSU with a Bachelor of Science in microbiology in 2003. She...
then went on to earn her Ph.D. in cellular and molecular biology, focusing on molecular microbiology, at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, in 2008. In the fall semester of 2019, Dr. Kinkel returned to CSU as instructor for the Department of Microbiology, Immunology, and Pathology. Dr. Kinkel enjoys sharing her passion about all things related to bacteria with her students. Being able to educate and inspire Rams on their path forward has been an exceptionally rewarding experience.

“Dr. Traci Kinkel is one of, if not the most influential scientists I know. I have gained so much confidence due to her guidance and encouragement because she fosters a community in which diversity is welcomed and embraced. She's taught me passion is a huge component of being a successful scientist.”
– Olivia Lawson, freshman (’27)

Rosa Nam, Ph.D.
2024 Best Teacher Award recipient College of Liberal Arts, Department of English
Dr. Rosa Nam teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in English education including young adult literature. Her research centers on critical literacy, contemporary diverse adolescent literature, and book censorship. Her censorship research has been funded by the National Council of Teachers of English Intellectual Freedom Center. She is also a 2022-2024 Literacy Research Association STAR fellow. Before joining CSU, Dr. Nam worked with pre-service and in-service teachers and was a high school English teacher in Texas. Dr. Nam strives to build community in her classes and help her students embrace and leverage their strengths for meaningful learning.

“Dr. Nam goes above and beyond to ensure that every student gets what they need out of the class and teaches with equity and respect. Dr. Nam's class is the one I look forward to in my day because I know I will truly be learning.”
– Ella Kobleur, junior (’25)

Samuel M. Tham, Ph.D.
2024 Best Teacher Award recipient College of Liberal Arts, Department of Journalism and Media Communication
Dr. Samuel M. Tham is a first-generation college student who earned his Ph.D. from Michigan State University and his M.A. from the University of Missouri. Before teaching, Tham founded an online gaming company and worked in advertising. His return to academia came from his passion for teaching – an important trait he learned from his father, Richard, who was also a teacher. Tham strives to bridge the gap between industry experience and skills with theoretical concept to his students and believes in the need to show kindness, to build critical thinking skills, and to have students demand more of themselves in their lives.

“Since my classwork is 100% online, I was pessimistic about the opportunity to form meaningful connections with my peers, but because of Dr. Tham, I was able to foster meaningful connections and make lifelong friends. His mentorship has been a source of inspiration, offering valuable feedback and providing profound insights.”
– Anya Enloe, graduate student (’24)
Fast-acting faculty member in Military Sciences saves life with CPR

By Joe Giordano

U.S. Air Force Capt. Rob Butler was hanging out with faculty members in the Military Sciences Building when they were startled by a group of students.

“We were just talking shop in the office, and they came rushing in asking if any of us had medical training,” said Butler, an assistant professor of aerospace studies at Colorado State University.

Outside of their Air Force ROTC office, Butler and his colleagues found a dozen students hovering over an unresponsive person on the ground. The faculty members quickly checked the vitals, finding a breath and a pulse. But after a minute of monitoring, the breathing stopped.

“I was not getting any kind of pulse,” Butler said, “and so we began chest compressions. We had one of the instructors get the students out of the way and had a couple people call 911.”

As they were about to start the automated external defibrillator device – known more commonly as an AED – they heard a faint cough. An ambulance arrived on scene, and the person was taken to the hospital.

For Butler and others at CSU, the experience underscored the importance of CPR and AED device training at a university with more than 35,000 people on campus. CSU offers a variety of CPR, AED and first aid classes for students, faculty and staff through the Office of Risk Management and Insurance.

Frank Gonzales, who manages the AED/CPR program at CSU, said that as building entries, elevators and bathrooms, adding that CSU offers an interactive map showing all AED locations on campus.

As for CPR/AED training, Gonzales explained that the Office of Risk Management and Insurance offers a variety of in-person, virtual and blended training options, with some taking only 30 minutes to complete.

“Cardiac arrest and heart attacks are going to happen, unfortunately,” Gonzales said. “CPR is one of those things where you don’t need it, until you need it. That person on the ground is somebody's mom, dad, daughter, son, brother, sister — and it's going to be heartbreaking to lose someone in that manner.”

For Butler, he said it wasn’t the first time he has had to use CPR to help someone, adding: “You never know when it’s going to happen. I look at it as: If something were to happen me, I hope there’s somebody around who can take care of myself or my family member.”

Col. Gregg Johnson, commander of CSU’s Air Force ROTC, commended Butler’s actions in helping the person.

“We are extremely proud of Rob and his quick, decisive actions to revive the person,” he said. “As military members, we are trained in tactical combat care, and he applied these skills to save a life in an everyday environment – just awesome.”

CPR training information and registration

The Office of Risk Management and Insurance offers AED orientation and adult and pediatric CPR, AED and first aid classes. Each of these classes is offered on a regular basis and is open to all CSU faculty, staff and students. Learn more at rmi.colostate.edu/aedcpr/training-registration.

From at-home chemistry to wildflower seed spheres, 6 new Wiz Kid videos showcase the wonders of science at CSU Spur

By Allison Sylte

Colorado State University Spur is centered around the excitement that comes from learning something new, and now, those lessons can reach an audience far beyond the physical campus in Denver.

That’s thanks to Wiz Kid who, in addition to being a fan of bedazzled lab coats and colorful bandanas, is the host of six new YouTube videos aimed at connecting kids – and the young at heart – with the wonders of science. These episodes dropped on April 4 and feature a variety of at-home science experiments and activities for everyone, furthering CSU Spur’s mission to break down barriers and provide inclusive, accessible education for future generations.

Throughout the videos, Wiz Kid highlights the wonders of CSU Spur, showcasing everything from the living wall in the Terra building to the virtual reality laboratory in Vida. She also guides viewers through multiple experiments – with help from her friends at CSU.

“One of our motivations in launching CSU Spur was to help connect kids with science and learning in fun, accessible ways – so they can start to imagine themselves in careers they might never have considered before,” CSU System Chancellor Tony Frank said. “By joining in adventures with Wiz Kid, students from all across Colorado and beyond can share in these experiences – they don’t have to be physically at Spur to benefit from this one-of-a-kind learning environment. We’re excited for where Wiz Kid can go in the years ahead.”

Check out the Wiz Kid videos at the link below, and be sure to follow her adventures on Facebook and Instagram. Meet and interact with Wiz Kid at CSU Spur events throughout the year. Find out more at csuspur.org/wizkid.
There is no shortage of things to celebrate this time of year - Mother's Day, graduations, weddings, holidays or quite often, just a beautiful Colorado day. Whatever the occasion, having a bottle of Tito's on hand will prepare you for easy, any day, any time, cocktail crafting. Tito's Handcrafted Vodka has always been a perfect ‘reach-past-the-other-bottles’ choice for home bartending.

You may like trying new spirits, but if you want a reliably tasty experience, Tito's is the one.

Loved for its simplicity and authenticity, Tito's is not only a great vodka but a company that supports nonprofits all around the country (and the world!) through the Love, Tito's program.

The Austin, Texas-based distillery has always had a passionate fan base. It's soft smoothness and slightly sweet finish make it tasty sipped, as a shot, or mixed. And Tito's low price tag makes it easy to become a convert – it's hard to find another vodka that's as smooth for the money.

Completely clean in appearance and flavor, Tito's owes its superb neutrality to the six times it's distilled in pot stills and its lifting, slightly sweet finish to the use of sweet yellow corn as a base. With only a slight ethanol flavor, and a supremely silky mouthfeel, Tito's is a vodka that tastes great as a slow sipper over ice and lime. And, Tito's is a certified gluten-free vodka.

But since it also disappears so quickly, melding it with any kind of mixer gives your favorite summertime beverages a kick. Iced tea, lemonade, Italian soda or chilled juice mixed with Tito's is some super simple cocktail crafting that is as cheap as it is delicious. Cheers!
Robinson and Smith named Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

By Josh Rhoten

Two members of the Colorado State University faculty – Allen Robinson and Melinda Smith – have been named 2023 Fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world’s largest multidisciplinary scientific society and publisher of the Science family of journals.

The 2023 class of AAAS Fellows includes 502 scientists, engineers and innovators spanning 24 scientific disciplines. The lifetime designation is given to those whose efforts to advance science applications are deemed “scientifically or socially distinguished.”

In a tradition stretching back to 1874, AAAS Fellows are elected annually by the AAAS Council. The 2023 Fellows will be recognized during a ceremony in September.

Allen Robinson is the dean of the Walter Scott, Jr. College of Engineering and a professor with joint appointments in the Departments of Atmospheric Science and Mechanical Engineering. He became the dean of the college in 2023 after serving as the director of Carnegie Mellon University’s campus (CMU-Africa) in Kigali, Rwanda.

Robinson’s research examines technical and policy issues related to the impact of emissions from energy systems on air quality, climate and public health with an eye toward policy analysis and decision making. In addition to heading CMU-Africa, Robinson recently served as director of the Environmental Protection Agency-funded Center for Air, Climate, and Energy Solutions, which involves researchers and students at seven universities and a national lab.

He is also a past president of the American Association for Aerosol Research.

Melinda Smith is a professor in the Department of Biology and the chair of the Faculty Council at CSU. Smith was elected a Fellow of the Ecological Society of America in 2017.

Smith is a plant community ecologist who focuses on the Great Plains grasslands of the U.S. Her research is aimed at understanding the consequences of human-caused global changes on grasslands – especially the impacts of climate change and climate extremes on plant species diversity and ecosystem function. She has published more than 200 peer-reviewed research papers and her research has garnered more than $15 million in funding. In addition to her campus leadership roles, Smith also serves as an editor-in-chief of the international ecological journal Oecologia.

She has worked with researchers around the world and is currently leading the first-ever globally distributed experiment to better understand the potential losses of plant productivity and diversity in terrestrial ecosystems due to extreme drought.

Last year’s AAAS Fellows from CSU were Gillian Bowser, Chris Funk and Melinda Laituri.
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There’s no better place to relax in the sun than in Fort Collins, where opportunities to get outside, listen to new music and learn something new are abundant. Here are some summer activities to put on your calendar:

**MFA Thesis Exhibition 2024**
Through Sunday, July 21
The Griffin Foundation Gallery
To complete the rigorous, three-year Master of Fine Arts program, students must complete a piece in their chosen field. The public is welcome to view these creative, colorful and thought-provoking pieces in the Griffin Foundation Gallery.

**Youth Sport Camps**
Tuesday, May 28 - Friday, Aug. 9
i86 Moby Complex B
The Youth Sport Camps offer 12-week day camps for kids aged 5 to 13, running Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Activities include baseball, basketball, hockey, lacrosse, soccer and volleyball. For details, visit chhs.colostate.edu/nes-youth-sport-camps.

**CSU Jazz Summer Workshop**
Wednesday, June 5 - Friday, June 7
University Center for the Arts
Middle school and high school students are encouraged to join CSU Jazz Faculty for the third annual CSU Jazz Summer Workshop. Running from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, the workshop focuses on small group jazz playing and improvisation. For more information, visit music.colostate.edu/csu-jazz-summer-workshop.

**2nd Saturdays at CSU Spur: Pollen Fest + Plant Sale**
Saturday, June 8, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
CSU Spur
Join CSU Spur for a free, family-friendly event open to the public. Alongside the Pollen Fest + Plant Sale theme, attendees can enjoy cooking demonstrations, watch real veterinary surgeries, visit horses at the Temple Grandin Equine Center and create their own music in the Music Lab.

**Lagoon Summer Concert Series: Graham Good & The Painters**
Wednesday, June 12, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
CSU Lagoon
Launching this year's Lagoon Summer Concert Series is Graham Good & The Painters, a dynamic pop group guaranteed to have you singing and dancing along to their infectious funky folk rock melodies.

**Lagoon Summer Concert Series: The Reminders**
Wednesday, June 19, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
CSU Lagoon
Experience the soulful rhythms of The Reminders, a captivating duet blending soul with reggae. Led by Brussels-born Big Samir and Queens-born Ajah Black, they aim to uplift and entertain you with their fusion of hip hop and soulful beats.

**Lagoon Summer Concert Series: That Eighties Band**
Wednesday, June 26, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
CSU Lagoon
Get ready to rock with Denver-based That Eighties Band as they bring their electrifying energy to Fort Collins! Watch as they perform iconic covers from '80s bands like Def Leppard, The Doobie Brothers and ZZ Top. '80s attire encouraged!

**Mountain Campus Getaway**
Friday, July 5 - Sunday, July 7
CSU Mountain Campus
Escape to the serene Mountain Campus with these exclusive summer getaways, tailored for faculty, staff and alumni. Immerse yourself in nature, indulge in freshly prepared meals, and soak in the stunning scenery. Book your stay now at mountaincampus.colostate.edu.

**Lagoon Summer Concert Series: Pandas & People**
Wednesday, July 10, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
CSU Lagoon
Show some love to Pandas & People, a Colorado band known for its alternative pop, infectious lyrics and soulful, organic instrumentation. After sharing the stage with artists like Twenty One Pilots, American Authors and The Doobie Brothers, Pandas & People are ready to return to the Colorado groove at the Lagoon.

**2nd Saturdays at CSU Spur: The World Up Close**
Saturday, July 13, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
CSU Spur
Join CSU Spur for a free, family-friendly event open to the public. Alongside The World Up Close theme, attendees can enjoy cooking demonstrations, watch real veterinary surgeries, visit horses at the Temple Grandin Equine Center and create their own music in the Music Lab.

**Lagoon Summer Concert Series: Pink Hawks**
Wednesday, July 17, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
CSU Lagoon
Prepare to be captivated by the electrifying Pink Hawks, a band renowned for its world-class Afro-beat and Ethiojazz. Get ready to dance and groove to their mesmerizing tunes, where every song is a unique, improvised masterpiece, ensuring no set is ever the same.

**Lagoon Summer Concert Series: Alysia Kraft with Special Guests**
Wednesday, July 24, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
CSU Lagoon
Wrapping up the Lagoon Series is none other than Alysia Kraft, a Northern Colorado powerhouse known for her hard-hitting, warm and playful indie tunes. With seven regionally acclaimed independent records under her belt, Alysia made waves with her 2022 solo debut “First Light,” which soared to third place on Colorado charts. Soon, she'll bring her infectious energy to the Lagoon stage.

**Public Evaluation Day of CSU Flower Trials**
Saturday, Aug. 3, 9 a.m. - noon
CSU Trial Gardens
Explore the CSU Flower Trial Gardens as you stroll among the vibrant flowers and vote for your favorite plants. Join short tours offered every hour to learn more about the stunning blooms. Don’t forget the little ones, as there will be plenty of plant-related activities for kids of all ages!

**2nd Saturdays at CSU Spur: Dog Days of Summer**
Saturday, Aug. 10, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
CSU Spur
Join CSU Spur for a free, family-friendly event open to the public. Alongside the “Dog Days of Summer” theme, attendees can enjoy cooking demonstrations, watch real veterinary surgeries, visit horses at the Temple Grandin Equine Center and create their own music in the Music Lab.

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**continued from pg 1**

“It’s those opportunities that you have to take: make the best of them,” Gardner said.

The event with Bennet and Gardner was one of dozens throughout the 2023-24 school year that highlighted speakers from all facets of the political discourse.

**Past speakers included:**
- Actress and activist Jane Fonda, who discussed her own climate activism.
- Colorado Gov. Jared Polis, a Democrat, and Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, a Republican, who discussed how society can disagree better.
- Rep. Ken Buck (R-Colo.), who discussed how the next generation can shape politics.
- Johns Hopkins University President Ron Daniels, who explained how he believes universities can advance democracy.
- Political strategist and bestselling author Donna Brazile.

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