1000 MORE
The CU Denver Scholarship Challenge
Extraordinary Challenges
Extraordinary Opportunities

In just over 40 years, the University of Colorado Denver has evolved from a small satellite campus to a thriving urban research university that educates more than 14,000 students. We help tomorrow’s policy-makers, teachers, civil engineers, and entrepreneurs learn with purpose every day.

Meanwhile, major economic and cultural changes have changed the calculus of higher education across the nation. Declining state support for higher education has strained our revenue streams and our ability to provide optimal financial aid—and 60 percent of our undergraduates demonstrate need for financial assistance. Such financial challenges saddle students with formidable post-college debt, force others to add extra years to their degree path, and keep still others from ever reaching graduation.

CU Denver has adapted to these changes by becoming deeply embedded into downtown Denver, launching programs that solve the region’s challenges, and diversifying our curriculum delivery to accommodate traditional and non-traditional students. Students frequently juggle their schooling with work and family obligations, while balancing demands on limited financial resources.

Scholarships ensure that our talented, hard-working students are not thwarted by a lack of financial resources. Scholarships give older students a second chance and first-generation students the opportunity to realize their dreams. Scholarships reward high achievers, fueling the passion and innovation that strengthens CU Denver’s academic environment. Scholarships are critical to CU Denver’s future—and Colorado’s as well.

To meet CU Denver’s goal of fostering student success regardless of background, we are launching CU Denver’s largest scholarship initiative ever to help students afford a college education: 1,000 MORE. We hope to provide financial support for 1,000 more CU Denver students every year, and triple private support for scholarships by the year 2020.

Read more about CU Denver students whose dreams are coming alive thanks to scholarships—and students who can go further with your support.

“Scholarships are our number one fundraising priority. It is absolutely incumbent on us to provide opportunities for students who just won’t have access to education any other way.”

CU Denver Chancellor Donald Elliman
CU Denver serves a highly diverse student body, with students of color comprising 36 percent of undergraduates—and 49 percent of first-year students. Thirty-six percent of students are the first generation in their families to attend college. The patchwork of life experiences and cultural heritages adds great vitality to our campus, and helps us serve a wide array of underserved Colorado constituencies.

These same elements also challenge us to find innovative ways to increase access to education to help CU Denver serve all students, regardless of background and circumstance.

Empowering Tomorrow’s Public Servants

Saul Palomo thought he would have to enlist in the military to be able to afford college. He completed 150 hours of junior ROTC training before a counselor at Lincoln High School in Denver recommended he apply for scholarships. After he gained admission to CU Denver, his junior ROTC service qualified him for awards from the Daniels Fund and the Denver Scholarship Foundation.

The scholarships will enable him to finish his bachelor’s degree in criminal justice in four years with minors in psychology, sociology, and Spanish. After graduation, Saul wants to reach out to at-risk juveniles as a police officer in Colorado—joining the more than two-thirds of CU Denver graduates who remain in the state.

While studying abroad in Guatemala, Saul gained valuable experience working with PeaceJam—an organization that deploys Nobel Peace Laureates to teach young people values of leadership, service, and education.

Saul’s grandparents were farmers from Mexico who came to the United States for better opportunities, and impressed upon him the importance of education in helping him succeed.

“I have no debt and it feels really good,” he says. “The scholarships are a big deal for me financially—they allow me to focus on school materials and educate myself.”

“Now that I’m in college, I can use my education and give back to society as a way of being thankful. I want to work with teenagers so that they’re aware of laws that are meant for them and help them stay out of trouble.”
Scholarships for The Best and Brightest

By keeping Colorado’s best students here at home and attracting top out-of-state students, merit scholarships bolster the intellectual capital that keeps Colorado competitive. Merit scholarships help recruit, retain, and reward the most promising students, strengthen high-caliber programs throughout the university, and improve CU Denver’s competitive standing with peer universities.

A Boost for a Budding Bioengineer

Chelsea Starr is a classic overachiever. A CU Denver junior majoring in mechanical engineering, she ultimately wants to pursue bioengineering—a demanding, future-focused field in which CU Denver provides a pioneering academic program. She is gaining leadership chops as president of the campus’s Society of Women Engineers and treasurer for the national engineering honor society, Tau Beta Pi.

All the while, Chelsea must work a part-time job—she might even take a second job, if only it wouldn’t affect her grades. “Between school, working, and helping out with my family, sometimes it’s hard to fit everything in,” Chelsea says.

CU Denver is able to mitigate Chelsea’s challenges thanks to a Leadership Council Scholarship, which she receives on the basis of her outstanding track record and which may enable Chelsea to graduate debt-free.

Without a scholarship, Chelsea may have chosen to go elsewhere. By staying at CU Denver, she is able to get a top-notch education close to home—where she can economize by living with her parents and spend time with her sister Julie, also a CU Denver mechanical engineering student.

After graduation, Chelsea would like to enter the engineering workforce directly or pursue a master’s degree from CU Denver’s bioengineering program—using her skills to design new prosthetics to help people have greater mobility.

“The scholarship has helped me make sure I can finish school in a timely manner, and get out into the working world.”
Scholarships for Graduate Students

CU Denver confers more master’s degrees than any other university in the state, and graduate students go on to take skilled jobs that contribute to Colorado’s economy.

Graduate students contribute fundamentally to teaching and research, activities that are at the core of university life. Donor-sponsored scholarships and fellowships support graduate students who demonstrate significant achievement, contribute to groundbreaking discoveries, and create positive community change.

Empowering the Trailblazers

Born in Iran, Negin Moallem (’13) is the first in her family to graduate from college—at just age 20. She is also among the first women to provide counseling primarily to other women of Middle Eastern descent in Denver. Negin’s personal background helps her relate to her clients’ cultural issues.

As a CU Denver undergraduate, she was awarded a Daniels Fund Scholarship, which covers costs of a four-year college degree for select Mountain West students. Negin chose to continue toward her master’s degree at CU Denver, whose community engagement, global orientation, and partnerships with the CU Anschutz Medical Campus are ideal for Negin’s career goals.

“I was hoping my degree in clinical counseling would help me achieve my goal by publishing books and organizing conferences to make people see what’s going on. In the Middle East, especially where I’m from, if you speak up you can disappear.”

Despite Negin’s undergraduate scholarship, she has no graduate fellowship. She finds herself taking on more work hours to pay for expenses, making it harder to carve out time for graduate research.

Financial support can help students like Negin, who is finding her voice at CU Denver in her research and at an admissions-department internship in which she speaks with prospective students and manages student ambassadors. “My parents are proud, especially since I’m pursuing a master’s degree,” she says. “They have high hopes for me.”

“I want to fight for the rights of women who come from the Middle East.”
Scholarships for Transfer Students

Students come to CU Denver for a range of academic programs not available at other state colleges or universities. Such transfer students often bring valuable professional and life experience to their studies, and to the campus culture.

CU Denver supports transfer students with academic counseling and university admission for eligible low-income students. Scholarships can help these and other talented and driven students succeed at CU Denver, rewarding their hard work.

Transferring Talent into a Lifelong Calling

Katrina Beard won’t let anything stop her from getting an education. Originally from Houston, Katrina came to Denver to care for her ailing mother, whose untimely death propelled Katrina to enroll in classes at Community College of Denver (CCD).

Now 40 and pursuing a bachelor’s degree in public health at CU Denver, Katrina will in 2015 become the first in her family to graduate from college—all the while raising an autistic daughter as a single mom.

As president of Phi Theta Kappa at CCD, Katrina rallied members to get more involved with community projects and helped this honor society win an international award for service. CU Denver helped smooth Katrina’s transition by matching other scholarships she received, including the Reisher Family Scholarship and the Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship.

Katrina’s transfer scholarships also provided access to academic counseling and a work study job with AmeriCorps that has stoked her ambitions for international service. She hopes to ultimately earn a PhD in epidemiology and provide healthcare for under served people in Africa. “It’s my calling,” she says, “and I can’t refuse my lifelong vision and dream.”

“My scholarship freed me up and all I had to worry about was making the grade.”
Scholarships that Bring the World to CU, and CU to the World

CU Denver’s 1,000-plus international students from 60 countries bring new perspectives and cultures to the classroom, enriching the campus experience for all. They embody CU Denver’s commitment to educate individuals with a global awareness and fluency. Scholarship support can help CU Denver educate international students, adding great value to our community.

Increasingly, CU Denver students are undertaking academic pursuits in other cultures and environments. CU Denver’s offerings include a semester in China at the International College Beijing, business experience in the United Kingdom, anthropology research in Tanzania, and a Maymester course in China. CU Denver hopes to increase scholarship support for study abroad programs, enriching students’ academic studies and facilitating lifelong connections.

Embarking on a New Career

For Mahawish Ijaz, getting an education meant living 7,600 miles away from her family in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and adapting to a new culture. Her two older siblings are physicians, and Mahawish chose CU Denver because of the distinctive academic programs, internships, and volunteer opportunities available through connections with the Anschutz Medical Campus.

Mahawish loves CU Denver’s open-minded community and plans to graduate in 2014 with a bachelor’s degree in psychology. “The student population is so diverse that I was able to fit in with people who have similar backgrounds to me, and that social support was there when I needed it,” she says. “For me, diversity is about having people from different nationalities as well as diverse ways of thinking.”

Mahawish received the Samuel Priest Rose Scholarship for psychology students. She also earned an Academic Athlete cash award by maintaining a 4.0 GPA, which supports expenses such as textbooks.

The scholarships made it easier for Mahawish and her family to afford CU Denver, and now she is considering a PhD in counseling psychology. An internship at the Kempe Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect inspired her to specialize in trauma counseling, a key step toward her goal of working as a clinical counselor with local families.

“The student population is so diverse that I was able to fit in with people who have similar backgrounds to me, and that social support was there when I needed it.”
Scholarships to Help Middle-Income Students Fill the Gap

One of CU Denver’s top priorities is supporting students who come from families that have limited means to support college tuition, yet aren’t eligible for Pell Grants. Financial assistance is critical for these students who might otherwise slip through the cracks.

Placing Education Within Reach

Dante Merrill has big plans. The youngest of four children and the first in his family to attend college, he aspires to be a neurosurgeon. Dante is taking advantage of CU Denver’s challenging prerequisites for medical school and he expects to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in 2016.

His strategy depends on reducing personal expenses by living with his parents, working a part-time campus job while taking his classes, and researching scholarships.

Students like Dante hope to fill a growing need for doctors. For Dante to afford the bachelor’s degree essential to his future medical education, he needs assistance paying for college. His family’s middle-class income cannot support a large share of his tuition payments, but he doesn’t qualify for federal Pell Grants targeted toward low-income families.

With much relief, Dante was able to pay over half of his tuition this year thanks to the Francis H. Mahon Scholarship and Denver’s Downtown Courtyard Marriott First Generation Scholarship.

Scholarships Depend on You

This is a critical time in CU Denver history to support talented, high-achieving students who have committed to pursuing higher education. Annual gifts of any amount to fund scholarships are sought and welcomed. In addition, scholarships may be named for the donor or someone the donor wishes to honor. Endowment gifts, also named, are encouraged to help ensure the long-term viability of the program. Gifts at this level provide support for a scholarship in perpetuity, and allow generations of students to realize their educational goals.

Thank you for supporting 1000 MORE!

To make a gift, contact:

University of Colorado Denver
Development Office
303-315-3601
development@ucdenver.edu
cufund.org

All gifts should be payable to the University of Colorado Foundation, specifying the appropriate fund.