Creating Futures

University of Colorado *Boulder*

Professional and Academic Conference Endowment

CU-Boulder research resonates far beyond campus. And unlike at many universities, undergraduates contribute vitally to this research output. Academic conferences can be a key staging ground for research presentations, and a catalyst for new insights and pursuits.

To highlight the integral role of conferences in the academic milieu, the Boettcher Foundation Endowment for Distinctive Educational Programming has provided $100,000 in seed funding to establish the **Professional and Academic Conference Endowment (PACE)**—which supports preparation, travel, and presentation at professional conferences for all CU-Boulder undergraduates. The Boettcher Foundation has asked us to raise $25,000 in matching funds from Boettcher Scholar alumni to help this endowment meet its ultimate goal. We would like to send a strong message of gratitude to the Boettcher Foundation from the CU-Boulder community and support our outstanding undergraduates.

You can help. **By increasing CU-Boulder's ability to provide enriching conference experiences, you'll assist undergraduates in:**

- **Developing leadership, character, and academic excellence** that will infuse CU-Boulder and eventually, our communities
- **Promoting a positive image of CU-Boulder**, advancing the university's research agenda far and wide
- **Enhancing their ability to compete** in graduate school or job applications
- **Bolstering strategic university aims** of fostering hands-on and experiential learning

Expanding on the Efforts and Generosity of Boettcher Scholars

For more than 50 years, Boettcher Scholarships have enabled Colorado's highest-achieving students to receive a CU-Boulder education, tuition-free. Hundreds of Boettcher Scholar alumni have graduated to serve prominent roles in industry, education, nonprofits, and government throughout the state and far beyond.

Following the Boettchers' lead, current CU-Boulder Boettcher Scholars are committed to helping establish the program associated with this endowment—"paying it forward" to expand opportunities for promising scholars. Today, they invite Boettcher Scholar alumni to join them in advancing this goal.

My trip to the Society for Neuroscience conference in Chicago taught me that science involves a lot more than working at a lab bench or writing up results. A good scientist is also good at both speaking and at networking with others in different disciplines. That's a lesson I'll carry with me regardless of which career I choose.

Mitesh Shridhar
2006 Boettcher Scholar

continued on back

Presenting at the Innovative Grant Seed Program (IGP) Symposium was a very enriching experience. I gained co-authorship on a research poster and met renowned researchers in various fields, some of whom I still keep in touch with. I truly hope more opportunities such as this are made available to undergraduates.

Vivek Chadayammuri
2007 Boettcher Scholar

The conference experience not only expands a student's talents within research, but also equips her with the ability to think critically, speak persuasively, and act professionally in any setting.

Anireddy Reddy
2007 Boettcher Scholar

The Challenge: Accommodating Current Need

Each year, competition tightens for jobs and positions in top graduate and professional schools. With our recent graduates now competing with midcareer professionals transitioning due to economic turbulence, CU-Boulder undergraduates increasingly need to gain experience beyond the classroom in order to compete.

Today's economy has taken its toll on CU-Boulder students and families as well. And while Boettcher Scholars have their tuition as well as some enrichment funds provided, many other talented undergraduates don't. Each year, we have to turn away students who inquire at our offices whether we fund conference attendance—a problem PACE aims to confront.

Getting Beyond the Classroom

Proficiency with public presentation. Connections with peers working along parallel paths. Broad and deep awareness of the latest ideas and trends in the field.

These essential traits are gained through presentation and networking at conferences. Sooner or later, all leading scholars must develop some or all of these skills. While many students do not attend conferences until graduate school, opening up the opportunity for CU-Boulder undergraduates to do so will give our high-achieving students a leg up on their peers.

Be the Final Piece of the Puzzle

We have talented, motivated undergraduates. We have ample campus and curricular opportunity to generate research worthy of wide dissemination. We have a cadre of Boettcher Scholars who have offered to help PACE in its initial stages of planning and development. We have continued generosity from the Boettcher Foundation. All we need is your support.

To learn about the many ways you can make a gift:

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Colorado
University of Colorado at Boulder

All gifts should be payable to the University of Colorado Foundation, specifying the Boettcher Scholars PACE fund.

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