

# Creating Futures



University of Colorado

*Honoring Outstanding Classroom Learning and Engaged Learners*

## President's Teaching Scholars Program

### Great Teachers: A Valuable CU Asset

What University of Colorado students need most are great teachers. The people of our state, our nation, and our world share this need. The President's Teaching Scholars Program identifies great teachers from each of CU's four campuses who inspire and grow great teaching in projects such as the President's Teaching and Learning Collaborative, in which our best minds focus their research skills on breakthroughs in student learning.

You can sustain and further inspire this work, by supporting new scholars and projects with a gift to this program.

### The Program and Its Goals

The President's Teaching Scholars Program was begun in 1989 under CU President E. Gordon Gee. His intent was to honor the university's best teaching scholars. In establishing the program, President Gee underlined the point that teaching and scholarship are equal and necessary aspects of faculty life.

Over 20 years later, the PTS program continues to sustain an active faculty community. CU's 62 Teaching Scholars represent all four CU campuses: the University of Colorado at Boulder, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, University of Colorado Denver, and the Anschutz Medical Campus.

Teaching Scholars are leaders at CU as individuals, and as a community. Many are in administrative leadership positions. They ensure that the broader issues of assessing learning, embracing inclusion in the teaching process, and supporting interactive learning through research-based teaching are prominently addressed. Teaching Scholars foster initiatives not only in effective, scholarly teaching but also in classroom learning and cognitive research related to student learning.

Over the years, the President's Teaching Scholars have set a high bar for excellence in all aspects of faculty and university accomplishment. We now aim to take the next step in fostering great teaching and scholarship. To do so will require time, effort, and funding. With your help, we can better serve the interests of the university and the people of Colorado—promoting student success in the classroom, laboratory, community, and world.



*UCCS education professor Barbara Swaby, designated President's Teaching Scholar in 1989.*



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CU President Bruce D. Benson (second from left) with 2008 President's Teaching Scholar designees: from left to right, UC Denver economics professor Steven Medema, CU-Boulder art and art history professor Diane Conlin, CU-Boulder communication professor Stanley Deetz, and CU-Boulder physics professor Steven Pollock.

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You can support specific President's Teaching Scholars Initiatives, which can be viewed at [www.colorado.edu/ptsp](http://www.colorado.edu/ptsp)

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

### Contact Mary Ann Shea

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[www.colorado.edu/ptsp/](http://www.colorado.edu/ptsp/)

[www.cufund.org](http://www.cufund.org)

*All gifts should be payable to the University of Colorado Foundation, specifying the President's Teaching Scholars Program fund.*

## How You Can Help

To better enable CU's President's Teaching Scholars to help the students of Colorado, you can:

- **Endow a rotating professorship** in the enhancement of learning and teaching. This position would be used to recognize outstanding faculty, and support their work on learning and teaching. This endowment can be created by a \$1 million gift.
- **Support a Teaching Scholar's annual expenses.** A \$1,500 gift covers the cost of a scholar in the program for one year.
- **Provide a year-long faculty fellowship.** A \$100,000 gift would allow a Teaching Scholar to focus on the enhancement of teaching and learning for a year.
- **Support the appointment of an additional Teaching Scholar.** Sustaining the program, by adding enough younger scholars as older ones retire, requires more funding than is currently available. We recently have had to turn away exceptional candidates with extraordinary qualifications, because of lack of funds. A \$10,000 gift covers the cost of an additional scholar in his/her first year.

In addition, you can support specific initiatives (viewable at <http://www.colorado.edu/ptsp>) that the Teaching Scholars have created. Examples include:

- **The President's Teaching and Learning Collaborative (PTLC)** enables any CU faculty member to propose a research and scholarly project on learning and student engagement in a particular course. This project earned CU membership in the Carnegie Academy for the Scholarship of Teaching & Learning. Faculty researchers in the collaborative have contributed to the scholarship of teaching and learning nationally, internationally, in their departments and on each campus by presenting their work either as a publication or a work in progress. They have developed collaborations as coaches and mentors across all campuses. To date, 58 faculty have participated. Twenty faculty researchers in the 2009 cohort will publish their research. A \$1,550 gift will support a faculty PTLC participant.
- **The Spring Conference on Teaching and Learning**, sponsored by the President's Teaching Scholars, brings together CU faculty to discuss all aspects of teaching and learning. A \$4,500 gift will support the event for a year.
- **The Classroom Learning Analysis Studies (CLAS)** project has been developed from a larger initiative of the President's Teaching Scholars on Engaged Learning. The basis of the work is Richard J. Light's book *Making the Most of College: Students Speak Their Minds*. Several Teaching Scholars undertook research into when students in a particular course were engaged and why, and when they were not engaged and why not. To date, CLAS researchers have interviewed 120 undergraduate students about their learning experiences, and how faculty practices influence them, positively or negatively. A gift of \$36,500 will support CLAS research for one year.

## You Can Make A Difference

Even in relatively good times, CU is challenged to provide the resources needed for the President's Teaching Scholars Program to reach its potential. Under recent global financial stress, despite heroic efforts by CU administration, the need is especially acute. Your help will make a big difference for our students.