

Creating Futures

University of Colorado *Denver*



*University Honors
and Leadership Program*

Attracting, Educating and Supporting Tomorrow's Leaders

Merging Excellence with Broad Nuanced Perspective

Can we take statistical and mathematical notions of uncertainty and apply them to religion, law, psychology, health care and other fields?

How can leaders better manage conflict to create sustainable organizations?

These sorts of questions take students deeper than many undergraduate courses do. Yet that's what University Honors and Leadership (UHL) program students sign on for. With unique academic, extracurricular and interpersonal programming that challenges students within and beyond the classroom, the UHL program shapes young adults with outstanding potential into graduates who can lead, work collaboratively and influence change.



You can help us grow and sustain this program so that top students will increasingly be attracted to the University of Colorado Denver, receive needed financial support and direct their capabilities toward the common good.

A Tight-Knit Community of Elite Scholars



A thriving honors program that attracts top students, with programming that supports their expanded ambitions, is a vital component of great universities. This led UC Denver to establish the University Honors and Leadership program, whose integration of traditional academic honors and leadership education makes it unique among U.S. university programs for high achievers.

The UHL program welcomed its inaugural freshman class in fall 2008. The program accepts up to 40 students annually with superior credentials: students who might otherwise attend Ivy-caliber schools, but choose UC Denver for its exceptional honors and leadership offerings. UHL's 27-credit academic track features intimate, interdisciplinary seminars that approach big questions from multiple angles. Beyond the classroom, UHL students are involved in hands-on research under the guidance of faculty mentors,

gain from interpersonal and internship experiences and participate in weekly talks from academic, industry and community leaders including UC Denver Chancellor M. Roy Wilson. They share a common freshman experience, spend their sophomore and junior years immersed in the wide range of UHL elective course offerings and return together for a two-semester research seminar as seniors.

The UHL program is a major strategic priority for UC Denver, as the university improves the caliber of its student body and takes advantage of its community links, urban emphasis and research proficiencies.

"The University Honors and Leadership Program showcases the talents of our best and brightest undergraduates while providing each of those students with enhanced course work and expanded educational opportunities aimed at truly pushing them to the edges of their potential and beyond."



M. Roy Wilson
Chancellor, University of Colorado Denver

"How does 19th century literature's representation of science affect how we think about science today?"

Bolstering UHL for the Long Term

Donor support will help the UHL program achieve its full potential. While UC Denver has been an invaluable catalyst and supporter throughout our startup phase, our long-term plan relies on generous individuals and organizations that recognize the program's benefits for the university, our communities, and the future.

Competing for the very best requires more resources. We currently offer \$2,000 annual scholarships to UHL students—a modest incentive, but many prospective UHL students are offered full-tuition scholarships at peer universities. Since we draw from UC Denver's very best faculty to develop specialized courses for this curriculum, we need funding to offset the salaries they receive from their home departments. And we aim to defray expenses for programs such as Study Abroad to help ensure that all UHL students have the opportunity to participate in these life-changing educational experiences.

You can help UHL thrive by supporting:

Scholarships: The best and brightest students have many options for higher education, and can often choose from a variety of scholarship offers. Our goal is to fund full scholarships for each of the 160 students in the UHL program. Scholarship funding would help us compete for these students with leading colleges and universities, and ensure a diverse mix of Colorado and out-of-state scholars.

Faculty: UHL courses are conceived and taught by some of UC Denver's most accomplished professors. Because the university's best faculty are in high demand, we must increase our per-course outlay to compensate departments for allowing their faculty to teach UHL courses. We aim



to team with departments to hire one or two new senior faculty members, who would teach in UHL as part of their UC Denver appointments.

Research Fellowships and Internships: Our UHL Student Research Fellows program partners UHL students with faculty members, giving them cutting-edge research opportunities that many students do not encounter until graduate school. UC Denver has some of the nation's leading researchers in fields as diverse as health care, energy, economics and bioscience; you can help fund research in your particular area of interest. Regional businesses can also support internships for UHL students to give them real-world experience.

International Study: Exposure to other cultures is an invaluable component of a well-rounded education. The UHL Global Education Initiative provides UHL students with high-level education in international economics, policy, culture and languages, and gives UHL students experiences abroad. Donors can defray student travel costs, and enable a rotating professorship with an international focus.

“What lessons can we learn from modern ethical controversies?”

“I love being involved in the unique educational opportunities offered by the University Honors and Leadership program. I incorporate so much of what I learn in the program into the curriculum for my major. The innovative courses and collaborative educational environment of UHL provide me with opportunities that are truly distinctive.”

Deandra Walker
UHL Class of 2012
Research Assistant, Pediatric Heart and Lung Center Laboratory,
University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus





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

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“FirstBank is proud to be a contributor to UC Denver’s University Honors and Leadership program as part of our commitment to supporting outstanding educational opportunities for the leaders of tomorrow.”

Charlie Kercheval
President, FirstBank of Parker



Transformational Gifts

You can make a gift at a level that will take the UHL to new heights, and allow you to leave an unprecedented legacy at UC Denver for yourself, a loved one or an influential colleague.

Our development officers can work with you to discuss the UHL program in more detail, and outline ways in which you can make a profound difference to the program.

Now is the Time

Academic excellence is nothing without the vision, compassion and fortitude that leadership entails. Yet one cannot lead without the deep and broad understanding of the world that an honors program can provide.

The UHL program is poised to become a magnet for the region’s most promising young adults, raising the profile of the University of Colorado Denver far and wide. By making a gift today, you have an outstanding opportunity to be part of this effort.

“Our vision is to create a vibrant intellectual community engaging in education in an incredibly innovative way—one from which students emerge with a broad-based platform for thinking about ideas and issues, and with the ability to translate that knowledge into action.”



Steven Medema
Director, University Honors and Leadership Program
Professor of Economics and President’s Teaching Scholar, UC Denver

University of Colorado Denver

All gifts should be payable to the University of Colorado Foundation for the purpose designated.