

# Creating Futures

University of Colorado *Denver*

## Endowed Chair in Autism

### The Vision

Autism affects more than one million Americans, with an annual cost expected to exceed \$200 billion within five years. It is the fastest-growing developmental disability, and these numbers will only increase. Yet funding for autism research lags that of less prevalent childhood-onset diseases such as leukemia and muscular dystrophy. We need more educators and researchers developing, implementing, and researching interventions for children with significant behavioral and educational challenges. We must build bridges with schools, school districts and community organizations to ensure that individuals with autism reach their maximum potential.

Guided by our mission of *Leadership for Educational Equity* and our ability to educate autism professionals, produce innovative research, and effect positive community change, the School of Education & Human Development aims to establish an Endowed Chair in Autism. Your support will allow this to happen.

### The Endowed Chair

Dr. Phillip Strain, Professor of Educational Psychology in the School of Education & Human Development, is one of the nation's foremost autism experts. His model for early, intensive autism intervention is one of only eight recognized by the National Academy of Sciences for its efficacy, and the National Autism Center calls this model one of the field's ten most influential discoveries.

This endowed chair will honor Dr. Strain and help him scale up his groundbreaking work. He seeks to: 1) advance education and training of autism service providers, to address the shortage of qualified personnel; 2) develop and sustain model autism screening, referral, and service systems, to improve community service offerings; and 3) effect changes in insurance, state infrastructure, and human-service-agency practices, to ensure that individuals and families affected by autism receive timely and necessary resources.

### How You Can Help

We are seeking an endowment of \$2.5 million to establish the chair, which will:

- Fund the position in perpetuity, and bolster the School's standing and financial security in the long term
- Educate qualified practitioners in this evolving discipline, filling a vital need
- Pave the way to a better future for individuals and families affected by autism
- Honor the individual for whom the chair is named and the chairholder



*Dr. Phillip Strain*

To learn about the many ways you can support this endowed chair:

### Contact

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University of Colorado Denver  
**School of Education & Human Development**

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