

FALL 2021 Convocation

August 16-20, Colorado State University Pueblo

Pathways.

Creating meaningful pathways to the 4-year degree and beyond.





From the President

Campus community,

We are coming off a life-changing year that has made us stronger and more focused on what's important: how we take care of our students and each other.

The pandemic, and everything that came along with it, including political and racial unrest, introduced us to new challenges and pushed us all to find new ways to persevere. We experienced hardship and loss, new opportunities, and personal growth. Thanks to the incredible dedication, tenacity, and spirit of CSU Pueblo students, faculty, and staff, we did more than survive – we found ways to triumph together. I remain grateful to each of you.

This year's convocation focuses on the concept of "pathways." Our own path forward is to become the people's university. More importantly, we want to ensure that every student has a meaningful pathway into the university and toward a college credential or graduate degree. This means...

- Becoming the "university-of-choice" for our community and beyond
- Building a pathway forward for citizens our community with some college, but no degree
- Offering graduate programming for college graduates who seek an advanced degree

To serve the people of southern Colorado and beyond, we are developing a set of pathways – student experiences that will draw more people to the university as well as allow more of our enrolled students to be successful. We also must continue to provide pathways for our employees through professional development opportunities, flexible work arrangements, and market-rate and equitable compensation.

Welcome to Convocation Week, a special week that offers us an opportunity to professionally recharge, connect with our colleagues, and plan the year ahead. I encourage you to take advantage of this time together. Share your ideas, your voices, your expertise, and your hope for our future.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy P. Mottet". The signature is stylized and includes a large loop at the bottom.

Dr. Timothy P. Mottet, President
Colorado State University Pueblo

The Week at a Glance

MONDAY

8-10:30am, MASSARI ARENA [Campus is Closed]

Opening Session with President Mottet and Keynote Speaker, Dr. Cecilia Orphan. Breakfast starts at 7:30am

11am-2pm, OSC BALLROOM

Academic Affairs Lunch Meeting, with Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman and Office of the Provost

2:15-3:15pm OSC TUNDRA

Pack Athletics: Changing State Laws & the Impact on College Athletics, with Dr. Paul Plinske

3:30-5pm, OSC TUNDRA

Pathways: Equipping Students to Choose Their Own Adventure, with Dr. Chrissy Holliday

TUESDAY

8am-5pm, VARIOUS

College and Department Meetings

5-9pm, GCB GREEN SPACE

Family Picnic Night

WEDNESDAY

9-11am, LARC 151, 165, 169, 251

PACK Center Open House

10-11:00am, LARC 108

Pathways Panel: Introduction, Training, and Support

1-2pm, OSC ASG Chambers

Senate Open Forum

3-4pm, MASSARI ARENA FOYER

Meet and Greet Athletics Coaches, Staff, and Students

4-5pm, OSC FIREPLACE

President's Open Office Hours, with Popcorn Bar and Lemonade

THURSDAY

9:30-11am, Technology Building Foyer

Solar Project: Ribbon Cutting and Celebration

11:30am-1pm, OSC BALLROOM [CAMPUS IS CLOSED]

All Employee Lunch, with guest speaker, Dr. Nate Easley, member of the CSU System Board of Governors

4-5:00pm, LARC 108

Pathways Panel: Introduction, Training, and Support

FRIDAY

8am-5pm, VARIOUS

Advising, All Departments

8am-3:30pm, VARIOUS

New Student Orientation

11-3pm, OSC TUNDRA

New Faculty Training and Orientation

3:30-5pm, MASSARI ARENA

New Student Convocation

5:30-7pm, DOWNTOWN PUEBLO

Discover Downtown



Pathways to Success: An Academic Perspective

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to start by welcoming everyone to a new and promising academic year. The challenges of the past year and a half are still on our minds, but it is time to celebrate our triumphs and embrace the opportunities created by your hard work and ingenuity. I do not want to minimize the challenges ahead, but we cannot minimize our successes either. In this letter, I would like to address two important pathways towards our collective success as individuals and as an institution. These pathways focus on our academic curricula and the student experience at CSU Pueblo. They build on previous successes of our own and models of success at other institutions.

Our ability to provide flexible academic pathways for our students has served us well. Our ability to transition operations to online and hybrid when needed has opened doors for us to better accommodate the needs of our students in the future. New and innovative traditional degrees that are responsive to market needs are flourishing and reducing the impact of declines in some of the other programs. Our embrace of online programs, increased collaborations with community colleges and across our CSU system, and support for graduate education, including the 3+2 programs, have created successful new graduate programs and boosted graduate programs in others. Several academic disciplines are thoughtfully reviewing their curricula and creating new innovative programs, with an eye on efficiency and attention to market.

I strongly believe that a major pathway for success in achieving our Vision for CSU Pueblo runs through our continuing to examine all of our curricula for currency and relevance, removing artificial complexities that delay students' progress, and reimagining our academic offerings to better serve our students, this community, and the market demand.

Such endeavors require resources and rely heavily on faculty. Last year, we worked diligently to recruit new faculty members in many of our disciplines. This year, we will continue to recruit faculty, staff, and administrators in academic areas of need. Resources provided by Vision 2028 funding contribute heavily to our ability to provide these resources. Some of these areas of need include support for growing academic programs, faculty development, graduate education, and student success initiatives. These new resources are allocated in coordination with campus leadership and our deans, in order to better serve our students and this region.

Another important pathway for our success must be our focus on students. Many students arrive less prepared for college than their peers. They question whether or not they have made the right choice, and they lack support at home. These students choose us as the pathway to achieving their dreams. They believe that we care and will go the extra mile to help them succeed. We accept the challenge of supporting them when we admit them to CSU Pueblo. Despite these efforts, we still lose far too many of these students in the first year and immediately after. Our 6-year graduation rate is less than 40%. Many leave because of financial or personal challenges, but many others leave, because they simply did not feel that they belonged or they failed in their first college challenges. **It is our duty and obligation to help as many of those students succeed as possible.**

The "access" pathway is built on a solid belief in our students, and on our understanding of the complex cultural, economic, and personal challenges they face every day. This awareness must be partnered with our willingness to adapt our teaching to help each of them succeed. Our teaching must acknowledge and embrace the qualities and skills our students bring to our classrooms and assure them that they belong. It is not just the moral thing to do, it is the financially responsible thing to do as well. **One percent increase in graduation rates for our students generates an additional \$300,000 in revenue, making it a viable pathway to financial sustainability for our entire campus.**

In addition to the Vision 2028 funding which supports many resources aimed at developing pathways for student success, the CSU system has funded a proposal by CSU-Pueblo for addressing the success equity gaps for students and improving the graduation rates. The proposal is funding several initiatives including:

- Revising the Center for Teaching and Learning with a focus on supporting student success in a culturally diverse classroom,
- Supporting students through additional tutoring and supplemental instruction,
- Experiential learning that engages students in all disciplines in scholarship, and
- Identify through data analytics academic and advising practices to support student success.

Our success in this endeavor will be determined by our full engagement and buy-in into these initiatives supporting student success and closing the equity gap.

The convocation program this year will feature many sessions that further discuss pathways for success for our students, faculty, and institution as we aim to achieve our Vision for CSU Pueblo. I ask for your active engagement in the convocation program as we carve these exciting pathways!

Sincerely yours,



Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs



Pathways

Campus Colleagues,

Whether we do our work in the classroom or within a service department, the core of that work is in some way preparing students for life – setting them on their path to success. This year's convocation Pathways theme is exciting precisely because it is so applicable to the work all of us do, and it centers our attention on student success.

For myself and more than 50 campus colleagues, the Pathways theme is even more meaningful – it is the culmination of a year of exhausting yet exhilarating work to bring to life an enhanced CSU Pueblo student experience. That experience includes four main components – Pathways, Works, Discovery, and Journey – that are a complete reimaging of our approach to the student experience.

Pathways is a unifying strand from which the other three components branch, as it is the personalized roadmap for how each student will achieve the goals they have for their time as a ThunderWolf. While a degree or credential is the ultimate goal of each student's enrollment, their Pathway is more than their academic degree plan. An individualized Pathway might include academic coursework, basic career preparation and the more detailed placement opportunities of Works, and leadership growth through elected office or the Honors program, all occurring alongside undergraduate research offered through Discovery, or the opportunity to learn as part of a Journey exchange experience or *Todos Santos* course offering. CSU Pueblo Pathways is about recognizing the varied needs and aspirations of our students and stating unequivocally that we believe those are important enough to build a learning experience around them. That intentionality supports student success while differentiating us within higher education as an institution that allows students to build a personalized learning experience that is both realistic and inspiring.

I am honored to offer a Monday session introducing you to Pathways and to the work cross-functional teams have done this past year to implement the concept in a manner that honors the work already taking place on our campus. I invite you to attend one of the Pathways training sessions on Wednesday or Thursday that will go more into depth about how you can help students along their Pathway. Take time to visit the newly-renovated PACK Center as part of Wednesday's Open House and Coffee Hour, and to join us downtown Friday afternoon for the Discover Downtown event and Works informational reception.

I ask also that you consider this introduction of Pathways as the start of something important to our campus – but to also recognize that it is not fully realized. What we bring you this fall is only the beginning. We need your help to continue refining and implementing this comprehensive advising, support, and student development framework, as we continue our work to enhance CSU Pueblo student learning and experiences.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chrissy Holliday".

Dr. Chrissy Holliday
VP Enrollment Management, Communication & Student Affairs

FALL 2021 CONVOCATION SCHEDULE

MONDAY, AUGUST 16

CAMPUS WILL BE CLOSED FROM 8:00am-10:30am

- 8-10:30am** **President Timothy Mottet | Keynote, Dr. Cecilia Orphan** **MASSARI ARENA**
The fall 2021 opening session will begin with a message from our Chancellor, followed by an address from President Mottet, during which he will (1) recognize employees, (2) provide the campus with a comprehensive update on plans for fall 2021, (3) welcome this year's keynote speaker, Dr. Cecilia Orphan (bio, pg.13), to our CSU Pueblo campus. In order to honor our commitment to developing people, all members of the CSU Pueblo campus community should plan to join us for this all-campus session. This year's keynote speaker is sponsored by the Title V Hispanic Serving Institution Programs, under the direction of Dr. Derek Lopez. Please close your offices, or operate with minimum staff, and coordinate phone and email messages as necessary. For more information, contact Dr. Donna Souder Hodge at donna.souder@csupueblo.edu.
- 11am-2pm** **Academic Affairs Meeting with Provost Abdelrahman** **OSC BALLROOM**
All academic faculty and staff should plan to attend this innovative session with Dr. Mohamed Abdelrahman and the faculty and staff of the Office of the Provost. Lunch will be served. For more information, contact Lisa Chavez at lisa.chavez@csupueblo.edu.
- 2:15-3:15pm** **Pack Athletics: Changing State Laws & the Impact on College Athletics** **OSC TUNDRA**
College athletics has seen major transformation in the past year as State laws governing a student-athlete's ability to earn money from their name, image and likeness have changed. CSU Pueblo Athletics will talk specifically about Colorado law and the opportunities and implications of student-athlete's promoting themselves and generating additional compensation. Come hear from Athletic Director Paul Plinske as he introduces the topic and talks specifically about how it will impact our student-athletes. For more information, contact Dr. Paul Plinske at paul.plinske@csupueblo.edu.
- 3:30-5pm** **Pathways: Equipping Students to Choose Their Own Adventure** **OSC TUNDRA**
Join the VP EMCSA, Dr. Chrissy Holliday, and members of the CSU Pueblo Pathways and Works teams, for a crash course in the Pathways project. Learn more about this expansion of our advising model and the cross-campus collaboration that has led us to the point of providing every new student this fall their own personalized Pathway. This session will provide a broad overview of the importance of the Pathways and related Works project, and showcase the manner in which this integrated approach to the CSU Pueblo student experience is expected to drive enrollment and student success. This session will set the baseline for other Pathways trainings and events throughout the week. For more information, contact Dr. Chrissy Holliday at chrissy.holliday@csupueblo.edu.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

- 8:30am-5pm** **Department/College/Unit Meetings** **VARIOUS**
Please check with your chairs and directors to confirm these meetings. All college meetings will include an opportunity for faculty and academic staff to meet the Provost, ask questions, and consider the work ahead in fall 2021. Additional Details will be sent to all faculty and staff by your individual college or unit administration.
- 8:00am-3:30pm** **HSB Faculty Meeting** **HSB 108/113**
- 9am-12pm** **CHEN Faculty Meeting** **GCB 110**
- 9:30-11:30am** **CSTEM Faculty Meeting** **CHEM 104**
- 10am-12pm** **CHASS Faculty Meeting** **GCB 111**
- 3-5pm** **Library Employee Meeting** **LARC 317**
- 4-5pm** **Extended Studies Employee Meeting** **LARC 108**

5-9pm All Employee Picnic: Family, Food Trucks, and Live Music! GCB GREEN SPACE
Join us for an outdoor family picnic featuring food trucks, live music from some of your own CSU Pueblo colleagues and REV 89! This evening is open to employees and up to four guests each and will be lots of fun for the entire family. Get to know the new faces on campus and enjoy a beautiful evening outdoors. Vouchers will be provided for food trucks. Water, tea, and lemonade will be provided. Casual meet and greet and cash bar will begin at 5pm. Food, music, and games will start at 6pm. For more info, contact Employee Relations Specialist, Jennifer Martin White at jennifer.martinwhite@csupueblo.edu.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18

8-9am Career Readiness Resources: Embedding Career in the Classroom OSC COTTONWOOD
We've been busy! Come and learn about the many new resources that are available to faculty, staff, and students through the Career Center. This will include previews of new resources that will allow you to embed career readiness curriculum into your classes with ease. Platforms previewed will include Forage, a free online resource that allows students to participate in simulated, virtual work experiences at companies like JP Morgan, Citi, Deloitte and GE; Big Interview, a platform that allows students to do virtual practice interviews, and allows you to customize interview assignments or class; and many more! For more info, contact Megan Mueller at megan.mueller@csupueblo.edu.

9-10am Being Courageous. Let's Talk Mental Health First Aid OSC MONARCH
Join the Counseling Center for a session focused on Mental Health First Aid. This is an international program on how to help someone who is undergoing a Mental Health/Substance Use Challenge. At CSU Pueblo, we have decided to use this program to help Wolfpack students who might be going through a Mental Health/Substance Use Challenge. This session will introduce you to the concept of "ALGEE" and how this can be used to talk with someone undergoing a Mental Health/Substance Use Challenge. We can answer questions about what the program will teach the participants, how to register, and set dates for the program. It is open to all faculty and staff. Let's all learn how to be a Mental Health First Aider! For more info, contact Joe Smiley at joanne.smiley@csupueblo.edu.

9-11am PACK Center Open House LARC 151-251
Enjoy coffee and pastries as you check out the new location (LARC 151, 165, 169, 251) of the Professional Academic and Career Knowledge (PACK) Center and meet the Academic Success Coaches, Retention & Persistence Coordinator, Faculty Mentors, Career Center Staff & Works Coordinator, Testing Center Staff, and meet our new COSI Scholars. For more info, contact Michelle Gjerde at michelle.gjerde@csupueblo.edu or John Sandoval at john.sandoval@csupueblo.edu.

10-11:00am Pathways Panel: Introduction, Training, and Support LARC 108
Please join us for a panel discussion and presentation with the faculty and staff who are building out and implementing the Pathways initiative. During this hour-long session, participants will be introduced to Pathways, find out how you can engage in the process, see the Pathway through the eyes of a student, and ask questions of those who were involved in the creation of this important student success initiative. For more information, contact Dr. Brian Vanden Heuvel at brian.vandenheuvel@csupueblo.edu.

11am-12pm Curriculum Submission: CAPB Process Refresher LARC 108
Planning new or revised curriculum for the 2022-23 Catalog? Simply want to understand the submission process? We are returning to our annual cycle of curriculum approvals. Join us for an active refresher session on CAPB resources, CourseLeaf entries, process details, required approvals and timeline! For more info, contact Dr. Helen Caprioglio at helen.caprioglio@csupueblo.edu.

1-2pm Senate Open Forum OSC ASG CHAMBERS
Open to all employees. Join elected faculty leadership, representing all academic units on campus to discuss goal setting, the upcoming academic year, and much more. For more information, email Dr. Margie Massey, Senate President, at margie.massey@csupueblo.edu.

2-3pm Ways to Support Students in Crisis OSC MONARCH
Part 1 of this 1-hour session will be focused on mental health resources within the University for students: how to talk with students about mental health, what resources are available, how to handle a student who reports experiencing suicidal ideations or having "mental health issues," and how to refer students to the Counseling Center. Part 2 will be focused on how to support students with connection to campus & community resources and how to show care for students who are exhibiting concerning behaviors by referring them to Pack CARES. For more info on this session, contact Meera Layton at meera.layton@csupueblo.edu.

3-4pm Meet and Greet Your Athletics Department**MASSARI FOYER**

Since 2020, CSU Pueblo has hired several new head coaches and staff. As we welcome these individuals to campus, we also have new student-athletes joining our teams for the 2021-22 academic year. The session will allow CSU Pueblo faculty and staff to meet our new coaches, hear their vision for their programs, and interact with several of our new student-athletes. For more information, contact Dr. Paul Plinske at paul.plinske@csupueblo.edu.

4-5pm President's Open Office Hours**OSC FIREPLACE**

Join the President and members of his Cabinet at "Open Office Hours." Ask questions, seek counsel, or simply listen and learn about big ideas happening at CSU Pueblo during the fall 2021 semester. Enjoy a popcorn bar, lemonade, and some great conversation. For more info, contact Jon Valdez at jon.valdez@csupueblo.edu.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19**8-9am What's Brewing at the Library?****LARC 1st FLOOR LOBBY**

Join us for coffee and meet new library faculty, as well as discover exciting changes in the Library for the coming year! Learn about initiatives such as the new Learning, Innovating, and Networking Center (LINC), OER initiatives, the Aztlán Center, online information literacy instruction and more.

9:30-11am Solar Project: Ribbon Cutting and Celebration**TECHNOLOGY BLDG**

Please join us as CSU Pueblo "flips the switch" and moves to solar energy! This event is open to all employees, students, and community members and will include a celebration of the upcoming renovation of the Technology Building. For more information, contact Jennifer Quintana at jennifer.quintana@csupueblo.edu.

11:30am-1pm All Employee Lunch, Dr. Nate Easley, CSU System Board of Governors**OSC BALLROOM**

In order to honor our commitment to developing people, all employees should plan to engage in this exciting, lunchtime professional development opportunity, with Dr. Nate Easley (bio, pg. 14), a member of the CSU System's Board of Governors. Please operate all offices with minimal staff. Moderated Q&A from 12:30-1:00pm. For more information, contact Dr. Donna Souder Hodge at donna.souder@csupueblo.edu.

1-2pm I'm First! Best Practices in Serving First Generation Students**OSC SERENA**

Content experts from federal TRIO programs will present on interventions proven to increase the matriculation, retention, and college graduation rates of first-generation college students. Presenters will highlight the unique needs of first-generation students: pre-college youth-adult learners. Attendees will participate in small group interactions centered on teaching practical techniques and utilizing appropriate interventions. Additionally, attendees will be provided a comprehensive list of campus and community resources. For more information, contact Gina Ferguson at gina.ferguson@csupueblo.edu.

2-3:00pm Career Readiness Resources: Embedding Career in the Classroom**LARC 108**

We've been busy! Come and learn about the many new resources that are available to faculty, staff, and students through the Career Center. This will include previews of new resources that will allow you to embed career readiness curriculum into your classes with ease. Platforms previewed will include Forage, a free online resource that allows students to participate in simulated, virtual work experiences at companies like JP Morgan, Citi, Deloitte and GE; Big Interview, a platform that allows students to do virtual practice interviews, and allows you to customize interview assignments or class; and many more! For more info, contact Megan Mueller at megan.mueller@csupueblo.edu.

3-4:00pm The LINC: Learn. Innovate. Network.**LARC 2nd Floor**

Come learn about the new Learning, Innovating, and Networking Center – the LINC. This new space and service model will provide wrap-around services for class projects as well as walk in student users. In-person and online students will be able to get support for both traditional research and writing assignments as well as projects dependent on technology. Library, IT, and Tutoring staff will provide tours and explain how the new space will support teaching and learning across the curriculum. For more information, contact Dean Rhonda Gonzales at rhonda.gonzales@csupueblo.edu.

4-5:00pm Pathways Panel: Introduction, Training, and Support**LARC 108**

Please join us for a panel discussion and presentation with the faculty and staff who are building out and implementing the Pathways initiative. During this hour-long session, participants will be introduced to Pathways, find out how you can engage in the process, see the Pathway through the eyes of a student, and ask questions of those who were involved in the creation of this important student success initiative. For more information, contact Dr. Brian Vanden Heuvel at brian.vandenheuvel@csupueblo.edu.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20

8am-5pm Advising, All Departments

VARIOUS

All academic departments will be available to advise new students, meet with prospective majors, and discuss available classes and major/minor options in person.

8am-3:30pm New Student Orientation

VARIOUS

CSU Pueblo will welcome our new students to the Pack through various campus service sessions and social activities. For more information, contact Gena Alfonso at gena.alfonso@csupueblo.edu.

8-9:30am Hands-on: Machine and Deep Learning for the Curious

GCB 314 Lab

We've heard the terms 'artificial intelligence', 'machine learning', 'deep learning', and/or 'neural networks'; we've all used these tools, every day. But what are they, really? This hands-on workshop will have you create and implement some neural networks and more. Only prerequisites: (1) you've heard some of these words, and are curious; (2) you have a Gmail account (and ideally send the address to Rick Kreminski before the session). Coffee and pastries will be included and will be sponsored by the Title V Hispanic Serving Institution Programs, under the direction of Dr. Derek Lopez. For more information, contact Dr. Rick Kreminski at rick.kreminski@csupueblo.edu.

8-11am Campus Wide Peer Mentor Training

OSC TUNDRA

In support of the Pathways Initiative, Abby Davidson and other peer mentor leaders across campus will provide an in-person peer mentor training kickoff for the fall semester. Breakfast will be provided. Student employees working in peer mentorship roles across campus will gather together to meet one another to train and develop a common language of peer mentorship for CSU Pueblo. Training topics will range from academic support, navigating campus resources, mentoring target student populations, and understanding new campus initiatives such as Pathways. The in-person training will be complemented by official launch of the asynchronous campus wide peer mentorship training platform provided via blackboard to support peer mentorship training, certification and tracking. For more information, contact Abby Davidson at abby.davidson@csupueblo.edu.

10am-12pm Intentional Planning for a Healthy, Productive, & Successful Fall Semester OSC COTTONWOOD

Do you want to have a productive semester but you are still feeling a bit burnt out or overwhelmed? Come to this session to create an intentional vision and plan for your semester. We will guide you in creating a vision and strategic steps for meeting your vision for a healthy, productive and successful fall semester. We will also offer some office hours to assist you individually to solidify your plan if you need additional help. For more information, contact Dr. Carol Foust at carol.foust@csupueblo.edu.

11am-3pm New Faculty Orientation: Office of the Provost

OSC TUNDRA

2020 and 2021 New Faculty are invited to join the Office of the Provost for campus overview and best practices round table with senior faculty members and Provost office staff. Pick up lunch voucher for café at 11am in Tundra. Session will begin at 12pm. For more info, contact Lisa Chavez at lisa.chavez@csupueblo.edu.

12-1:30pm Hands-on: Machine and Deep Learning for the Curious

GCB 314 Lab

We've heard the terms 'artificial intelligence', 'machine learning', 'deep learning', and/or 'neural networks'; we've all used these tools, every day. But what are they, really? This hands-on workshop will have you create and implement some neural networks and more. Only prerequisites: (1) you've heard some of these words, and are curious; (2) you have a Gmail account (and ideally send the address to Rick Kreminski before the session). Lunch will be included and is sponsored by the Title V Hispanic Serving Institution Programs, under the direction of Dr. Derek Lopez. For more information, contact Dr. Rick Kreminski at rick.kreminski@csupueblo.edu.

1-2pm Admissions Information Session

OSC COTTONWOOD

Join the admissions team to learn more about all things admissions! Get to know our staff, learn about updates to processes, and help us discover how we can work together to support each-other and our shared enrollment goals. This session will include time to brainstorm collaborations with offices throughout campus to create more opportunities to enhance recruitment efforts. For more info, contact Tiffany Kingrey at tiffany.kingrey@csupueblo.edu.

3:30-5pm New Student Convocation

MASSARI ARENA

Join us in Massari Arena as we welcome our new ThunderWolves to CSU Pueblo. The pre-show begins at 3:30pm with games and social engagement. The formal faculty professional begins at 4pm. RSVP here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4EACAD2DA6FC1-newstudent>

5:30-7pm Discover Downtown/Works Engagement Element

DOWNTOWN PUEBLO

Discover Downtown gives incoming CSU Pueblo students and their families the opportunity to explore beautiful downtown Pueblo. This welcome event invites our newest ThunderWolves to enjoy the Riverwalk, local restaurants and numerous attractions that our community has to offer. Visitors will be greeted at the Greater

Pueblo Chamber Welcome Center located inside the Professional Bullriders Sports Performance Center, where they will enjoy refreshments, receive their complimentary goodie bag, and have the opportunity to learn about the outstanding opportunities available through CSU Pueblo Works. Works Coordinator, Nancy Zimmer, will be available to answer questions from students, parents and potential community partners. All faculty, staff, and students are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Tracy Samora at tracy.samora@csupueblo.edu.



From the COVID-19 Response & Planning Team

Campus Community,

The past 18 months have been like no other. We suffered losses, both personal and professional, and despite our best efforts – to vaccinate and to educate – we will not start the fall 2021 semester “post-COVID.”

We will, however, start fall 2021 with a [nationally recognized](#) COVID-19 Response and Planning “playbook,” with a full year of experience testing and vaccinating, and with hundreds of employees and students who continue to voluntarily submit vaccination records each day. We are confident that, with each new vaccination, CSU Pueblo is one step closer to a post-COVID reality. Thank you for your willingness to teach and learn, to ask the hard questions, and to make decisions that protect you and your family, your colleagues, and our students. Your dedication to CSU Pueblo, and to your communities, has made all the difference.

There are several key updates and procedures we want to make clear as we begin the new semester:

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

Because one or more of the vaccines did not move out of emergency use authorization and receive the Food and Drug Administration’s (FDA) approval by August 1, 2021 – a prerequisite of our CSU System COVID-19 vaccine requirement – the vaccination will continue to be voluntary and will not be required for the fall semester. Decisions about the spring 2022 semester will be made a later date, pending new updates from the FDA.

The decision to make vaccinations voluntary also means that there will be no requirement for unvaccinated individuals to submit a medical or non-medical exemption, at this time. All employees, students, and University Partners, are encouraged to voluntarily submit vaccination records to The WolfPack Wellness Center, here: <https://direc.to/gG2c>.

COVID-19 PROCEDURES, FALL 2021

As of July 8, 2021, Governor Polis ended all COVID-related Colorado Emergency Public Health Orders. A fully-vaccinated campus remains our best hope for an uninterrupted fall semester. At this time, all unvaccinated individuals:

- 1) will be strongly encouraged to wear a mask indoors or when in close contact with others
- 2) will be required to isolate if positive for COVID-19, and to quarantine if exposed, which may result in a disruption to classes; athletic practices, workouts, and games; and will lose the ability to access in-person campus services and activities
- 3) may be asked to vacate campus in the event of an outbreak

As always, if you have any questions, please contact the COVID-19 Hotline at 719-420-0002 or email us at covid@csupueblo.edu. The WolfPack Wellness Center will continue to be your vaccination resource and will offer free testing for any CSU Pueblo employee, student, or University Partner, by appointment. Please call 719-549-2830 with any questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D Souder Hodge".

Donna Souder Hodge, Ph.D.
Chief Strategy Officer
COVID-19 Response and Planning Coordinator



About Monday's Keynote Speaker: Dr. Cecilia Orphan

Cecilia M. Orphan, Ph.D., is an associate professor in the [Higher Education Department](#) in the Morgridge College of Education at the University of Denver and Director of the [Alliance for Research on Regional Colleges](#). She researches Regional Public Colleges and Universities, Rural Serving Postsecondary Institutions, and organization, administration, and public policy for higher education. She has published over 25 journal articles, policy briefs, and book chapters and is co-editing a forthcoming book entitled *Unlocking Opportunity through Broadly Accessible Institutions* (Routledge/Taylor and Francis Group). Her research has appeared in or been accepted by *The Journal of Higher Education*, *The Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, *The Review of Higher Education*, *Higher Education*, the *Journal of Education Policy*, and the *Journal of Research in Rural Education*, and has been funded by the Joyce Foundation, the Ascendium Education Group, and the New England Resource Center for Higher Education. She has been quoted by *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *InsideHigherEd*, *Chalkbeat Colorado*, and *Open Campus*.

Dr. Orphan is a member of the Scholars Strategy Network where she has contributed [policy briefs](#) describing the challenges and opportunities facing Regional Public Universities (RPUs). She is also an at-large member of the Association for the Study of Higher Education's [Council for Public Policy in Higher Education](#) and has served on the conference planning committees for the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE) and the American Educational Research Association (AERA). She serves on the editorial board of the *eJournal of Public Affairs*, an open-access journal housed at Missouri State University (an RPU), and reviews for *Teacher-Scholar*, *Higher Education*, *The Journal of Higher Education*, *AERA Open*, the *Journal of Diversity in Higher Education*, and the *Journal for the Study of Postsecondary and Tertiary Education*. Previously she served on the editorial board of the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Education's *Perspectives on Urban Education* journal. She has held fellowships with the Publicly Active Graduate Education initiative of Imagining America, the Next Generation Engagement Project of the New England Resource Center for Higher Education, the Alliance for Higher Education and Democracy of the University of Pennsylvania, and the International Association for Research on Service Learning and Civic Engagement.

Prior to her doctoral program, Dr. Orphan directed the [American Democracy Project](#) (ADP), a national initiative of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). The 240 Regional Public Universities involved in ADP focus on higher education's role in educating informed, engaged participants for U.S. democracy. While at AASCU, Dr. Orphan also served as the editor of the *Academic Leadership and Change Digest* series, a collection of queries about current institutional practices that are used by AASCU provosts as they consider new approaches to campus issues. In 2011, she was awarded the [John Saltmarsh Award for Emerging Leaders in Civic Engagement](#), a national award given by AASCU presented annually to an emerging leader in the civic engagement field.

Dr. Orphan's research agenda is informed by her experiences as a working class, first-generation college student who received maximum Pell grants to attend college. She is personally familiar with the transformative nature of access institutions having attended Linn Benton Community College and Portland State University, an RPU in Oregon. Simply put, attending these access institutions changed the trajectory of her life. Dr. Orphan holds a Ph.D. in higher education from the University of Pennsylvania and a bachelor's degree in political science from Portland State University.



About Thursday's Guest Speaker: DR. NATE EASLEY

Founding CEO, The Ganas Network: A Charter School Alumni Empowerment Network

Dr. Nate Easley is the founding chief executive officer of the Ganas Network, an initiative to engage ethnically diverse charter school graduates in reforming public education. Prior to founding the Network, Dr. Easley applied more than 30 years of experience in education leadership to providing strategic advice to nonprofits, college access and success organizations, foundations, and school districts as an education consultant. Dr. Easley served as the founding chief executive officer of RootED, a 501(c)(3) public charity focused on increasing the availability of high-quality public schools in Denver through leveraged investments in educator/leader talent, high performing schools, and a supportive policy environment. Prior to RootED, Dr. Easley served as CEO of the Denver Scholarship Foundation, a nonprofit public charity focused on inspiring and empowering Denver Public School (DPS) students to achieve their postsecondary education goals by providing the tools, knowledge and financial resources essential for success. As an elected official, Dr. Easley served as president and secretary of the DPS Board of Education.

Prior to returning to Denver where he currently resides, Dr. Easley worked as vice president for national and international programs for the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) in Washington, D.C. COE is a nonprofit organization dedicated to furthering the expansion of educational opportunities in postsecondary education for low-income and disabled youth and adults.

He is a current member of the Colorado State University Board of Governors, Denver Mayor Michael Hancock's Education Compact, board president of the National College Attainment Network, board member of the Colorado Education Initiative Board, advisory board for Strada's newly formed Center for Education Consumer Value, and a board member for School Board Partners. He previously served as a member of the Denver School of Science and Technology Public Charter School Board, the Denver Public Schools' Roots Public Charter School Board, the Community College of Denver Advisory Council, the Colorado School of Public Health Advisory Council and Colorado Latinos for Education Reform. He is also a member of the Aspen Institute Pajara Fall 2017 Cohort, a past member of Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper's Education Leadership Council and the National Advisory Council for Texas Guaranteed Inc. (the third-largest student loan guarantee organization in the United States at the time) and previously co-chaired the Denver Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce Education Committee.

Dr. Easley has extensive experience helping public school students realize their dream of a college education and securing grant funding to sustain student programs. His master's and doctorate focused on how higher education can better support the academic success and college completion of Black and Latinx students. He has worked at the state, national and international levels to create opportunities for first-generation, low-income, and ethnic minority students.

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