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A Message of Appreciation

Last week, we held a faculty appreciation event in lieu of our annual Scholars Reception. It was held to recognize the indispensable role faculty play in teaching and learning, and in designing and revising curricula on our campus. Our students are here because of the knowledge and support faculty offer inside and outside that classroom, independent of the modality. When you meet an alum, I can assure you they do not remember who the provost was during their college years, but they have vivid memories of their time in the classroom and will remember the faculty members.

In this year's appreciation event, we recognized the recipients of our Scholarship awards for 2019 (Drs. Ansaf and Sandmeier), 2020 (Prof. Morales), and 2021 (Dr. Dallam). The theme of the event was a broader recognition of the role our faculty play in fulfilling our mission as a teaching institution. I believe that the best teaching happens when we celebrate scholarship and creativity within the classroom by engaging our students and taking them deeper into a world that is informed by discovery and imagination. This is not a trivial task, however, and for that, I am thankful to many.

I am thankful to all the faculty who, despite our heavy teaching load, find the time to share their intellectual activities with the world and their students. I am thankful to all the faculty who continue their professional development and search for ways to enhance student learning and success. I am thankful to those who seek ways to close the success gap among first-generation college students and underrepresented minorities. I am grateful to the president and cabinet for their continued support for programs like the SEED funds, the Catalyst program, and the Discovery Scholars program. I am also thankful to all who seek external funding to expand the resources we have to dedicate to scholarship and experiential learning. I am thankful to all of you for what you do for the students, the community, and CSU Pueblo.

-Mohamed Abdelrahman, Provost

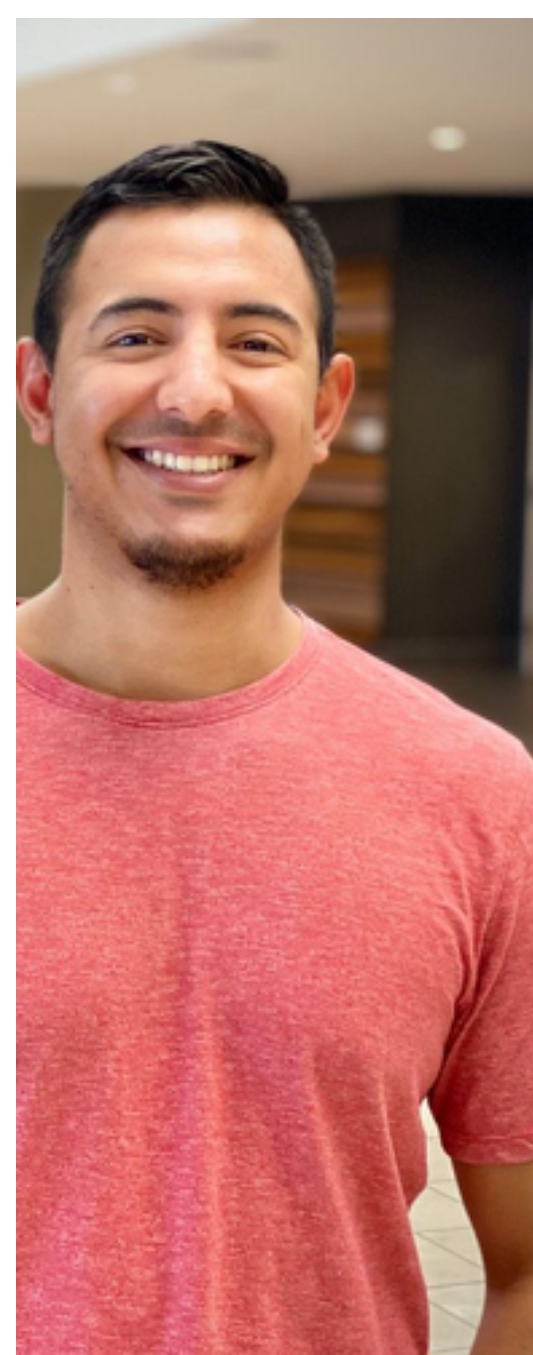
FACULTY RECOGNITION



The CSU Pueblo History Department has received national attention from media outlets. Most recently, Dr. Matt Harris appeared in both Yahoo News and Newsweek articles. These articles discussed right-wing extremism among the Mormon faith and its effects on the religion's stance on vaccinations. Harris also appeared on several podcasts and radio shows for his research on this topic and his extensive research on civil rights and race. "That's a nice way to broadcast the mission of the university when I have this large captive audience," Harris said "I can't tell you how many I've heard from after I've done a podcast that say 'I want to take your CSU Pueblo classes.'" Harris has worked at CSU Pueblo since 2005. His most recent book, Watchman On The Tower, Ezra Taft Benson and the Making of the Mormon Right was published in 2020. "As scholars, we write books because we want to change the world," Harris said. "In my case, I'm trying to help people understand how people become radicalized into right-wing extremism. My research informs my teaching. I'm a better teacher because I'm a researcher."

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Jaime Huerta, a 3+2 student in the athletic training program, will travel to Orlando for a prestigious internship with the University of Central Florida. In this internship, Huertas will practice as a fulltime athletic trainer with the Knights Football and Track & Field teams. He will also ensure that student-athletes stay healthy at the senior bowl, an annual showcase for potential NFL draft picks. Huerta will work alongside CSU Pueblo alum Ed Woodley. Woodley graduated in 2004 and has been working at UCF since 2009. "It's awesome that I can use an alumni as a resource," Huerta said. "Just that connection to give back to the university is amazing and hopefully one day I can do the same." CSU Pueblo's experiential learning helped Huerta develop skills by working with the Volleyball and Women's Soccer teams. CSU Pueblo's faculty and athletic trainers prepared him for this step in his career. "The groundwork definitely started with Roger Clark," Huerta said. "He just motivates me to keep going. Having a professor understand your goals and help you go to them is the best foundation that CSU Pueblo has. We have great professors who want to see students succeed."



EVENTS

10/21: STEM Research Symposium

10/4 - 10/22: New Faculty Exhibition (**Reception:** 10/22, 7:30-9pm)

11/18: Math Day

PROVOSTS OFFICE HOURS

10/11: CHEN / 2-3pm / **CIHHI 297**

11/3: CHASS/ 3-4pm / **GCB 110**

12/7: STEM / 9:30-10:30am / **CHEM 104**

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

[Center for Teaching & Learning: Faculty Academy Session Information](#)



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