



Good afternoon, Rams,

This week has brought challenges for all of us, here on campus as we implement pandemic preparedness protocols, and around the world. Yet, as I talk with students, colleagues, and friends, I've noticed a growing sense of community, a shared feeling that we're facing this crisis together. In a time when phrases such as "social distancing" are becoming part of our daily lexicon, I'm heartened by the fact that the opposite is happening. Not in the physical sense, of course, but in the way we are uniting to take care of each other.

I can think of no better example than the way Rams around the world stepped up for fellow Rams yesterday and today during what was scheduled to be our annual CSU Day of Giving. I was especially moved when I learned about an inspirational \$50,000 gift to our Rams Against Hunger program that will provide more than 6,500 meals to Colorado State University students struggling with food insecurity. And I'm thrilled to share that 71 donors supported our Infectious Disease Research Center, which is at this very moment working to create a COVID-19 vaccine. Seventy donors supported Ram Aid, a fund that helps students at risk of leaving CSU because of unanticipated expenses. 52 percent of the gifts came from alumni, while another 30 percent came from faculty and staff. Overall, 328 donors stepped up for CSU yesterday and today, and for that, I am sincerely grateful. If you'd like to learn more about donor impact on students, research, programs, and more, please visit giving.colostate.edu.

I'm filled with gratitude for yesterday's demonstration of generosity, but not surprised. Ever since I joined the CSU family last July, I've witnessed the same spirit of giving and the same commitment to helping our students and our community and to making the world a better place. Rams really do take care of Rams.

Thank you,

Joyce McConnell
President, Colorado State University



Dear Members of the CSU Community,

In alignment with guidance issued by Colorado State University's Public Safety Team, I am writing to share that we are extending cancellations of all in-person alumni and donor events through May 8. This cancellation policy also covers Universitywide events planned in the coming months, including *Celebrate! Colorado State Awards* and *Celebrate! CSU Milestones*, as well as the planned launch of the Own Your Brilliance Lecture Series. A full list of events and their currently known status is available [here](#). Where possible, our team will explore options for rescheduling or virtualizing experiences, and we will communicate this information as it becomes available.

At this time, no determinations have been made about Commencement ceremonies in May. We will communicate what to expect as soon as decisions are made.

The health and safety of our CSU family and the communities we call home is, as always, our No. 1 priority. We encourage you to visit [CSU's Safety website](#) for the latest information on the impacts of and response to COVID-19, and to practice [recommended safety measures](#) at home and while you're out to help stop the spread of the virus.

We are grateful for your understanding and patience during this challenging time for our communities.

Take care, Rams.

Matthew S. Helmer
Assistant Vice President
University Advancement



Good morning, Rams!

Today was scheduled to be our annual Day of Giving, a time when Rams around the world come together to support Colorado State University. It is also, as you know, a challenging time for our communities and the world as we face a global health crisis. On this day, and every day, our priority is the health and well-being of our students and their families, our faculty and staff, and our entire CSU community.

At its core, the CSU Day of Giving has always been about serving each other. I thought about that kind of service - the idea that Rams really do take care of Rams - this morning, when I made my gift to a student program that I care about greatly. As COVID-19 continues to affect our world, and the communities that many of our students, faculty and staff, alumni, and friends call home, I ask only that you take care of yourselves, your friends and families, and those in our community with that same spirit of service and compassion.

If you received previous communications about the Day of Giving and made plans to support a program or area that's meaningful to you, thank you. Click [here](#) for more information, including opportunities to help provide essential care for our students when they need it the most and to make a difference through life-changing research that takes aim directly at infectious diseases.

I can't express how grateful I am for our CSU community and the way we care for each other, today and always.

Take care,

Joyce McConnell
President, Colorado State University

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