Fall 2026 Town Hall

September 17, 2026

How are we doing?

What are we doing?

What can we do to help?

🤔

University Finances

Student Enrollment

University Workforce

Strategic Plan, New People, New Roles

Notable Wins

Q&A/Final Thoughts/Wrap-Up

Higher Education News

University of Utah could cut up to 15% of staff ahead of future enrollment drops

The public institution said it is facing "some of the most significant challenges in its 176-year history."

Published Sept. 10, 2026

HIGHER ED DIVE

Ben Unglesbee
Senior Reporter

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The University of Utah's campus in Salt Lake City. The public institution's leaders aim to reduce as many as 850 staff positions.
Getty Images

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

The university campus in Syracuse, N.Y. TED SHAFFREY/AP

U.S. • U.S. EDUCATION NEWS Follow

Why Syracuse Can't Attract the Students It Needs to Pay the Bills

The enrollment crisis taking down smaller schools is now hitting bigger, brand-name universities

Aa 2692 Gift unlocked article Listen (16 min)

By Douglas Belkin and Roshan Fernandez
Aug. 29, 2026 9:00 pm ET

Higher Education News

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY | OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 13, 2026
"To close our budget gap, we are implementing a combination of actions totaling approximately **$54 million** in reductions, including:

- $35.8 million in strategic budget reductions.
- $3 million to be saved through position reductions that are anticipated to become vacant in the coming year
- Utilization of $15 million in one-time funds

The strategic budget cuts include some level of staff reductions across nearly every division and unit, through a combination of layoffs and the elimination of vacant positions."

'An important inflection point:' UCCS announces 5-year plan to close $27 million budget gap

By **Eric Young eric.young@gazette.com** January 30, 2026 | updated 2 months ago

Students walk across campus Thursday, Oct. 23, 2025, at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. (The Gazette, Christian Murdock)

DIVE BRIEF

HIGHER ED DIVE

University of Denver to consolidate academic structures, cut departments

Despite budget pressures, officials framed the moves as an effort to eliminate silos and improve the student experience.

Published June 11, 2026

Ben Unglesbee
Senior Reporter

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The University of Denver campus in Denver, Colo. The image by CW221 is licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0

Why Are University Finances Under Stress?

International Student Restrictions
(100,000 fewer in US in 2026)

Delayed & Redirected Federal Research Funding

Indirect Cost Rate Uncertainty

US & Regional Demographics

Public Perception
(only 1/3rd surveyed view Higher Education as Very Important)

Government-Sourced Financial Aid Limits

AI-Driven Uncertainty

Increasing Expenses
(O&M, salaries, benefits, etc.)

State Budgets

Endowment Taxes

NIL/Athletics

Structural Deficits in University Budgets

Increased Competition for Domestic and In-State Students

CU Boulder enrollment falls for the first time since 2020 as international student numbers plunge

CU Boulder projected record enrollment this fall. Instead, the unexpected decline could leave it with nearly $25 million less tuition revenue than budgeted.

Author: Rhea Jha
Published: 7:16 PM MDT September 12, 2026
Updated: 7:16 PM MDT September 12, 2026

Fall 2026 Census

Fall to Fall Estimated Total Enrollment	Fall 2025 Census	Fall 2026 Census Estimate	Enrollment Change	Percent Change
CU Boulder	38,808	38,510	(298)	-0.8%
UCCS*	10,394	9,901	(493)	-4.7%
CU Denver	13,853	13,654	(199)	-1.4%
CU Anschutz	4,640	4,704	64	1.4%
Systemwide Total	67,695	66,769	(926)	-1.4%

Three Groups of Universities* (by Financial Position)

- **Those with prior structural deficits that have been hoping to grow their way out of them** (via enrollment and/or tuition increases)**, or have been hoping for a lifeline** (state support, big donor gift, etc.) **- and are running out of time/options.**
- **Those that didn't have structural deficits before, but do now – and are acting quickly.**
- **Those that didn't have structural deficits before, and still don't today, but are projecting future deficits – that might be avoided if they make timely course corrections.**

University of Oregon will adopt plan to close projected $65 million shortfall at the end of the year. Here's how they'll make the decisions

KLCC | By Rebecca Hansen-White

Published August 19, 2026 at 6:27 AM PDT

Brian Bull / KLCC

Not included: Auxiliaries (housing/dining/parking), Grants/Contracts, and Restricted Gift Funds

Assumptions

	FY2027 Forecast	FY2028 Projection	FY2029 Projection	FY2030 Projection	FY2031 Projection	FY2032 Projection
Indirect Costs Recovered	-4.6%	2.6%	3.6%	2.5%	2.4%	2.4%
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Health/Dental Benefit Change %	>10.0%	8.0%	8.0%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%

General Fund

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FY26 efforts bought us time to work on both R&E

Sensitive to enrollment and tuition rate

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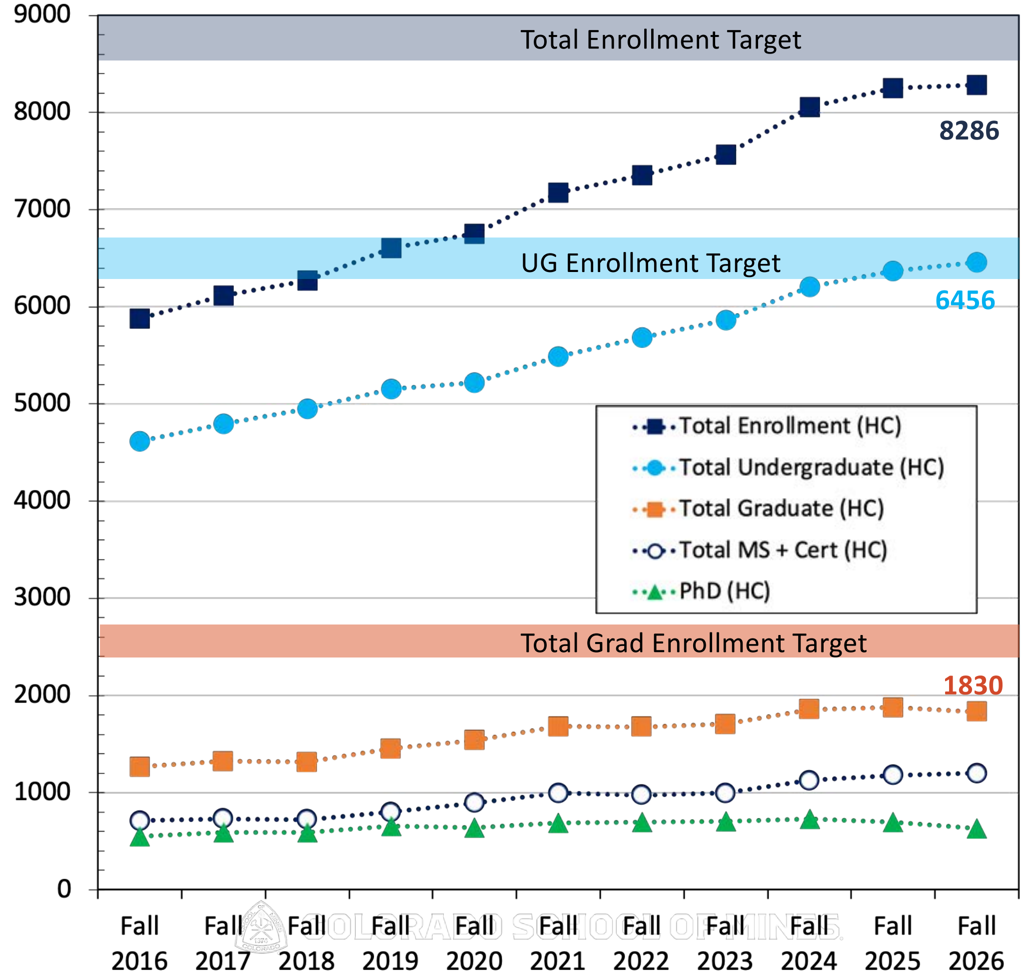
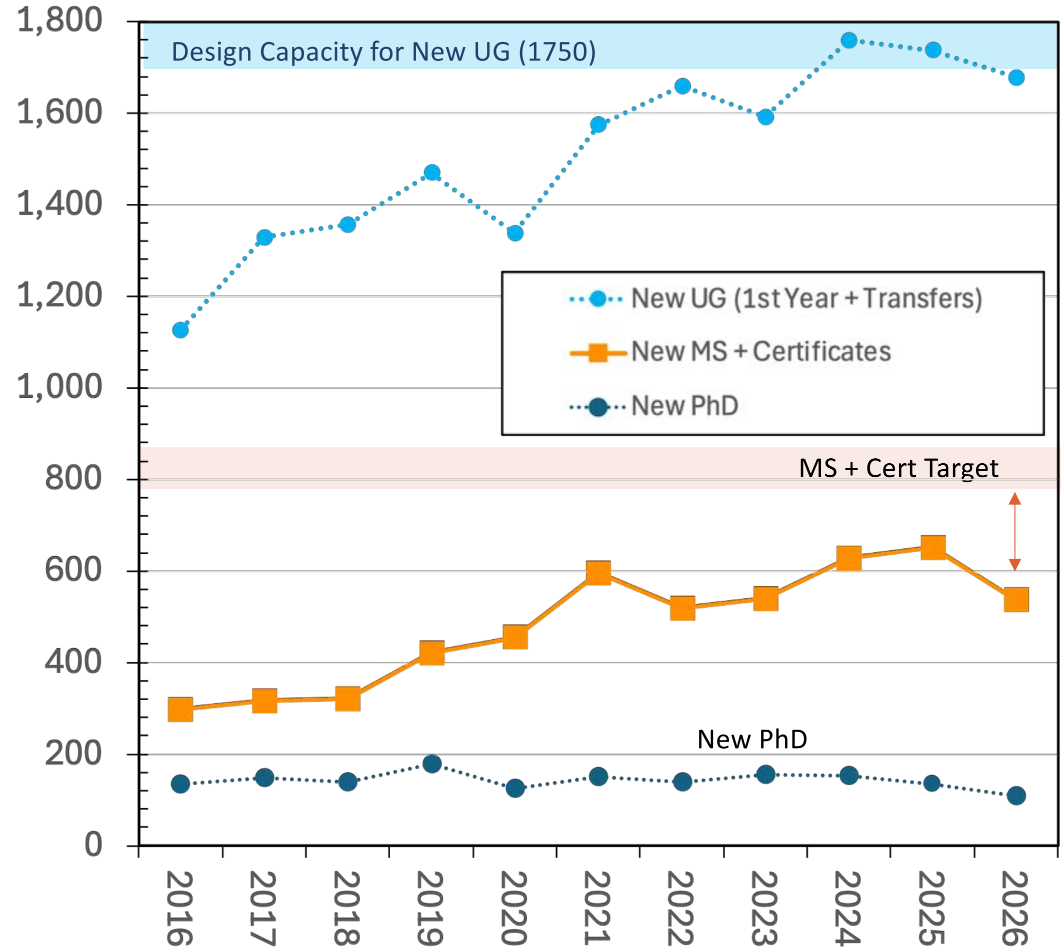
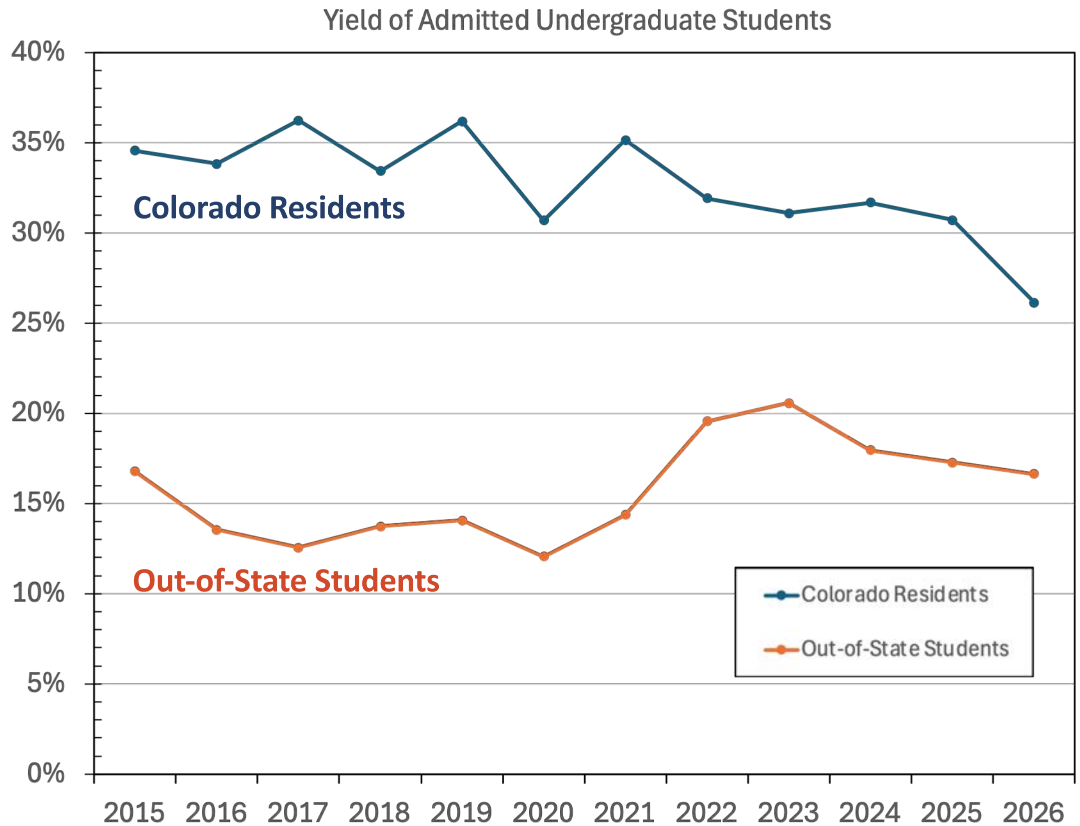
Total Enrollment: 2016 - 2026*



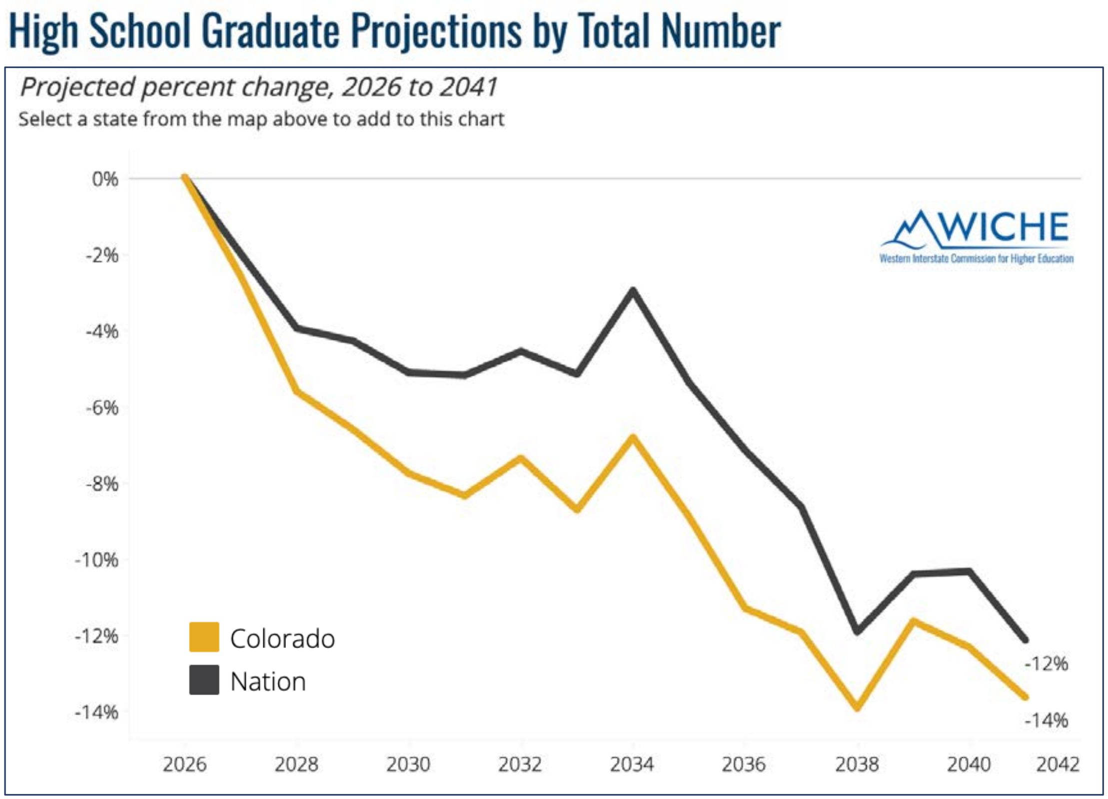
Fall Semester New Students: 2016 - 2026*



Competition for Students

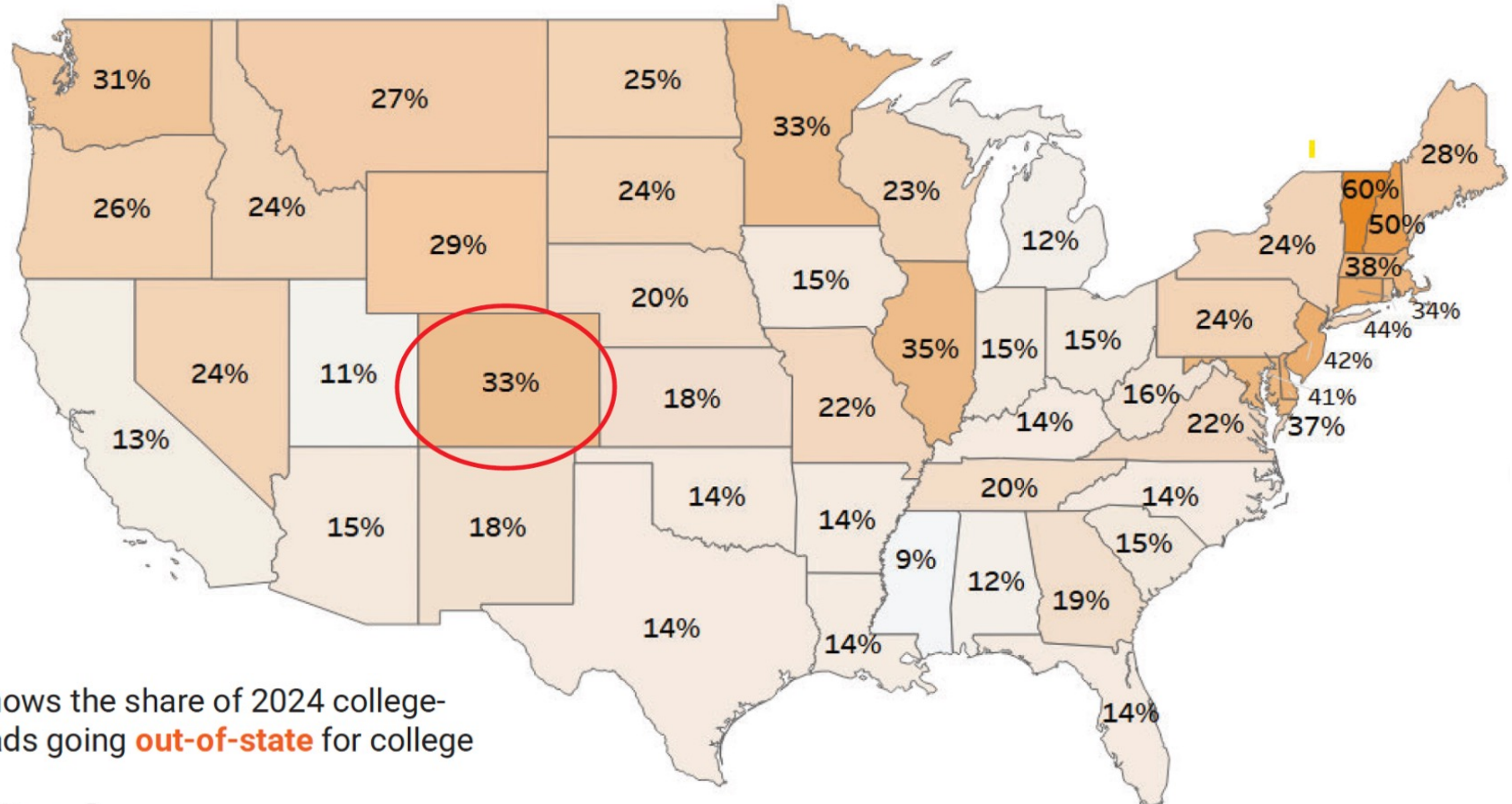


Headwinds



University	2026-27 Undergraduate Tuition and Fees: Resident	2026-27 Undergraduate Tuition and Fees: Non-Resident
Mines	$23,006	$47,996
CU Boulder Engineering	$19,070	$49,798
CSU Engineering (w/differential tuition)	$14,160 ($17,580)	$37,502 ($40,922)
Purdue Engineering	$12,042	$30,844
UT Austin	$14,068	$49,494
University of Washington	$14,340	$46,256
ASU Fulton Schools	$14,814	$39,262

Headwind or Opportunity?



This figure shows the share of 2024 college-bound HS grads going **out-of-state** for college

CollegeBoard

Source: U.S Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Student Residence/Migration data from IPEDS 2006-2024

What Are We Doing?

Mines Admissions + Academic Affairs

- Increasing capacity for on-campus visits, increasing off-campus visits, and out-of-state recruiting activity and capacity, more major on-campus recruitment events
- Sustained engagement (automated coordinated email, text, and direct-mail campaigns)
- Expanding pathways to Mines (Mines Academies, JeffCo STEM Alliance, etc.)
- ***NEW*** The **Mines Golden Guarantee** – announced today

Mines Admissions + Marketing & Communications + IT

- Mines website redesign– focused on student recruitment and AI-based searches
- Added "MAE" (Mines Admissions Expert) - an online virtual AI assistant

Mines Admissions + Student Life

- Increased summer engagement to prevent "summer melt" of deposited students

Mines Foundation + Mines FA&O

- Fundraising for scholarships, fellowships, etc. (one of the 4 key fundraising priorities)
- Moderating future tuition increases

What can the rest of us do to help?

- We are all brand ambassadors
- Participate in Admissions events
- ROI - Let's ensure we are delivering on our value proposition (and generating proof points)
- Increase 3rd to 4th year retention and graduation rates (we lose 8% of our UG students between Year 3 and Year 4)
- Grow our post-bac education enterprise (Mines Pro-Ed, MS-NT, Certificates, etc.)

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General Fund

Sensitive to workforce size and growth in salaries, benefits, and O&M

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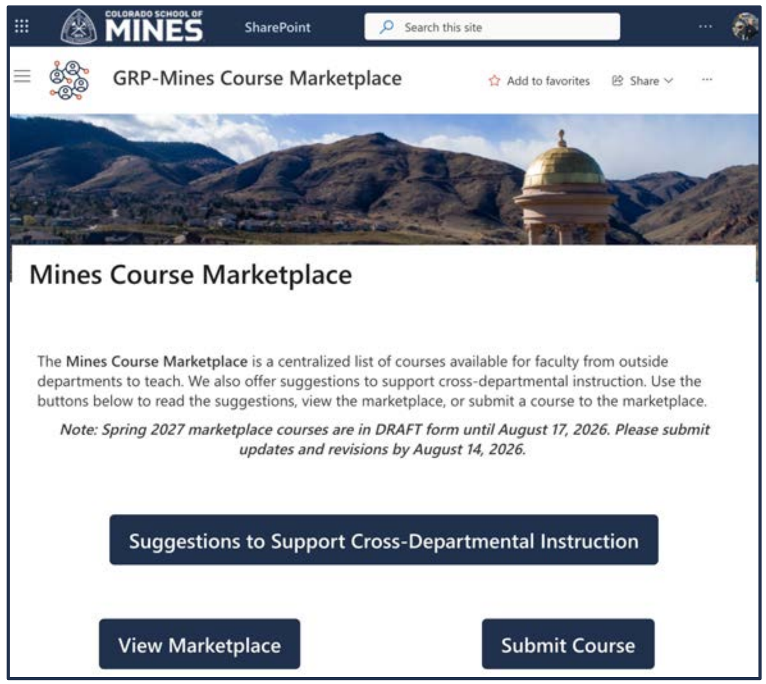
University Workforce – Assessment & Next Steps

We might be at about the right number of employees in total…

…but we're not optimally deployed…

…and we never will be if we rely on natural attrition to free up positions and resources.

Example – we have a 20:1 average student:faculty ratio, but the student experience & faculty and staff workloads are highly variable across programs.



What can we do to help?

The most successful and healthy organizations are always **innovating**, **sunsetting**, and **launching**.

That needs to be our mindset.

Sunsetting doesn't mean failure. Launches don't have to be perfect.

Also…we'll have a new strategic initiative focused on "Operational Excellence" – be part of it

Sensitive to enrollment and tuition rate

Sensitive to workforce size and growth in salaries, benefits, and O&M

FY26 efforts bought us time to work on both R&E

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BEYOND MINES@150: Imperatives

- Successfully compete for **students**
- Deliver on our **value proposition** (ROI; generate **proof points**)
- Pursue **nationally-important initiatives** that we are uniquely qualified to play important and/or leadership roles in
- **Launch/grow strategically-important programs** (QSE, Mineral Processing & Extractive Metallurgy, Construction Eng, Space Resources, Business@Mines, etc.)
- Figure out how to **stay relevant and thrive in a world where AI and digital assistants are ubiquitous**
- Effectively **promote** our capabilities, successes, and impact
- Engineer a **sustainable and resilient business model** with greater operational **efficiency**, **significant net revenue** from **non-thesis, pro-ed and summer programs**, and resources **refocused** to mission-critical and strategic items
- Secure **investments** to support/enable our strategic initiatives

MINES: Colorado's Premier Engineering & Applied Science University

distinctive graduates: highly-valued, future-prepared and adaptable
we work on things that matter & we have **specialized expertise**
we highly value industry partnerships and **we are agile**
a **collaborative and supportive community** of high-achieving, creative and highly-aspirational individuals
freedom of choice: **any of our majors, any time**
best-in-class student success metrics and **return-on-investment**
unique education: fundamentals + **hands-on** experiences & projects + **business acumen** + **context** + **leadership** + **challenge** & **support**
the Mines **signature student experience combined** with **deliberate professional development** supports student success
ideas, discoveries & innovations can be advanced to greater impact (McNeil Center -> Labriola InnoHub -> Beck Venture Center)
beautiful location, **world-class facilities & faculty**, **great living/learning/working community** & **engaged alumni network**

Beyond MINES@150 Strategic Initiatives (AY2026-27)

Living, Learning & Thriving at Mines Create a uniquely-Mines living/learning/ growth experience that leverages new housing	**AI@Mines** Stay relevant and thrive in a world where AI and digital assistants are ubiquitous	**Ideas-to-Reality** All students have multiple experiences with taking ideas-to-reality	**Critical Minerals & Energy** Position Mines to be the Nation's #1 university in critical minerals & energy	**Quantum Engineering** Position Mines to be key to the quantum technology revolution
Commitment to Affordability Make it possible for students to attend and pursue the full extent of a Mines education	**Professional Development** Professional skills that have value and that are differentiators in career trajectories	**Business@Mines** Prepare all Mines graduates to be successful in business environments; prepare some to specialize	**Earth 2.0** Position Mines to be key to energy, minerals, Earth dynamics, space resources, & related policy discussions	**Launch/Grow** Construction Engineering, Business Engineering & Management Science, Mineral Processing, etc.
Operational Excellence Improve administrative & operational functions to support our mission	**#1 for Alumni Engagement** Increase engagement in all aspects of Mines' mission	**National Prominence** At the top in academic, engineering & athletic competitions	**Preferred Partner** For industry, government entities, and the start-up ecosystem	**Impact-Beyond-Publication*** Grow impact & visibility via commercialization of faculty R&D

Executive Team Changes

Andrew Lattanner
Executive Director Public Affairs and External Relations
(federal, state and community relations and marketing and communications)

Mark Van Dyke, PhD
Vice President for Research
(grow the success, awareness, and impact of our research enterprise in the changed research funding landscape)

John Bradford, PhD
Vice President for Industry Partnerships
(increase the sophistication of Mines' industry connections while decreasing the complexity of doing business with Mines)

Strategic Initiative Leaders (Donor Funded)

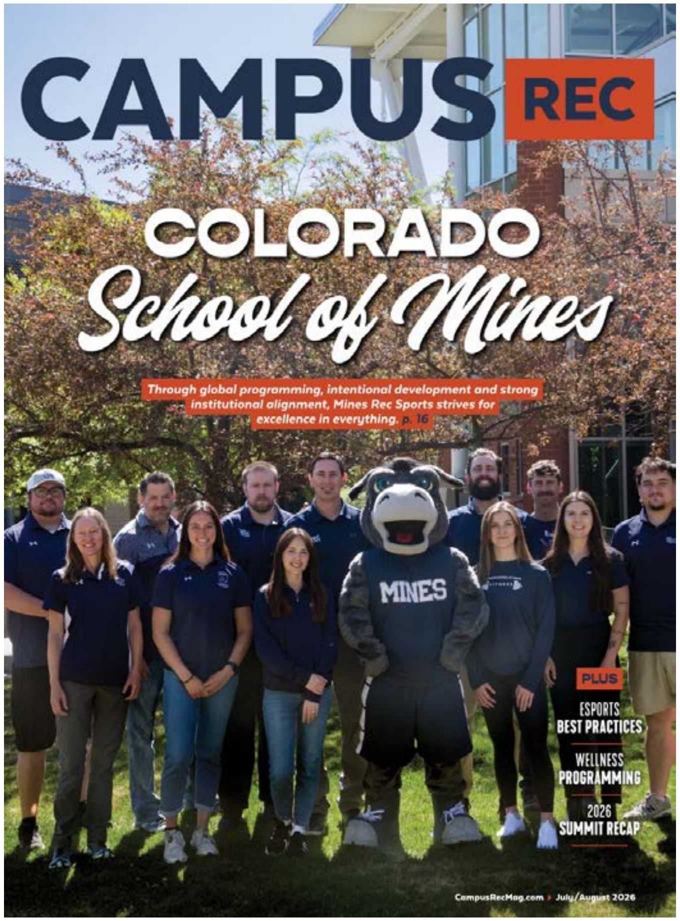
Jenifer Shafer, PhD
Fryrear Presidential Chair in Energy Innovation

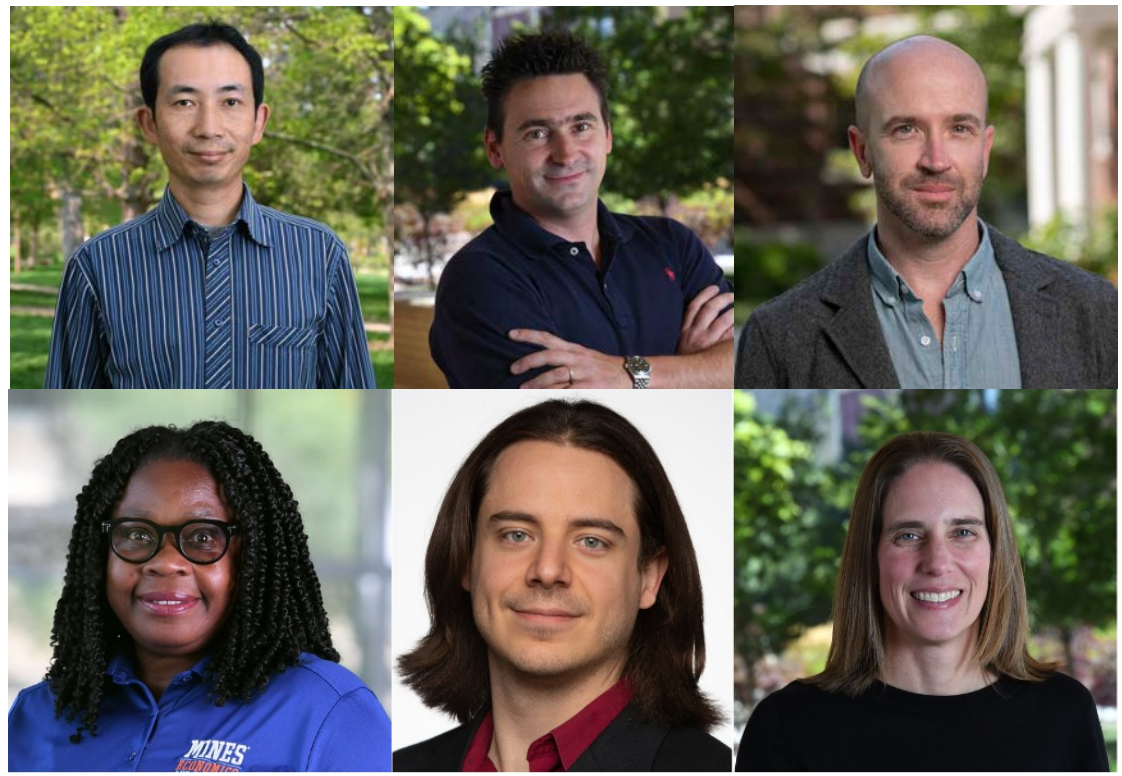
Fred Sarazin, PhD
Fryrear Presidential Chair for Quantum Engineering

Crystal Dobratz, PhD
Fryrear Chair for Innovation and Excellence (AI)

Alicia Polo y La Borda Cavero, Director of Critical Minerals Strategy and Advancement

Notable Wins – Congrats!





Notable Wins – Lookout Apartments

Earth 2.0

Existing Degree Programs Continue to be Delivered

(each led by a **Program Director** – a faculty member from one of the Earth 2.0 schools - some of these are named/endowed positions)

Two New Schools

(faculty homes - each led by a **School Chair**)

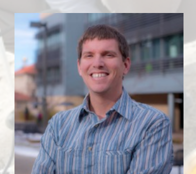
McKee Chair
(w/school resources)

School of Minerals and Subsurface Energy

Jointly-appointed faculty

To-Be-Named Chair
(w/school resources)

School of Earth Systems and Space Exploration



Increase Connectivity

Mineral and Energy Economics • Payne Institute for Public Policy • USGS • NLR • Industry • Alumni Network

Strategic Foci

(evident in degree programs, solutions-focused R&D, and Mines' investments)

Sufficient, Reliable, Affordable and Sustainable Minerals & Energy Supply Chains

Trusted Data, Analyses & Answers related to our changing planet

Space Resources

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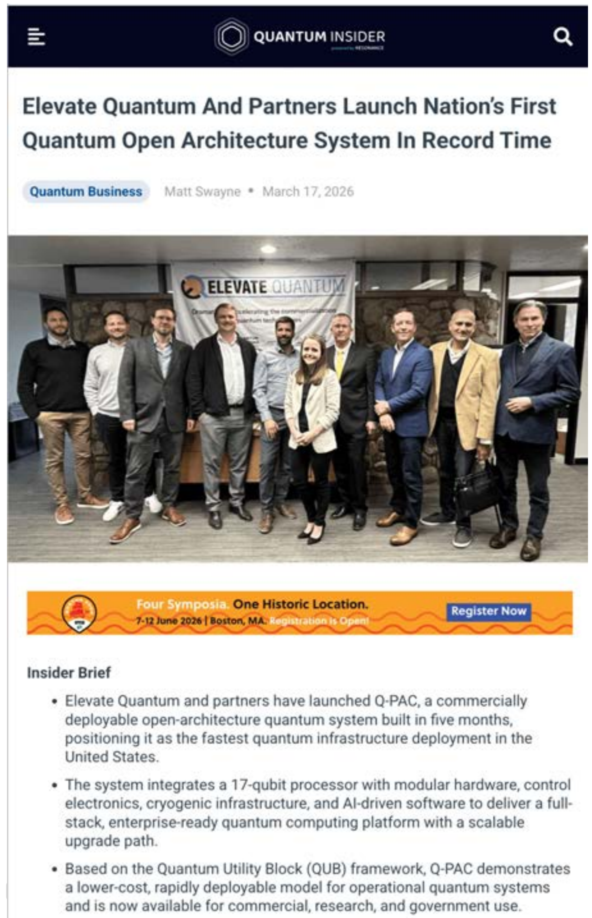
Notable Wins – Earth 2.0 (w/The Mines Foundation)

Quantum Commons/Quantum Systems Engineering

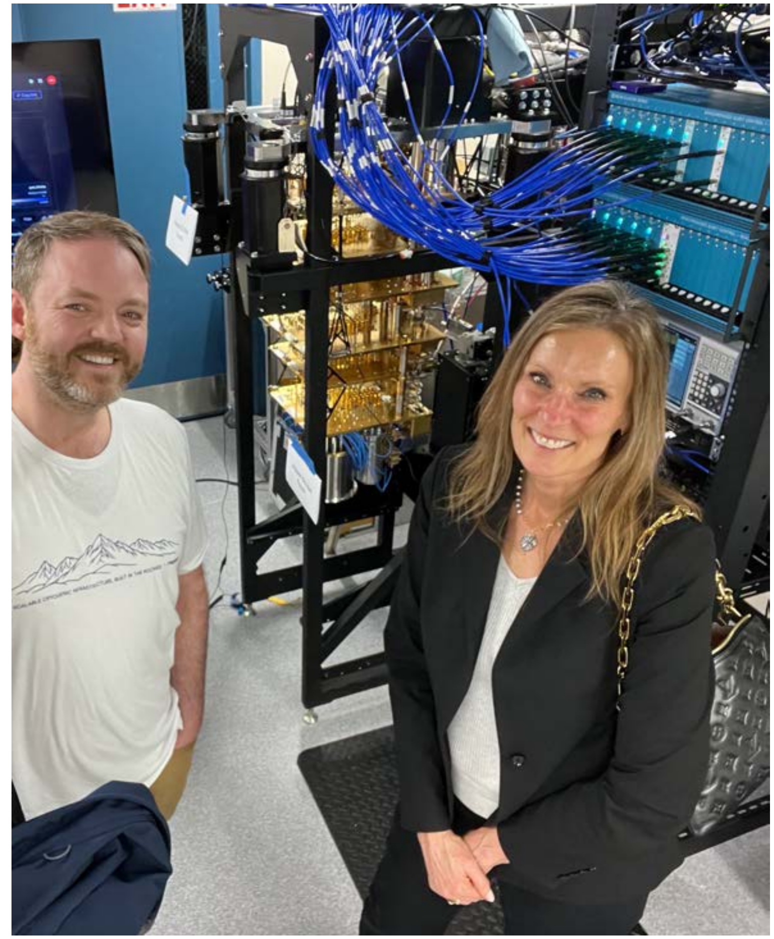


Elevate Quantum And Partners Launch Nation's First Quantum Open Architecture System In Record Time

Quantum Business · Matt Swayne • March 17, 2026

Insider Brief

- Elevate Quantum and partners have launched Q-PAC, a commercially deployable open-architecture quantum system built in five months, positioning it as the fastest quantum infrastructure deployment in the United States.
- The system integrates a 17-qubit processor with modular hardware, control electronics, cryogenic infrastructure, and AI-driven software to deliver a full-stack, enterprise-ready quantum computing platform with a scalable upgrade path.
- Based on the Quantum Utility Block (QUB) framework, Q-PAC demonstrates a lower-cost, rapidly deployable model for operational quantum systems and is now available for commercial, research, and government use.



Notable Wins – Research

Proposals up almost 2X vs 2025

Expenses still >$100M

Awards down 30% vs 2025, but in ballpark of pre-2025 awards

Funding shifts happening, but we're in the conversations, and better prepared than most to adjust to the new reality

Anna Staerz wins ARPA-E IGNIITE Award

AUGUST 27, 2026

Anna Staerz wins an ARPA-E IGNIITE Award to develop optical sensors that detect corrosive impurities in high-pressure CO2 pipelines.

Mines economists and policy experts lead global conversation on critical minerals markets and national security

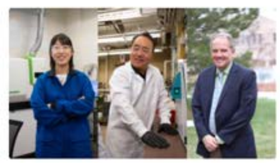
AUGUST 24, 2026

Colorado School of Mines experts lead global research in critical minerals economics and policy, analyzing supply chains market forces and national security policy.

Colorado School of Mines to receive proposed $32.7M federal investment for critical minerals tech hub

AUGUST 7, 2026

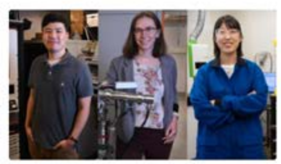
Colorado School of Mines was awarded $32.7 million in federal funding to open a critical minerals innovation hub and strengthen the U.S. mining workforce.



Mines metallurgists turning waste into valuable critical minerals

AUGUST 4, 2026

New breakthroughs in critical minerals processing at Colorado School of Mines are unlocking vital metals from industria byproducts, end-of-life electronics and more.



3 Metallurgical and Materials Engineering professors win NSF CAREER Awards

JULY 23, 2026

Colorado School of Mines faculty earn three NSF CAREER Awards advancing materials engineering research in steel, quantum materials and critical minerals.

Mines selected for 2 Genesis Mission projects to apply AI to critical mineral exploration, nuclear energy

JULY 22, 2026

Colorado School of Mines will lead two Genesis Mission projects using AI to advance critical mineral exploration and nuclear fuel recycling.

Notable Wins – $100M+ in Funding for Critical Minerals

JUNE 2, 2026 / BY EMILIE RUSCH

Colorado School of Mines and ElementUSA awarded $67M by DOE for construction of rare earth processing plant

Located on the banks of the Mississippi River, the alumina tailings impoundments in St. John the Baptist Parish, Louisiana contain more than 30 million tons of "red mud"– residual materials from the alumina refining process that include rare earth elements and other critical minerals.

Critical Minerals

August 07, 2026

Colorado School of Mines to receive proposed $32.7M federal investment for critical minerals tech hub

Notable Wins – 10th Anniversary of Oredigger Camp

Notable Wins – Mines Athletics (w/FA&O & The Mines Foundation)



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Thanks!!!

Q&A

Is Mines Admissions planning to join the other institutions nationwide that are reinstating standardized testing requirements and no longer being test-optional?

To sustain our R1 status and grow our research enterprise, Mines needs to invest in critical foundational infrastructure, including federal compliance requirements (e.g. CMMC) and core facilities (e.g.- SIF and HPC). How does leadership view the balance between the cost of these investments and the strategic risk of missing out on major multi-million dollar research opportunities?

Fall 2026 Town Hall

September 17, 2026

COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES