CU Denver is committed to growing our record of excellence in diverse fields of research and creative works. Through advanced, focused research, we better understand complex issues and find new, creative ways to solve problems. Our researchers help shape the region and beyond through their research and creativity in areas such as artificial intelligence and data science, climate change (disaster preparedness, drought, environmental justice, resilience, and wildfire), cybersecurity, health (bioengineering, epigenics, information systems, management), democracy, performing arts, smart cities, and sustainable urban infrastructure.

By exploring and investigating the challenges affecting society today, our talented, diverse research and scholarly community—artists, economists, education experts, engineers, historians, policy experts, scientists, urban planners, and more—are helping to shape a better future.

We pride ourselves on conducting research that advances our fields of study while directly impacting our local, regional, and global communities. The undergraduate and graduate student experience is enhanced by their engagement with these scholarly and creative activities and their meaningful contributions to this ongoing research. By working together, we better understand and improve our world.

CU DENVER RESEARCH BY THE NUMBERS—FY23

$28.6M (+55% over FY22) new sponsored projects awards

187 active principle investigators and project directors

445 sponsored projects

$24.4M (+29% over FY22) sponsored project expenditures

Top-5 FY23 Federal Funding Sources
- NSF: $5.62M
- Dept. of Education: $4.68M
- NIH and other DHHS: $4.67M
- Dept. of Commerce: $2.20M
- Dept. of Defense: $1.56M

Top-5 FY23 Projects by Awarded Dollars
- K. Hamilton (Physics) NSF $2.3M
- M. Dunn (CEDC) EDA $2.0M
- B. Seidl (SEHD) Dept Ed $1.6M
- B. Seidl (SEHD) CO Dept Higher Ed $1.3M
- C. Bodine (BioEngr) Dept HHS $1.1M

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Oct. 2, 2023
Becoming Internationally Known for our Research and Creative Work

RESEARCH GRAND CHALLENGES 2022

Type I Development Awards
- Infrastructure Informatics: Toward Establishing a Research Center for Preventative, Predictive, and Prescriptive Design, Maintenance and Management of Civil Infrastructures using AI/DATA Science (Team Leader: Farnoush Banaei-Kashani)
- Design & Implementation of a Community Collaboration and Research Center (Team Leader: Jeremy Nemeth)

Type II Planning Awards
- Technology Research and Innovation for Aging and Disability (Team Leader: Cathy Bodine)
- ImaginAtor Academy (Team Leader: Theo Edmonds)
- Research and Insights into the Transformation of Health Systems (Team Leader: Jiban Khuntia)
- Engineering Better Medicine by Disruptive Technologies and Conceptual Revolution Pitch: A Collaborative Program for Epigenetics (Team Leader: Xiaojun Ren)
- Collaborative for Building Democratic Communities (Team Leader: Christopher Weible)

74 Faculty | 88 Student Researchers | 64 Grant Proposals $30.0M* | 12 Grant Awards $2.2M*

* Grant proposals with Grand Challenge 2022 team member listed as PI. Values are from July 1, 2022 to date.

RESEARCH GRAND CHALLENGES 2023

Type I Development Awards
- Advancing Research and Innovation for Aging and Disability (Team Leader: Cathy Bodine)
- Center for Applied Genome and Epigenome Science (Team Leader: Xiaojun Ren)
- Building Democratic Communities Collaborative (Team Leader: Christopher Weible)

Type II Planning Awards
- Equality as an Economic Performance Multiplier (Team Leader: Traci Sitzmann)
- Biodegradable Landscape Infrastructure Pods (Team Leader: Marc Swackhamer)

SEEDING INNOVATIVE RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WORK

Seed grants are intended to initiate research and creative activity that supports proposal development for external funding.
- Arts and Humanities Seed Grants Program: 8-12 awards/year of up to $10,000
- Convergence Research Seed Grant Program: Supports planning, team formation, and proposal development around “high impact” research and creative work to sustain the Grand Challenge initiative; one award of up to $75,000
- Open/All-Disciplines Seed Grants Program: 15-20 awards/year of up to $10,000

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Oct. 2, 2023