



Welcome Letter to IRC Faculty



Dear Colleagues,

Every member of the CU Denver community has an important role to play as we seek to make education work for all. We recognize and deeply appreciate the growing impact that IRC faculty members, in particular, have on our scholarly community and our students. You bring unique perspectives and experiences to our campus and its classrooms that truly enhance the educational and life-forming experiences that our students seek when they come to learn with us. And we are pleased that UCDALI provides a forum for your advocacy and needs in this rapidly-changing environment in higher education.

To this end, we are committed to ensuring we cultivate a culture of appreciation and belonging for all our community members, including IRC faculty. We have read both the 2022 IRC Task Force Recommendations and the IRC Roadmap, and the two annual updates, and we understand and support the foundational elements of these efforts. To reach these aspirations, our institution must transform and grow in ways that double down on our mission to make education work for all while resonating with the ever-changing higher education environment and the needs of the global workforce. Of utmost importance: We must put students at the center of everything that we do and ensure their progress and completion towards their goals. Doing so will reposition us more strategically in this competitive market and allow us to reimagine a more sustainable financial model. Long-term success in this regard will require investment in and support of our people in ways that appreciate their hard work, provide opportunities for professional development and career growth and celebrate their successes.

We are humbled to be serving the CU Denver community as Chancellor and Interim Provost alongside all of you, whom we know are dedicated to the success of our talented student population and our vision to make education work for all. In our first month, we are even more excited about the prospects of transformation at CU Denver in collaboration with you in ways that will improve the experiences and outcomes of our community members. We look forward to working together to reach our ambitious goal of becoming a model public urban research university in service of our faculty and staff and, most importantly, our students. Thank you for everything you do for CU Denver.

Best wishes,

Kenneth Christensen
Chancellor

Pamela Jansma
Interim Provost

The Faculty Featurtte with Jim LoPresti

Senior Instructor at the Business School



You've had a long and varied career teaching in business schools at a variety of universities along the Front Range, but your academic background is in English literature. How does one mix Thoreau with Hayek?

So, when I received my PhD from DU back in 1992, I was also teaching at, what was then, the Colorado Women's College. Since I brought emotional intelligence into my teaching, several students who worked for Lucent Technologies (formerly AT&T) asked me for my CV to pass on to their HR director. One thing led to another, and I was offered a position in the education and training division of Lucent. I worked there for three years as a manager and left when I was made an offer I couldn't refuse from Sun Microsystems. There I was a senior manager and had a team of 58 people. I tell people I wasn't hired at either IT company for what I know, but rather for how I use what I know. I believe a liberal arts degree can provide invaluable transferable skills. Literature taught me to be empathetic, to think critically, to be compassionate, and how to communicate clearly and to listen actively. As a result, I was consistently promoted to people management positions. Since I teach management and leadership, my corporate background and practical experience fit in well with a business school. Believe it or not, many of Thoreau's ideas translate nicely into leadership skills and competencies.

[Click here to read the rest of the interview](#)

News from the Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities Office

Hello from the Undergrad Research & Creative Activities Office!

Jeff Knight, Faculty director
Liz Evans, Senior program coordinator

The Office of Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities (URCA) connects CU Denver students with the research and creative mission of the University. Through our EURēCA! programs, students collaborate with faculty to engage in inquiry, design, investigation, and discovery outside of the classroom. We help with grants, student research jobs, fellowships, workshops, and 1-on-1 advising, and we also feature undergraduate and graduate projects at the annual Research and Creative Activities Symposium (RaCAS).

Why Engage Students in Undergraduate Research? Nationally, involvement in undergraduate research and creative activities has been found to create positive effects in students' learning experiences (Jones et al., 2010), predict academic success as measured by GPA (Sell et al., 2018), and increase retention and graduation rates (Lopetto, 2010). URCA participation in the first two years of college increases the retention rate for sophomores from 65% nationally to 81% (Nagda et al., 1998). For research faculty, mentoring students in research can enhance student learning while advancing faculty research goals.

How Can IRC Faculty Participate? All CU Denver | Anschutz faculty are eligible to serve as mentors on EURēCA! funded student projects, irrespective of tenure-track status or FTE devoted to research. IRC faculty are also welcome to serve as reviewers for EURēCA! applications and RaCAS presentations. Email undergrad.research@ucdenver.edu to volunteer or if you have any questions. We can all encourage students to pursue this high impact practice!

Join Us at RaCAS!

Encourage your students to present or attend RaCAS on Friday, April 25, 2025! Projects from all disciplines and stages are welcome. If students want to present, [abstracts are due Friday, March 21](#). Inspire new students to explore research by offering extra credit or linking assignments to RaCAS. A few ideas for you, [here](#).

Events and Announcements

Connect and Converse: Coffee Chat with IRC Faculty: Wednesday, April 16th, from 1:30-3:30 pm. **Location:** Learning Commons, 3rd Floor Kitchen (1191 Larimer Street). The UCDALI Executive Committee and Bridge Liaisons warmly invite all IRC faculty to drop by for coffee and casual conversation. This is a perfect chance to connect with colleagues from across campus and discuss topics that impact or concern you! We hope to see you there!

Join UCDALI

UCDALI - Executive Committee Meetings are open to all. They occur the first Friday of each month from 11am-1pm. Contact [UCDALI](#) for a Zoom link.

UCDALI endeavors to support the working conditions, professional development, recognition and community connections of all Lecturers, Instructors, Research and Clinical faculty at CU Denver. We work in parallel with the Faculty Assembly, and shared governance in the school and colleges, to identify and address IRC faculty concerns, questions and challenges. We would love to hear from you! You can reach us at elizabeth.pugliano@ucdenver.edu or ucdali@ucdenver.edu

INSTRUCTIONAL RESEARCH AND CLINICAL (IRC) FACULTY IN THE RESEARCH AND NEWS

Forsythe D, Hsu JL. "Characterizing full time, non-tenure-track teaching faculty in biology." *Journal of Microbiology & Biology Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1128/jmbe.00144-24>

The Tufts Daily "Full-time lecturers hold 2-day walkout amid ongoing union negotiations." by Michael Onysko. Monday, January 27, 2025.

"...a recent shift from "teaching-intensive" TT faculty to "teaching-only" contingent faculty off the tenure track has highlighted the importance of understanding the experiences of contingent faculty." [Read more at...](#)

"After prolonged attempts to negotiate with the university administration, lecturers will not hold classes on Jan. 27 and 28." [Read more at...](#)