

Colorado State University

A Chronology of Colorado's Land-Grant University

1860s

1861

The area formerly known as the Jefferson Territory becomes officially known as "Colorado," a Spanish word meaning "reddish colored," a name early Spanish Explorers gave to the Colorado River, which originates in the state.

1862

The Morrill Act is passed, providing federal land grants to support institutions of higher learning that offer instruction in agriculture and the mechanic arts and that promote "the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."

1864

Fort Collins military post is established; it is officially closed 1867.

1865

American Civil War ends.

1870s

1870

Territorial Gov. Edward McCook signs the bill establishing the State Agricultural College in Fort Collins as Colorado's Morrill Act college.

1873

Fort Collins officially is incorporated as a town.

1876

Colorado becomes the 38th state.

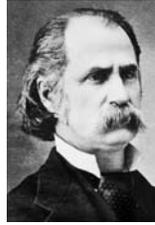
1877

The organizational structure is established for Colorado's Morrill Act college and includes the State Board of Agriculture as its governing body.

1878

A cornerstone-laying ceremony is held to dedicate the construction of the Main College Building, later known as Old Main.

1879



Elijah Evan Edwards is employed as the College's first president.

The first classes are held.

1870s

1881



Charles L. Ingersoll becomes president of the College.

1883

Fort Collins is incorporated as a city.

1884

The first college commencement takes place with a graduating class of three, who immediately establish the Alumni Association.

1886

Elwood Mead institutes the first collegiate irrigation engineering instructional program in the United States.

1887

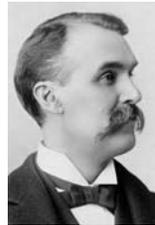
The Hatch Act is passed to fund research at Morrill Act colleges.

1890s

1891

The first issue of the Rocky Mountain Collegian is published.

1892



Alston Ellis becomes president of the College.

1893

Women obtain the right to vote in Colorado; Eliza Routt becomes the first woman to serve on the State Board of Agriculture.

1899



Barton O. Aylesworth becomes president of the College.

1900s

1900

The first "Border War" football game is played against the University of Wyoming. CAC's coach, George Toomey, played, as did the coach from Wyoming. An editorial in the Collegian the following day dismissed Wyoming's protests, noting that CAC scored two of its three touchdowns "after they had broken Mr. Toomey's collar bone and he had to be carried from the field."

1902

A beet sugar refinery is established in Fort Collins.

1903

The women's basketball team wins the College's conference championship.

1904

A destructive flood inflicts heavy damage on Fort Collins.

1906

The first fraternities and sororities are established on campus.

1907

The veterinary curriculum is established, and the first short course in the United States for forest rangers is held at the College.

1909



Charles A. Lory becomes president of Colorado Agricultural College.

1910s

1911

The Fort Lewis School is established under State Board of Agriculture jurisdiction as a state vocational high school that increasingly adds college-level instruction.

1914

The Smith-Lever Act is passed to support cooperative extension work at Morrill Act colleges.

1915

Coach Harry Hughes leads the College to its first conference football championship.

1917

The Seed Laboratory is established and becomes one of the leading facilities of its kind in the nation.

The United States enters World War I.

1920s

1922

Ralph Parshall, professor of civil and irrigation engineering, files a patent for the Parshall Flume, which becomes the standard irrigation water measuring device throughout the world, even to this day.

1926

The College establishes the Home Economics High Altitude Laboratory, the first such laboratory in the nation.

1930s

1931

College researchers find a remedy for disease damaging Colorado's carnation crop, a major product of the state's greenhouse industry.

1933

Fort Lewis College becomes exclusively a junior college and drops its high school program; San Isabel Junior College (Pueblo), a private institution, is established and then becomes a public institution, Southern Colorado Junior College.

1934

Severe drought throughout the western United States; Fort Collins rations water.

1935

The College is renamed: Colorado State College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts (Colorado A&M).

The Cooperative Extension program administers nearly \$1 million in federal money to control wind erosion during the Dust Bowl.

1936

Alumnus Glenn Morris wins the gold medal in decathlon at the Berlin Olympic games.

1937

Southern Colorado Junior College is renamed Pueblo Junior College.

1938

A flood inflicts heavy damage on Fort Collins, including the College campus.

1940s

1940



Roy Green succeeds Charles A. Lory as president of the College.

Colorado's population is 1,123,296; Fort Collins' is 12,251.

1941

The United States enters World War II; enrollment drops as men enlist; this is the first time in history that women outnumber men on campus.

1944

The College is renamed: Colorado Agricultural and Mechanical College.

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act (G.I. Bill) is passed.

1946

The Fulbright Program is instituted to support the international exchange of scholars.

1948



Isaac E. Newsom succeeds Roy Green as president.

1949



William E. Morgan becomes president of the College.

Thurman "Fum" McGraw becomes the College's first football player to receive All-American honors.

1950s

1950

The Housing and Home Finance Agency is authorized to make long-term loans to colleges and universities for the construction of dormitories and other revenue-producing facilities. Campus construction amounts to \$1.5 million and includes a new veterinary teaching hospital and chemistry annex; an addition to the student union and faculty apartments; and a residence hall for women.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is established.

1951

A flood inflicts severe damage on the city; the Colorado-Big Thompson Project releases first water from Horsetooth Reservoir.

1952

The Fort Collins city street-car system ceases operations.

1955

A.R. Chamberlain, who later becomes the ninth president of the institution, receives the first doctoral degree granted by the College.

1957

Effective May 1, by act of the Colorado General Assembly, Colorado A&M becomes Colorado State University.

1958

The National Education Defense Act, a Cold War response to the Soviet Union's Sputnik satellite launch, is passed to stimulate advancement of education in science, mathematics, and modern foreign languages.

1960s

1961

Pueblo Junior College becomes Southern Colorado State College, a four-year degree-granting institution; land for the new Belmont Campus is purchased one year later.

1962

Maurice Albertson, Pauline Birky, and Andrew Rice of the University's civil engineering department conduct a feasibility study that helps lead to the creation of the Peace Corps.

Fort Lewis College becomes a four-year degree-granting institution.

1963

The State Board of Agriculture creates the Office of International Programs.

1964

The Civil Rights Act is passed, outlawing discrimination in federally funded programs and prohibiting discrimination by both private and public employers. The Equal Opportunity Commission is established to investigate and judge complaints.

1965

The Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHE) is established.

The Higher Education Act funds community assistance research and programs; supports low-interest insured student loans, part-time employment (work study), educational opportunity grants, and teacher training fellowships; and funds laboratory and audio-visual instructional equipment and materials.

1968

The CSU Environmental Learning Center opens.

1969



A.R. Chamberlain succeeds William E. Morgan as president.

The United States lands first man on the moon.

1970s

1970

Old Main is destroyed by arson.

Colorado's population is 2,207,259; Fort Collins' is 43,337.

1971

The Twenty-Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified, extending voting rights to citizens 18 years or older.

1972

The Higher Education Act permits direct federal grants without specifying purposes and provides grants directly to students in need; the National Student Loan Association is established.

1973

U.S. troops begin withdrawal from Vietnam.

1974

The North Central Association (NCA) accords CSU mature university status.

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (Buckley Amendment, FERPA) establishes students' right to access to their records, challenge content, and control personally identifiable disclosure.

1975

Southern Colorado State College becomes University of Southern Colorado with its revised mission to include liberal arts, industrial technology, and technical community college programs.

1976

Hewlett-Packard establishes a branch in Fort Collins.

CSU achieves Carnegie Foundation Research I University Status.

The Big Thompson flood kills 151 people and destroys 52 businesses and 323 homes.

1978

Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere conducts work on the first satellite designed for launching from the Space Shuttle Challenger.

Senate Bill 81 places the University of Southern Colorado under SBA jurisdiction and instructs the SBA to separate the technical college component from USC.

1979



Charles O. Neidt is appointed acting University president.

1980s

1980

The University receives its first \$1 million endowed chair.

Colorado's population is 2,888,834; Fort Collins' is 65,092.

1981



Ralph E. Christoffersen becomes the 10th president of CSU.

The Downtown Development Authority is established to renovate Old Town Fort Collins.

1982

The High Country Athletic Conference is established for women's intercollegiate athletics under NCAA auspices.

1983



Robert Phemister is appointed interim president.

1984



Philip Austin becomes president of Colorado State University.

The Colorado State University System is created as the comprehensive governing authority over CSU, Fort Lewis College, and USC. Philip Austin accepts the position of chancellor.

Chemistry Professor Albert Meyers makes a worldwide breakthrough by duplicating the way nature makes optical isomers, the molecular arrangements in enzymes, pharmaceutical drugs, and other biologically important chemicals.

1985

Professor Tom Sutherland is kidnapped by terrorists (June 9) while working in Lebanon.

Physiology Professor Robert Phillips is chosen by NASA to fly as payload specialist aboard the Space Shuttle.

1986

The state anti-smoking ban is extended to all Colorado State University buildings by Gov. Richard Lamm.

1987

The University opens the Equine Teaching and Research Center.

President Austin abolishes College Days following consecutive years of destructive vandalism.

Anheuser-Busch opens a brewery in Fort Collins.

1989



Judson Harper appointed interim president of Colorado State University.

The Student Recreation Center opens on campus.

1990s

1990



Albert C. Yates is named 12th president of Colorado State University.

The Rams football team defeats the Oregon Ducks in the Freedom Bowl.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is passed to outlaw discrimination against disabled workers.

1991

The Persian Gulf War begins against Iraq in response to Saddam Hussein's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Professor Thomas Sutherland is released after being held six years as a political prisoner of the Islamic Jihad.

The Soviet Union dissolves, marking the official end of the Cold War.

1992

The TABOR (Taxpayers Bill of Rights) Amendment becomes Colorado law.

1993

In Jennifer Roberts et al v. Colorado State University, the Supreme Court rules CSU is in violation of Title IX provisions and requires the reinstatement of women's softball.

Professor Marty Fettman becomes the first veterinarian in space, as part of the crew of the Space Shuttle Columbia.

1994

The Pingree Park Campus is heavily damaged by the Hourglass Fire.

1995

Colorado State begins construction on the major expansion and renovation of Morgan Library.

1996

Mary Crow, professor of English, is named Colorado's Poet Laureate.

CSU alumna Amy Van Dyken wins four gold medals in swimming at the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

1997

On July 28, a devastating flood causes more than \$100 million in damage to CSU facilities.

1999

The women's basketball team, led by Becky Hammon and Katie Cronin, makes the "Sweet Sixteen" round of the NCAA tournament.

Colorado State University leads seven other institutions in the break from the Western Athletic Conference to form the new Mountain West Conference.

2000s

2000

The new core curriculum is instituted on campus.

2001

September 11 terrorist attacks destroy World Trade Center buildings and damage Pentagon headquarters.

2003

The Bohemian Foundation donates a record gift of \$20.1 million in funds: a \$4.9 million commitment to the University Center for the Arts and a \$15.2 million commitment to the renovation of Hughes Stadium.

The State Board of Agriculture is renamed the Board of Governors of the Colorado State University System; the University of Southern Colorado becomes Colorado State University - Pueblo; and Fort Lewis College is legally separated from CSU control.

2003



Larry Edward Penley is named 13th president of Colorado State University.

2004

The College of Engineering receives multi-million dollar grants from the National Science Foundation to create the Engineering Research Center for Extreme Ultraviolet Light under the leadership of Professor Jorge Rocca.

CSU begins work to significantly expand its infectious disease research capabilities, thanks to a \$17 million National Institutes of Health grant to enlarge the University's Level 3 biocontainment laboratory space.

The women's volleyball team advances to "Sweet Sixteen" round in the NCAA tournament for the fourth time in past five years.

2005

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases awards Colorado State University \$40 million to establish a Regional Center of Excellence for Biodefense and Emerging Infectious Diseases research and training.

Former Soviet Union president Mikhail Gorbachev speaks at Moby Arena as part of the Monfort Lecture Series.

Professor Karolin Luger is named a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, an appointment that honors the nation's most promising biomedical scientists.

Edward M. Warner, noted geologist, philanthropist, and distinguished alumnus, donates a total of \$30 million to the College of Natural Resources. In honor of this gift, the college is renamed the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University.

2006

CSU begins Green Building Certificate Program in response to emerging practices in commercial and residential building.

Gov. Bill Owens signs proclamation naming April 18 at "I love Colorado State University Day."

CloudSat, the world's most sensitive cloud-profiling radar, developed by NASA in collaboration with CSU and other partners, launched into Orbit 438 miles above Earth.

Transit Center edition opens at Lory Student Center, becoming first LEED building on campus; Guggenheim Hall first LEED remodel.

2007

CSU announces Supercluster's concept with an aim to accelerate research to market. The first Supercluster focused on infectious disease.

Academic Village opens.

Rocky Mountain Regional Biocontainment Laboratory opens on Foothills Research Campus.

2008

CSU-Global Campus begins enrolling and educating students online.

Large tornado hits Windsor, damages buildings at ARDEC.

CSU Student Media separated from University and begins operation at non-profit organization.

University Center of the Arts opens in old Fort Collins High School building after \$45 million renovation.

Dr. Anthony A. Frank is named interim president.

2009

Computer Science building opens.

Board of Governors of the CSU System officially separate Chancellor and CSU-Fort Collins President position.



Joseph B. Blake is named first sole chancellor of CSU System.



Dr. Anthony A. Frank is named 14th president of CSU.

Diagnostic Medical Center opens.

Indoor Practice Facility and Academic and Training Center open.