

BECOMING ***INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN*** ***FOR OUR RESEARCH AND CREATIVE WORK***

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/transportation, 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: FY25

▷ **\$27.5M**

new sponsored project awards

▷ **187**

active principal investigators
and project directors¹

▷ **393**

active sponsored projects²

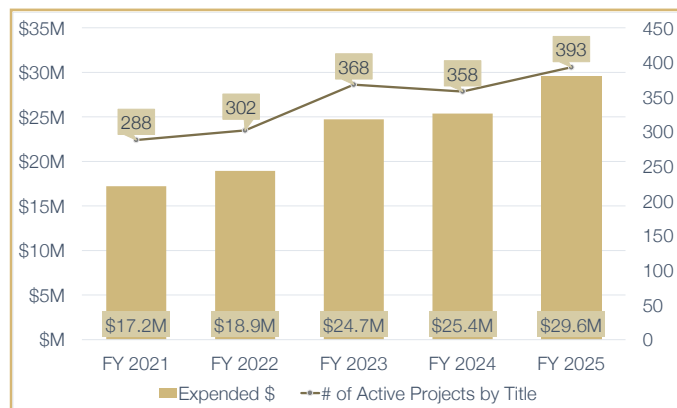
▷ **\$29.6M**

(+17% over FY24)
sponsored project expenditures

¹ By distinct count of expenditure PIs

² By distinct count of expenditure project titles

SPONSORED PROJECT EXPENDITURES 5-YEAR TREND



Top-5 FY25 Federal Funding Sources

NSF: \$5.47M
 Dept. of Education: \$5.14M
 Dept. of Treasury: \$2.90M
 NIH & other DHHS: \$2.87M
 Dept. of Interior: \$1.68M

Top-5 FY25 Projects by Awarded Dollars

T. Heikkila (SPA) NSF \$1.8M
 Z. Evans (SESS) CO Dept. of Higher Ed \$1.6M
 H. Fardi (CEDC) NIST \$1.5M
 B. Seidl (SEHD) Dept. of Education \$1.3M
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STUDENT RESEARCH, SCHOLARSHIP, & CREATIVE WORK

CU Denver students are building robots, creating documentary films and developing new medical imaging techniques.

- CU Denver's diverse student population is growing the next generation of research talent with 125 PhDs awarded in FY25
- 124 students received EURēCA! program funding to participate in Undergraduate Research & Creative Activities
- 300 students presented at the 2025 Research and Creative Activities Symposium (RaCAS)



RESEARCH GRAND CHALLENGES 2022-2024

Type I Development Award (2024)

Meet Our Moment: Engineering Can Work for Everyone (D. Mays)

Type II Development Award (2024)

Get Outside! Convergence on Outdoor Recreation (D. Carpenter)

Type I Development Awards (2023)

Advancing Research and Innovation for Aging and Disability (C. Bodine)
 Center for Applied Genome and Epigenome Science (X. Ren)
 Building Democratic Communities Collaborative (C. Weible)

Type II Planning Awards (2023)

Equality as an Economic Performance Multiplier (T. Sitzmann)
 Biodegradable Landscape Infrastructure Pods (M. Swackhamer)

Type I Development Awards (2022)

Infrastructure Informatics: Research Center for Preventative, Predictive, and Prescriptive Design, Maintenance and Management of Civil Infrastructures using AI/DATA Science (F. Banaei-Kashani)
 Design & Implementation of a Community Collaboration and Research Center (J. Nemeth)

Type II Planning Awards (2022)

Technology Research and Innovation for Aging and Disability (C. Bodine)
 Imaginator Academy (T. Edmonds)
 Research and Insights into the Transformation of Health Systems (J. Khuntia)
 Engineering Better Medicine by Disruptive Technologies and Conceptual Revolution Pitch: A Collaborative Program for Epigenetics (X. Ren)
 Collaborative for Building Democratic Communities (C. Weible)

100+ Faculty	100+ Student Researchers
248 Grant Proposals \$118.4M*	56 Grant Awards \$14.6M*

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

SEEDING INNOVATIVE RESEARCH & 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: 10-15 awards/year of up to \$5,000. Anticipated program budget \$65K.
- Convergence Research Grants Program: Supports convergence research through planning, team formation, and proposal development around "high impact" research and creative work to sustain the Grand Challenge initiative. Anticipated program budget \$200K.
- Open/All-Disciplines Seed Grants Program: 10-14 awards/year of up to \$10,000. Anticipated program budget \$120K.