



## Message from Chancellor Marks



Dear faculty and staff,

Following a comprehensive national search and review of the thoughtful feedback on the finalists provided by members of our community, I am pleased to announce that we have selected Ann Sherman as the Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration, effective May 1. Ann is a proven business and operational leader who brings nearly 25 years of experience in private industry and public education. Most recently in her 16-year career in higher education, she served as the Vice President for Business and Finance at California State University, Chico. She previously served as the Senior Associate Vice President for Human Resources and Interim Vice President of Administration and Finance and CFO at San Francisco State University.

In her new role at CU Denver, Ann will be responsible for overseeing our overarching campus budget and ensuring the financial strength and operational effectiveness of the functional units included in her portfolio, including finance and budget, human resources, technology strategy and innovation, facilities planning and construction, and emergency management. She will also work closely with our partners at the University of Colorado system, CU Anschutz Medical Campus, Auraria Higher Education Center, and the institutions on the Auraria campus to oversee the allocation and provision of shared resources and services that support our students, faculty, and staff.



Ann holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with double minors in finance and sociology from the University of Michigan, Dearborn. She completed graduate coursework in industrial and organizational psychology at Wayne State University in Detroit and worked in the private sector before beginning her career in higher education as Northern Michigan University's Director of Human Resources, Equal

Opportunity Officer, and Title IX Coordinator. Throughout her career, Ann has demonstrated success in financial best practices, university budget administration, practical leadership, and employee satisfaction and growth. At both San Francisco State and California State University, Chico, she introduced a LEAD6 leadership model that established leadership development programs encompassing a balance of both tactical (managing talent, inspiring performance) and strategic (structuring work, facilitating change) elements.

As a member of my executive team, Ann will be a vital partner in advancing our 2030 Strategic Plan, identifying new revenue generation opportunities, and further developing and nurturing an inclusive workplace and campus culture that is rooted in equity. During the search process, Ann stood out for several reasons. First, she demonstrated a strong, practical, and very human leadership style, including an ability to lead people through change—both in favorable and challenging times. For example, she has proven experience at California State University, Chico with strategic plan implementation and budget realignment initiatives. Second, Ann's leadership approach, which is one of education, transparency, proactivity, and collaboration, impressed me. She also understands the importance of climate and culture and prioritizes creating spaces in which everyone feels encouraged to bring their full selves to work. And in line with our university's mission, she recognizes that embedding diversity, equity, and inclusion into all that we do is highly strategic and important.

As Ann steps into the role of Executive Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration on May 1, Jennifer Sobanet will shift out of her current role as Executive Vice Chancellor for Strategy and Administration. She will remain with us temporarily and in a part-time capacity to help CU Denver advance several strategic initiatives while she pursues the next level in her career in higher education leadership. Jennifer has been a longtime, highly valuable, and beloved member of the CU Denver community. She remains a trusted and valued partner, and I am grateful to her for agreeing to remain with us for a time while she explores these next steps. At the appropriate time, I know we will all look forward to celebrating Jennifer's career and enormous impact on this campus.

As we successfully complete this search, I'd like to thank the search committee co-chairs Scott Dawson, Dean of the Business School, and Dan Maxey, my Chief of Staff; committee members Todd Ely, Gregory Gibson, Juan Gonzalez, Genia Herndon, Adrian Ingram, Cinthya Ippoliti, Sam Kim, Katie Linder, Erica Manuel, Karen Ludington, Doug Sicker, and Jen St. Peter; and the community members who participated in campus interviews and open forums.

Please join me in welcoming Ann when she joins us in May and thanking Jennifer for her service to CU Denver.

Feb. 17, 2023

*Michelle Marks*

Michelle Marks, PhD

Chancellor

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