



In a few short weeks, we will be welcoming new and returning students from across the globe. During this time, we are setting our goals and intentions for the academic year and pausing to recognize and celebrate our achievements. We developed our 2017-2022 Strategic Plan with Six Strategic Objectives and have already begun making strides:

1. Instill a culture of inclusive excellence and more than double the percentage of students who come from diverse backgrounds.

- Appointments have been made to ensure our success. Professor and Chair Scott Leutenegger now serves as the RSECS Director of Inclusive Excellence. Recently Anthea Johnson was hired to be the Director of E-STEM (Equity in STEM).

2. Focus Research and education programs to address two relevant, real-world Global Goals.

- RSECS applied with the National Academy of Engineering to become a Grand Challenges Scholars School and was accepted on July 13, 2017. This will provide opportunities for our undergraduates to begin to tackle the Grand Challenges and to collaborate for advancements for our global well-being.

3. Modernize the Undergraduate Program.

- Matt Gordon has been appointed as Director of Undergraduate Programs and spearheads the growth and development of our undergraduate programs.

4. Grow the Research Enterprise.

- Kimmon Valavanis has been appointed as the Director of Research and Innovation and will be the driving force behind modern research at RSECS.

5. Build a suite of highly relevant one-year professional degrees and programs.

- RSECS graduated our first class of Cybersecurity students this year. We are launching our first class of Data Scientists this fall. Betsy Hart was appointed as Executive Director of New Programs.

6. Improve brand and reputation domestically and abroad.

- Ritchie School of Engineering and Computer Science moved into our new state-of-art building. The space includes the Innovation Floor/Maker Space. Michael Caston was appointed as Program Manager of the Innovation Floor in December 2016.

- Received renewals and/or new funding for four NSF Centers and Grants ranging from Teaching to High Voltage Technology.
- Nathan Sturtevant, Associate Professor in Computer Science, was elected as a Senior Member of the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI), a special recognition of members who have achieved significant accomplishments within the field of artificial intelligence.
- The Amplify Board was established bringing 20 leading CIOs, CTOs, and senior executive leaders from Colorado's biggest engineering and computer science employers and start-ups to drive and promote the mission and funding of RSECS.
- RSECS raised 150% of our fundraising goals for the academic year – an amazing feat without the aid of an advancement specialist on staff.

In addition to our achievements within RSECS we are pleased to share that **Project X-ITE continues to flourish.**

- Project X-ITE oversaw 11 short- and longer-duration programs and 31 events which engaged over 4,000 people including at least 500 DU students and faculty and brought over 90 speakers to the Colorado innovation community. Project X-ITE hosted Flight to Denver, a 3-day boot camp inspired by the United Nations Solutions Summit.

We are proud of all that we've accomplished in the 2016-2017 academic year. As we enter the 2017-2018 year we find ourselves inspired and feel challenged to keep topping our successes.

Sincerely,



JB Holston, Dean

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