



College of Media, Communication and Information  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

## *Investing in Faculty Excellence at CMCI*

The College of Media, Communication and Information (CMCI) was established in 2015, combining the academic areas of the former School of Journalism and Mass Communication with the Department of Communication and several new fields. By supplementing strong existing programs with new areas developed to explore the increasing role of technology in communication, CU Boulder created a dynamic college that delivers the wide range of knowledge, skills and experience needed by today's communicators. Now in its tenth academic year, CMCI is thriving with more than 2,700 undergraduate and graduate students.

CMCI has assembled an impressive and passionate faculty with more than 100 top scholars, practitioners and innovative teachers eager to engage with students and advance knowledge. CMCI's professors play a critical role in shaping our future by educating and developing the next generation of leaders, thinkers and citizens. In addition, CMCI faculty work toward the advancement of knowledge—discovery, innovation, creation—which is essential to any civilization.

Donor-funded faculty positions—chairs, professorships, fellowships and scholarships—are titular and honorific for outstanding faculty and bestow significant prestige within the world of academia. Achieving a donor-created faculty position represents accomplishment, prestige, leadership and good citizenship on campus and in the profession. In addition, these faculty positions, which can be established collegewide or for a specific department or academic area, are important tools in recruiting and retaining top faculty.

Donor-created faculty positions can be supported by either permanent endowments or annual gifts, both of which provide funds that can be used for additional stipends to the position holder and/or discretionary resources to augment that faculty member's research and teaching. These positions—critical in recruiting and/or retaining top faculty members—can also create a lasting legacy for the donor. Since the establishment of CMCI in 2015, one of Dean Lori Bergen's goals has been to increase the number of donor-supported faculty positions at CMCI. The college currently has only one endowed chair and one endowed professorship.

To follow are the donation amounts required to establish faculty positions at CMCI:

	<b>Endowed</b>	<b>Current</b>
<b>Chair</b>	\$2.5 million	\$100,000/year
<b>Professorship</b>	\$1.5 million	\$60,000/year
<b>Fellowship</b>	\$500,000	\$20,000/year
<b>Scholarship</b>	\$250,000	\$10,000/year

### **Endowed or Current Faculty Chair**

An endowed or current chair is a faculty position created and named by a donor and is the highest recognition that can be bestowed on university faculty. Achieving a chair is the pinnacle of faculty recognition in academia and, because chairs are rare at most universities, is an honor reserved for the most accomplished scholars and teachers. The announcement of a new chair holder is a testament to the highest level of performance and garners campuswide and often national attention. The donor funds supporting a chair often provide additional resources for financial incentives, which can be needed to recruit nationally renowned faculty or, as is more often the case, to retain outstanding faculty members who receive frequent offers from other universities. Donations establishing chairs can also be used to support graduate students serving as research assistants or to provide additional resources for scholarly work, creative practice or teaching.

Chairs are prestigious partly because very few faculty members receive them. CMCI currently only has one endowed chair, the James de Castro Chair in Global Media, which is held by the dean. Rostered among CU Boulder's current campuswide chair holders are a Nobel Laureate, multiple National Science Foundation CAREER awardees, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator.

A \$2.5 million endowment is required to create a permanently endowed chair at CMCI. A donation of \$100,000 annually, pledged for a minimum of five years, can be used to create a current chair, which can be bestowed on a faculty member for a set number of years.

### **Endowed or Current Faculty Professorship**

An endowed or current professorship is another faculty position named and supported by a donor. In academia, it is an honor second only to a chair. Like with a chair, the donated funds can be used for stipends, research support or graduate student assistance. Professorships are powerful vehicles for recognizing stellar faculty. CMCI recently received its first endowed professorships, the William R. Payden Endowed Professorship, which is available for faculty collegewide. The Payden Professorship will be awarded for the first time in 2025.

A \$1.5 million endowment is required to create a permanently endowed professorship at CMCI. A donation of \$60,000 annually, pledged for a minimum of five years, can be used to create a current professorship, which can be bestowed on a faculty member for a set number of years.

### **Endowed or Current Faculty Fellowships and Scholarships**

Faculty fellowships and faculty scholarships, which can be endowed or current, differs from chairs or professorships only in the status level of the honor, and the funds received to create either can be used in the same way as the funds used to create chairs and professorships. At CMCI, a \$500,000 endowment is required to create an endowed faculty fellowship, and a \$250,000 endowment is required for a faculty scholarship. The annual donations, pledged for a minimum of five years, required to create a current fellowship or current scholarship are \$20,000 and \$10,000, respectively. CMCI currently has no donor-supported faculty fellowships or faculty scholarships.

### **For more information:**

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