



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Colorado State University • Colorado State University-Pueblo • CSU-Global Campus

Joe Blake was named the first sole chancellor of the Colorado State University System in 2009 and oversees a three-campus system comprised of two traditional campuses (CSU in Fort Collins and CSU-Pueblo) and an online campus (CSU-Global Campus).

The three campuses have distinct and unique missions educating about 37,000 new and returning scholars annually.

As the state's second largest research institution, the CSU System has an operating budget in excess of \$900 million with annual research expenditures of more than \$300 million.

As chancellor, he manages legislative affairs, serves as the chief spokesperson for CSU, and travels Colorado to increase the level of engagement among the campuses' nearly 115,000 alumni statewide. Most recently, in light of the economic realities facing the state, one of his top priorities is to marshal the leadership in higher education and around the state to begin working toward sustainable funding solutions for public higher education. Before being named chancellor, Mr. Blake served on the CSU System Board of Governors as a board member and vice chair.

Mr. Blake is a Colorado native and was the longtime chief of the Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce where he served as the president and CEO for nearly a decade. His career has been centered on statewide leadership and stewardship of Colorado's economy, competitiveness and business climate. According to the *Denver Business Journal*, "Joe Blake is one of Denver's best-known business-community leaders."

He served on the senior management team that created the new community of Highlands Ranch Colorado, before becoming president of the Denver Metro Chamber. Mr. Blake spent time in Washington, D.C. as an FBI special agent, an attorney, and legislative assistant to U.S. Senator Gordon Allott.

He has had many key civic roles including chairman of the Colorado Transportation Commission and the Colorado Housing and Finance Authority. Mr. Blake has been instrumental in leading several political initiatives. In 2005, he served as co-chair of a statewide campaign, a coalition of more than 1,000 organizations focused on the passage of two referenda. Referendum C, which passed, protects certain state agencies, including higher education, from drastic budget cuts for a five-year period.

His past community service includes: president of the Hospice of St. John Foundation, trustee emeritus of the Denver Zoological Foundation, and a member of the Colorado Baseball Commission.

In recognition of his community service, he has received numerous awards: the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, the American Jewish Committee National Human Relations Award, the Henry M. Porter Award for Community Leadership, and an honorary doctorate of business administration from Johnson & Wales University.

He is a graduate of Dartmouth College (B.A., English Literature) and the University of Colorado School of Law (Juris Doctorate). He resides in Denver and is the father of two and the grandfather of four.