



University of Colorado College of Nursing  
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## **University of Colorado Denver Awarded Grant from Jonas Philanthropies to Fund Three Doctoral Nursing Students as Jonas Veteran Scholars**

*The grant will help tackle the nation's most pressing healthcare issues through support of high-potential doctoral nursing scholars*

**AURORA, CO, 6/14/2021**– the University of Colorado College of Nursing is proud to announce it has been awarded a new grant of \$45,000 from [Jonas Philanthropies](#), a leading national philanthropic funder of graduate nursing education. Matched by \$45,000 of its own monies, the grant will fund the scholarship of three University of Colorado College of Nursing doctoral nursing students in 2021. The three students Sheika Adams, Amy Crisp, and Damon Toczylowski are committed to improving the health of military service members, veterans, and their families. As a grant recipient, the University of Colorado Denver joins Jonas Philanthropies' efforts to improve the quality of healthcare by investing in doctoral education of nursing scholars whose research and clinical foci specifically address our nation's most urgent needs. The grant will empower and support these nursing students with financial assistance, leadership development and networking to expand the pipeline of future nursing faculty, researchers, and advanced practice nurses.

With 10,000 baby boomers turning 65 each day,<sup>1</sup> an entire generation of the healthcare workforce is aging at a rapid pace.<sup>2</sup> This, coupled with care for the 22.2 million veterans living across the country,<sup>3</sup> means the United States is facing a dire need for a new era of highly educated nursing professionals. CU Denver, CU Nursing, and Jonas Philanthropies believe the investment in the education of nurse leaders is critically important to improve the healthcare system. As CU Nursing is the first university in the nation to have a Doctor of Nursing practice (DNP) degree addressing Veteran and Military Health Care Leadership and the first university to provide doctoral education on veteran healthcare, there is a natural partnership with the Jonas Foundation to address the pressing concerns of those veterans who have answered the call to

duty and who together with their families have sacrificed much in service to our nation. Retired USAF Colonel and CU Nursing Professor, Specialty Director of Veteran and Military Health Care academic programs Mona Pearl Treyball, PhD, RN, designed and developed this curriculum to address the visible and invisible wounds of war. “The students in these programs are able to make a very real difference for individuals, families, communities, and the health care system,” Pearl Treyball says. Student projects have ranged from caring for the homeless in the community to educating civilian providers on moral injury of war, prevention of suicide, and cultural competence. An estimated half million veterans have benefited by the work of the nurses in this program.

“With varied interest and foci for their doctoral work, these students represent some of the best, brightest and dedicated in nursing. We’re very excited to partner with Jonas Philanthropies as these funds allow our school to prepare a greater number of future nurse leaders,” says CU Nursing Dean Elias Provencio-Vasquez, PhD, RN, FAAN, FAANP.

CU Nursing’s Jonas Veteran Nurse Scholars are part of the new 2021-2023 cohort of more than 75 Scholars pursuing PhD, DNP or EdD degrees at 49 universities across the country whose doctoral work will focus on such critical health priorities as Environmental Health, Vision Health, Psych-Mental Health, and/or Veterans Health. Of the 75 scholars selected, 22 will be focused on military veterans and their families, with CU Nursing leading the way with three recipients. They join more than 1,000 Jonas Scholar alumni representing 157 universities across all 50 states.

“Each year, we grow more in awe of all our Jonas Scholars have achieved. It is with great honor that we welcome and celebrate this new cohort of nurse leaders,” says [Donald Jonas](#), who co-founded Jonas Philanthropies with his late wife [Barbara Jonas](#). “With more than 1,400 Jonas Scholars to date who are committed to meeting the greatest health needs of our time, we look forward to continuing our work with our partner nursing schools and expanding our impact to advance care for the country’s most vulnerable populations.”

### **About the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus**

The University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus is a world-class medical destination at the forefront of transformative science, medicine, education, and patient care. The campus encompasses the University of Colorado health professional schools, more than 60 centers and institutes, and two nationally ranked independent hospitals that treat more than two million adult and pediatric patients each year. Innovative, interconnected and highly

collaborative, together we deliver life-changing treatments, patient care, professional training, and conduct world-renowned research. For more information, visit [www.cuanschutz.edu](http://www.cuanschutz.edu).

### **About the University of Colorado Denver**

CU Denver is Denver's partner in progress and ally in innovation. Our connection to our vibrant city inspires leading research, creative work, and civic engagement. Our collaboration with Denver's businesses and local government helps set us apart from other universities. With a history that began in 1912, CU Denver has operated independently since 1973. Our location in downtown Denver serves more than 15,000 students. In Colorado and around the world, our talented graduates form a diverse and growing Lynx family. We work to create welcoming and respectful learning environments where a culture of inclusion can flourish. At CU Denver, we honor our diversity of experiences and perspectives in the committed belief that they enrich the educational experience for all. For more information, visit <https://www.ucdenver.edu>.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2010/12/29/baby-boomers-retire/>

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.ncsbn.org/summary\\_2013.pdf](https://www.ncsbn.org/summary_2013.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gao.gov/assets/590/585743.pdf>