

CSU INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE NEWS

JUNE 2023

Presidential Task Force Selects CSU's Carolin Aronis

By Ann Claycomb, SOURCE
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On May 25, the Biden Administration launched “the most ambitious and comprehensive U.S. government-led effort to fight antisemitism in American history.” Officially titled the U.S. National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, the “whole-of-society” strategy “reflects input from over 1,000 Jewish community stakeholders, faith and civil rights leaders, State and local officials”—including Carolin Aronis, an assistant professor in the Department of Ethnic Studies, and a Communication Studies affiliated faculty in CSU’s College of Liberal Arts.

Aronis, who is also the co-chair of CSU’s Advisory Council on Jewish Inclusion in the Office of Inclusive Excellence, studies the antisemitism associated with white supremacy in the U.S., including the targeting of college students. This April, she was one of 20 Jewish experts in campus antisemitism and leaders of Jewish-inclusive campus environments invited to a listening session hosted by the U.S. Department of Education as part of the DoEd’s commitment to the new national strategy.

“I was honored to be invited to this important space to share some of the successful work that I and others at CSU have led in the past five years,” Aronis said. “While the session started with a discussion of how antisemitism manifests on campuses across the country, we quickly moved to discuss the barriers we face in addressing antisemitism, initiatives that have worked for our own campuses and what we envision as necessary future steps.

One step that Aronis advises all universities to take is establishing an inclusive task force or working group charged with surveying the campus regarding the Jewish community’s experiences and identifying responsive practices and policies. At CSU, Aronis co-chaired the Presidential Task Force on Jewish Inclusion and the Prevention of Antisemitism created in 2020, whose recommendations focused on safety, education



and inclusion and belonging for the Jewish community. Many of their recommendations have since been adopted.

“Jewish students, faculty and staff must feel addressed and protected, heard and seen and also cared for/about by the university administration, staff, faculty and students,” Aronis said. “This support can come through public statements, recognition of Jewish holidays, inclusion of Jewish voices in DEIJ conversations — it all matters.”

Her recommendations and those of her colleagues inform the Antisemitism Awareness Campaign that the DoEd is charged with leading as part of the national initiative. This campaign will focus on interventions to address antisemitism in classroom settings and in the broader community — including on college campuses. A third focus area is conducting much-needed research on “the history and sociology of antisemitism, its manifestations online, its intersections with other forms of hate, and best practices for prevention.”

This is where Aronis’s academic expertise comes in. In addition to teaching courses that explore both the

Continued inside...

Dedication Ceremony Celebrates Mary Ontiveros House





Symposium Proposals Deadline Approaching

The Symposium for Inclusive Excellence will be held October 23 – 27, 2023. [Proposals are being accepted now.](#) We ask presenters to consider trending topics of diversity, equity and inclusion in talent acquisition and retention, PreK-12+ and higher education, leadership, philanthropy current national and international dynamics, and topics directly relating to equity initiatives at Colorado State University and the surrounding community. The selection committee reserves the right to select sessions that align with the mission and vision of the Office of Inclusive Excellence.

Sessions will be selected based on the criteria below:

- Trending topics of diversity in higher education
- Current national and international dynamics
- Topics relating directly to equity initiatives at Colorado State University

Session Criteria

- Presentation Creativity – style, format, and title
- Learning Accommodations – consider a wide variety of learning styles and accessibility
- Audience Participation – engaging sessions tend to be more successful
- Discussion Time – build in enough time for audience discussion/questions
- Defined Target Audience – designate the demographic of attendees, which will consist of traditional and non-traditional age students, community members, faculty, and staff

We also invite proposals to lead self-care activities to inspire connections and promote the importance of prioritizing individual health to build a strong, inclusive community together.

Please note that sessions should be 90 minutes in length. Priority consideration will be given to proposals that address inclusive excellence at CSU. The selection committee reserves the right to select sessions that align with the mission and vision of the Office for Inclusive Excellence. All proposals, including a session abstract of no more than 150 words, are due by Friday, June 30, 2023.

Save the Dates

THE SYMPOSIUM INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE

October 23 — 27, 2023

SAM'S 5K RAINBOW RUN

JUNE 30TH, 2023
5:30PM - 7:30PM
The Oval @ Colorado State University

HONOR THE LIFE OF CSU ALUM SAM FISHER
AND CELEBRATE PRIDE MONTH

REGISTER BY JUNE 23RD
[HTTPS://FORM.JOTFORM.COM/231636717845161](https://form.jotform.com/231636717845161)

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Presidential Task Force Selects CSU's Carolin Aronis (Cont.)

history and current complexities of antisemitism and Jew-hatred, Aronis studies the ways that “perpetrator-installations” like Nazi swastikas create and sustain a climate of fear, trauma and intimidation for people of many identities, but especially those who identify as Jewish.

“In recent years, there have been reports of hundreds of swastikas at U.S. universities,” Aronis said. “They’ve been found on Jewish students’ doors, cars and belongings, on Jewish faculty office doors and in public areas.”

She further explained that while university administrations typically acknowledge swastikas as hateful symbols, that doesn’t fully translate to understanding how the Jewish community experiences them.

“Because of its history, a swastika is understood by Jewish people as a threat, as the perpetrator saying, ‘I know who you are and where you live, and I can come get you,’” Aronis said. “It is important for university administrations to respond to the perpetration of a swastika as an act of hate threatening potential violence, and not ‘just’ as a visual symbol.”

As both a researcher and a teacher, Aronis has seen ample evidence that the antisemitism expressed in white supremacy intersects with other expressions of hate, including anti-Black racism and xenophobia.

She has collaborated with colleagues both at CSU and across the country on research studying these intersections and their impacts on communities. And she is encouraged both by the Biden Administration’s commitment to countering antisemitism and by the framing of the new strategy as “a blueprint for tackling other forms of bigotry, hate and bias that fuel toxic divisions in America.”

“Carol is deeply passionate and committed to educating our community on how current-day antisemitism continues to pervade in both overt and covert ways,” Inclusive Excellence Assistant Vice President Ria Vigil said. “I have been working with Carolin over the past few years on the President’s Commission on Jewish Inclusion and the Prevention of Antisemitism and, more recently, through her leadership on the Advisory Council on Jewish Inclusion. I’m honored to work alongside her and grateful to learn from her.”

There is significant work to do, including research, education, policy development and culture change, all of which Aronis continues to lead at CSU.

“I hope that with more education and the desire for sincere allyship among the different segments of the university community, we can create a place in which we all feel that we are valued and that we are working together to address bigotry and prejudice,” she said.



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lagoon
summer concert series
AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Bring your lawn chair and blankets to the Lagoon.
NEED DINNER?
We have food trucks!



JUNE 14 - JULY 26

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS!
6:30-8:30PM

<p>June 14 FUNKY BUSINESS BAND</p>	<p>June 21 CHRISTINE ALICE & THE CANYON ECHOES</p>	<p>June 28 RYAN CHRYS AND THE ROUGH CUTS</p>
<p>July 12 SALSA FORTE</p>	<p>July 19 REMINISCING</p>	<p>July 26 THE WENDY WOO BAND</p>

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