

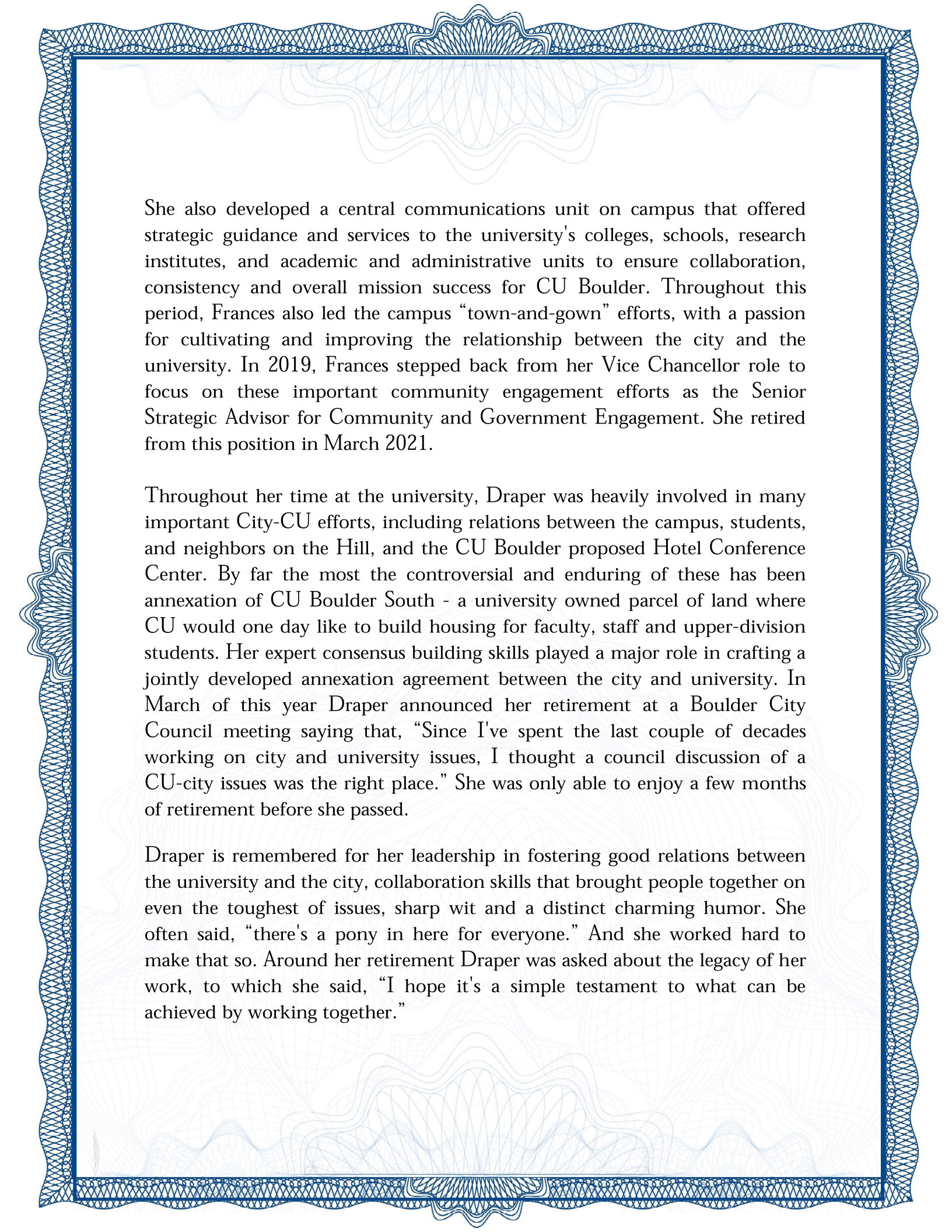
Declaration Honoring Frances Draper

September 14, 2021

On Wednesday, September 1, Frances Draper passed away after a decades long battle with cancer. A well-respected and inspirational community leader, Draper will be greatly missed by those who had the honor of knowing her, working with her, and those who enjoyed her friendship.

Frances was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut on March 31, 1956 and grew up in Albuquerque, NM. After getting her undergraduate degree at Stanford, and a Master of Business Administration at UC Berkeley, she moved to Boulder in 1981 to pursue her professional career. Early on in Boulder Frances was employed at First Interstate Bank and Access Graphics - where she quickly rose to executive positions - before transitioning to a long and successful career working with many of Boulder's local flagship institutions. During her more than 30 years working and living in Boulder, Draper served as the Executive Director of the Boulder Economic Council from 2006-2011 where she established its annual Boulder Economic Forecast event and Boulder Economic Summit, and was a key figure in establishing CO-Labs, a consortium of Colorado-based research laboratories. In 2013 she was the Chamber's Businessperson of the Year and a "Women Who Light the Community" honoree in 2019.

One of the biggest parts of Frances' time in Boulder was her employment by and passion for the University of Colorado (CU) at Boulder. Frances came to CU in 2011 as the Vice Chancellor for Strategic Relations and Communications. In this role, Frances transformed the university's entire marketing and communications organization and aimed to measure and improve the university's reputation both locally, nationally and internationally.



She also developed a central communications unit on campus that offered strategic guidance and services to the university's colleges, schools, research institutes, and academic and administrative units to ensure collaboration, consistency and overall mission success for CU Boulder. Throughout this period, Frances also led the campus “town-and-gown” efforts, with a passion for cultivating and improving the relationship between the city and the university. In 2019, Frances stepped back from her Vice Chancellor role to focus on these important community engagement efforts as the Senior Strategic Advisor for Community and Government Engagement. She retired from this position in March 2021.

Throughout her time at the university, Draper was heavily involved in many important City-CU efforts, including relations between the campus, students, and neighbors on the Hill, and the CU Boulder proposed Hotel Conference Center. By far the most controversial and enduring of these has been annexation of CU Boulder South - a university owned parcel of land where CU would one day like to build housing for faculty, staff and upper-division students. Her expert consensus building skills played a major role in crafting a jointly developed annexation agreement between the city and university. In March of this year Draper announced her retirement at a Boulder City Council meeting saying that, “Since I've spent the last couple of decades working on city and university issues, I thought a council discussion of a CU-city issues was the right place.” She was only able to enjoy a few months of retirement before she passed.

Draper is remembered for her leadership in fostering good relations between the university and the city, collaboration skills that brought people together on even the toughest of issues, sharp wit and a distinct charming humor. She often said, “there's a pony in here for everyone.” And she worked hard to make that so. Around her retirement Draper was asked about the legacy of her work, to which she said, “I hope it's a simple testament to what can be achieved by working together.”

We, the City Council of the City of Boulder, Colorado recognize, honor and appreciate the life of Frances Draper and her many contributions to the community.



Sam Weaver, Mayor

