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Subject: Dr. Rebecca Chopp appointed as 18th University of Denver Chancellor

To: All Students, Faculty and Staff Members

From: University of Denver Board of Trustees

The University of Denver, its Board of Trustees and the Chancellor Search Committee are pleased to announce the selection of Rebecca Chopp, PhD, as the new chancellor of the University. She will officially become the 18th University of Denver chancellor prior to the start of the University's fall quarter in September.

Dr. Chopp will be on campus this Friday, June 13, to publicly meet with the community. The event will be in the Special Events Room at the [Anderson Academic Commons](#) at 10 a.m., with live streaming available for those unable to make the event or located outside of Denver. You can get details on the live stream as well as more information on the [chancellor announcement website](#).

DU's chancellor-elect is currently president of Swarthmore College, a position she has held since 2009. The institution, founded in 1864 outside Philadelphia, is ranked the third-best liberal arts college in the United States by [U.S. News and World Report](#).

As president of Swarthmore, Dr. Chopp has focused on amplifying its tradition as a progressive leader in liberal arts education in the nation and the world through the strength of its intentional residential academic community. She has also passionately upheld the college's longstanding commitment to admitting the most highly qualified students without regard for their financial circumstances even as she guided the college

through a period of significant financial challenges.

Prior to joining the Swarthmore community, she served as president of Colgate University, where she led a comprehensive strategic plan that greatly expanded the university's academic space, strengthened academic programs and developed new interdisciplinary centers, implemented a new vision for residential education, and expanded university-community partnerships. She has also served as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Emory University and as a dean at Yale University.

With more than 30 years of academic experience, Dr. Chopp is widely published and has an extensive background in university administration and as a professor of religion, philosophy and theology.

"Dr. Chopp is a distinguished scholar and academic leader who has taken two top-20 liberal arts colleges through the development of strategic plans that positioned those institutions to navigate through the complex challenges facing higher education today," said Doug Scrivner, Board of Trustees chair-elect and chair of the search committee. "University members—including student leaders, faculty, administration, staff, alumni and trustees—who participated in the final interviews were uniform in their enthusiastic support of Dr. Chopp. All of this made her the right selection for DU at this time in our history."

DU's chancellor-elect has ties to Colorado, with family members who live in the state and family vacations through the years that led Dr. Chopp and her husband to buy property in the Denver area prior to her interest in the DU job. For more about Dr. Chopp's background, read this [DU Magazine online Q&A interview](#).

The DU chancellor search process began in January 2014, led by a committee of trustees, alumni, faculty and administrators assisted by Storbeck/Pimentel, one of the premier search consultants to higher education institutions.

"Throughout the search, we sought feedback from all members of the DU community, through open forums, a website and a dedicated email address to provide input directly to the search committee," said Cappy Shopneck, vice-chair, Board of Trustees and vice-chair, Chancellor Search Committee. "In their feedback, community members demonstrated a great deal of passion for the University, a broad array of perspectives and

a shared commitment to our future success. We are grateful both for the input and for the commitment to the University of Denver that it represents.”

Chancellor-elect Chopp will succeed Robert Coombe, who is retiring in late June after a distinguished 33-year career at DU, the last nine years as chancellor. She will become the University of Denver’s first female chancellor.

“The coming years will be a time of extraordinary challenges and opportunities, a time when our University can rise to still greater heights of quality and impact,” said Coombe. “I wish Dr. Chopp all the best and I am confident the DU community will benefit greatly under her leadership.”

Under Coombe’s leadership, the University has continued its remarkable transformation through a steady focus on the quality of the academic enterprise, supported by solid financial stewardship and strategic investments in our campus and facilities.

“The University stands at a significant point of transition as we enter an altogether new phase in our 150-year history and in the rapidly changing field of higher education,” said Trygve Myhren, DU Board of Trustees chairman. “We have a solid financial platform and superb strategic position from which to address those changes.”

DU community members will have opportunities to learn more about Chancellor-elect Chopp over the summer. Please watch your email and check the [website](#).