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## Colorado Center for Medical Laboratory Science at MSU Denver expands partnerships in Colorado Springs

### *UCCS career pathway offers students access to more clinical labs*

DENVER – The Colorado Center for Medical Laboratory Science at Metropolitan State University of Denver is growing its academic and clinical partnerships outside the Denver metro area through a new pathway agreement with Helen and Arthur E. Johnson Beth-El College of Nursing and Health Sciences, University of Colorado Colorado Springs.

“In order to keep pace with workforce needs throughout the region, it’s critical that we work with industry and higher education partners to collectively grow the pipeline of qualified medical laboratory scientists,” said Nancy Sayre, MSU Denver associate vice president, Innovative and Lifelong Learning.

Employment of medical laboratory scientists is projected to grow 12 percent from 2016 to 2026, which is nearly double the average rate of all other occupations combined according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the Denver metro area, the average starting salary for clinical laboratory scientists is approximately \$56,000 depending upon the facility and shift.

“CCMLS is one of the most distinguished and longstanding programs that certifies medical laboratory scientists,” said Jacqueline Berning, UCCS chair and professor, Health Sciences Department. “Now UCCS Health Science graduates have a clearer pathway for obtaining certification as medical laboratory scientists.”

CCMLS has more than 30 clinical-partner locations in the Denver metro area and the north Front Range corridor. This new partnership will expand the program’s footprint into the southern Front Range with clinical laboratory facilities at Centura Health-Penrose St. Francis Health Services and UCHealth-Memorial Hospital Central and UCHealth-Memorial Hospital North.

“With the anticipated retirements within the industry in the near future, a combined effort is needed to ensure we can maintain staffing levels of front-line laboratory scientists, but also to create opportunities for existing staff to advance into leadership roles,” said Robert Welch, director, Laboratory Services UCHealth.

Students completing bachelor’s degrees at UCCS will now have a defined pathway to obtain a yearlong post baccalaureate certificate from the CCMLS at MSU Denver. This competitive program enrolls 24 students annually with a 100 percent job placement rate for those who complete the certificate and pass the national certifying exam. The agreement will allow for up to eight additional qualified students from UCCS to be accepted into the CCMLS program with clinical work performed in the Colorado Springs area.

Those with bachelor’s degrees in health care science, biology, microbiology, molecular biology, biochemistry, chemistry and other related academic programs are well-prepared to enter this post baccalaureate health career pathway and are encouraged to apply. The annual program starts June 1 and applicants are encouraged to apply starting October 2018.

“Positive partnerships like this support the Colorado medical community in providing a strong health care workforce and MSU Denver is pleased to move forward with this expansion,” said Karen Myers, director of CCMLS at MSU Denver.

For more information regarding the partnership, contact Karen Myers by telephone at 720-449-7450 or by email at [kmyers29@msudenver.edu](mailto:kmyers29@msudenver.edu)

### **About CCMLS**

Medical Laboratory Science, also known as medical technology or clinical laboratory science, is a nationally recognized allied health field. The Center offers a nationally accredited, one-year professional curriculum that includes a variety of didactic, student laboratory, and clinical course work in all areas of laboratory medicine. Graduates are eligible to sit for the national certification examination in medical laboratory science MLS(ASCP)<sup>CM</sup> offered by the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

The Colorado Center for Medical Laboratory Science is one of the largest and among the oldest Schools of Medical Laboratory Sciences in the Rocky Mountain region. Established at St. Luke's Hospital in 1962, the program was located on the Presbyterian/St. Luke's Medical Center campus since the 1980s. A recent move to a new teaching facility at Medical Center of Aurora North in 2011 and transfer of sponsorship to MSU Denver's Innovative and Life Long Learning enabled the program to expand the number of students it admits each year. For more information regarding the program, visit: <http://www.msudenver.edu/ccmls>

### **About Metropolitan State University of Denver**

MSU Denver is a leader in educating Coloradans through university programs particularly relevant to the state's economy and the demands of today's employers. With the highest number of ethnically diverse students among the state's four-year colleges, MSU Denver offers 67 bachelor's and five master's degrees in accounting, business, health administration, teaching and social work. Nearly 20,000 students are currently enrolled at MSU Denver, and 75 percent of the University's 89,000 graduates have remained in Colorado as valuable members of the state's workforce.

### **About University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS)**

The University of Colorado Colorado Springs, located on Austin Bluffs Parkway in Colorado Springs, is one of the fastest-growing universities in Colorado. The university offers 46 bachelor's, 22 master's and five doctoral degree programs. UCCS enrolls about 12,000 students on campus annually and another 3,300 in online programs. For more information, visit [www.uccs.edu](http://www.uccs.edu)

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