

## **SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE INVESTING**

The Colorado State University Foundation is a private, not-for-profit corporation established to receive, manage, and invest gifts for the benefit of Colorado State University (CSU). The Foundation invests private donations from individuals, businesses and foundations in accordance with its Investment Policy and Guidelines as approved by the Foundation's board of directors. The Foundation does not receive tuition revenue. Assets managed by the Foundation are not the property of CSU, nor are they controlled by CSU.

The Foundation has a fiduciary responsibility to its donors and the University to provide prudent investment and management of each gift. Its mission is simple: maximize the return on private donations, while minimizing risk, so that donors' wishes are realized and CSU receives the maximum benefit from the earnings. The result of the Foundation's successful investing is increased funding available to CSU for scholarships, student access, college affordability, teaching, research, programs, facilities, equipment and more. These additional dollars help CSU recruit and graduate students who contribute to a socially responsible environment by leading impactful lives as responsible, enlightened members of society.

While the Foundation is focused on earnings, it has formally recognized, since 2010, that there are social and environmental issues that have adverse effects on humanity and the world. The Foundation also acknowledges and respects the passion of various interest groups taking a stand on these issues. As part of its investment process, the Foundation requests all of its investment managers to consider environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors, including justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI). When all other investment considerations are equal, the Foundation prefers investments that positively impact the areas of sustainability and diversity, equity and inclusion.

To fulfill its fiduciary and legal obligations, and to enhance the investing power of its endowment, the Foundation utilizes highly regarded professional investment consultants and managers. In selecting those consultants and managers, the Foundation takes into account their ability to provide, package and recommend ESG and JEDI options.

### **Proxy Voting Guidelines**

Because certain investment vehicles (e.g. mutual fund-type investments) lack the ability to submit proxy votes, it is often difficult or impossible for the Foundation and its investment counsel to influence ESG or JEDI policies for particular companies or funds. Occasionally, however, the ability to vote arises. Where possible, the Foundation's investment consultants have been charged with submitting proxy votes in a manner that support the environment, justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, and other socially responsible initiatives.