

Dr. Blanche Hughes

Her Legacy: Mentorship and advocacy at Colorado State University

After 15 years as Vice President of Student Affairs at Colorado State University and more than 30 on the campus, Blanche Hughes knows CSU inside and out. Dr. Hughes came to CSU, her graduate alma mater, from the Department of Sociology at Pikes Peak Community College, where she spent a year as Department Head; at CSU she has gone from Director of Black Student Services to Associate Vice President of Student Affairs to Vice President of Student Affairs.

Dr. Hughes oversees a massive division of the university that covers 21 departments, 800 staff members, and a budget of \$130 million. She uses this division to advocate for her students not just by creating a culture for them, but by getting to know them and what they need, personally.

Dr. Hughes cares deeply about racial equality and social change. She maintains that “We need real social change, not “purified discourse.” The right to speak out, to protest, to make your voice heard to hopefully affect change, without government retribution. This is what we know the First Amendment is supposed to be about.”

From the Fort Collins High School Improvement Team to the Parents Advisory Boards, as well as numerous committees and Girl Scouts groups, Dr. Hughes is very active in the Fort Collins community. She has often been invited to speak for groups such as Mothers of Preschoolers to Agilent Corp. Dialogue Circles.

“I am personally committed ... to pushing forward, no matter how hard and exhausting, ... to engage with others to build not only a more just and inclusive CSU, but a more just and inclusive society. I hope that others will join me and make this commitment as well.”

Written by Melissa Allbrandt, Archivist, Editor, and Writer