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TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026 | COLORADOAN.COM

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Former CSU provost to receive \$325K



Marion K. Underwood addresses the crowd during CSU's annual Fall Address and Picnic on Oct. 8, 2025, in Fort Collins.
 LOGAN NEWELL/THE COLORADOAN

Kelly Lyell

Fort Collins Coloradoan
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Colorado State University is paying a former provost and executive vice president who resigned in January \$325,000 to not work for the next 12 months, with a guarantee of a faculty position when she returns that will pay nearly as much.

Marion Underwood reached a resignation settlement with the university spelling out those arrangements that also included non-disparagement clauses, preventing Underwood and top CSU administrators from sharing anything publicly or privately that would "disparage, defame, sully or compromise" the reputation of the other.

The settlement was obtained March 5 by the Coloradoan through an open-records request.

Underwood was named CSU's pro-

most and executive vice president by CSU President Amy Parsons on Jan. 1, 2024. The provost and executive vice president is the chief academic officer for the university and serves in the No. 2 leadership position on the Fort Collins campus, underneath only the president.

Terms of the resignation settlement called for Underwood to deliver a resignation letter to Parsons by no later than Jan. 5, with an effective resignation date of Jan. 7.

It also required both parties to use previously agreed upon language in communicating Underwood's resignation through separate statements from the university and Underwood to CSU faculty and staff.

Parsons praised Underwood's leadership in the statement released by the university, calling her a "strong advocate for academic and research excellence." The statement also touted the

important role Underwood played in creating the CSU Strategic Roadmap 2035 that was adopted by the CSU System Board of Governors, developing a new budget model designed to provide more transparency to how the university distributes tuition and state dollars to academic units, hiring leaders of academic departments and integrating mental health and well-being into the university's mission and campus life.

Faculty members, who were not bound by the terms of the resignation settlement, also spoke highly of Underwood's work as provost.

"I think Marion Underwood did an outstanding job as provost," Faculty Council Chair Andrew Norton, a professor in agricultural science, told the Coloradoan in a March 4 email. "I don't

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News of Fort Collins IKEA came as a surprise to city staff

Erin Udell

Fort Collins Coloradoan
 USA TODAY NETWORK

When IKEA announced it would be opening a small-format store in Fort Collins later this year, the news came as a surprise — albeit a welcomed one — to the city, according to Fort Collins Economic Health Director SeonAh Kendall.

City staff learned of the move like the rest of us when the Swedish furniture giant announced in a Feb. 17 news release that Fort Collins was among a new batch of four U.S. cities set to get an IKEA in 2026. It is set to take over Front Range Village's former Urban Air Adventure Park, 4250 Corbett Drive, with plans of opening there this fall, publicist Eden Zaslow told the Coloradoan on behalf of the company.

Unlike Colorado's existing Centennial IKEA, which clocks in at a mammoth 415,000 square feet, the Fort Collins location will be much smaller at

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Oil prices soar as Iran names leader

Thao Nguyen, Christopher Cann, Kim Hjelmgaard and Dan Morrison

USA TODAY

As the U.S.-Israel war with Iran entered its 10th day on March 9, oil prices soared over fears of a prolonged conflict, President Donald Trump demanded "unconditional surrender" and the Pentagon made public the name of the seventh U.S. service member to die in the conflict.

Oil prices jumped above \$110 a barrel, reaching its highest prices since 2022 as fears grow over prolonged shipping disruptions due to war throughout the Middle East.

Brent crude, the international benchmark, jumped to \$119.50 a barrel before retreating to around \$103. Trump called that "a small price to

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