

Robert D. Coombe

Santa Fe, NM 87501

Education

Denver Public Schools

B.A., Chemistry, Williams College, 1970

Ph.D., Chemistry, University of California, Berkeley, 1973

Experience

2014-present: Retired in Santa Fe, NM

Chancellor Emeritus, University of Denver

Board of Directors, Mesa Verde Foundation, 2022-present

Board of Directors, Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation, 2017-2023

Executive Committee, 2019-2023

Board of Directors, Denver Scholarship Foundation, 2014-2022

Water Conservation Committee, City of Santa Fe, 2016-2022

Tutor (mathematics), Santa Fe High School, 2016-2017

Cellist, Santa Fe Community Orchestra, 2015-2017; Galisteo String Quartet, 2017-2021;

Atalaya String Quartet, 2022-present

University of Denver, 1981-2014

Chancellor, 2005-2014

Provost, 2001-2005

Dean, Natural Sciences, Mathematics, and Engineering, 1995-2001

Chair, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, 1988-1995

Coordinator of Academic Research, 1989-1991

Assistant Dean and Acting Dean, Graduate Studies, 1985-1987

Faculty Member, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, 1981-2014: Professor,
1989-2014, Associate Professor, 1985-1989, Assistant Professor, 1981-1985

Science Center, Rockwell International, Thousand Oaks, California

Member of the Technical Staff, 1974-1981

Group Leader, 1979-81

University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Postdoctoral Research Associate, 1973-1974

Students, Teaching, Scholarship and Research

In my years as an active faculty member at the University of Denver I taught undergraduate and graduate courses in physical chemistry and its sub-disciplines, as well as science courses for

non-science students. In addition, I mentored students in my research laboratory including 14 undergraduate honors students, 12 graduate students (Masters or Ph.D. candidates), and 7 post-doctoral research associates. I was active in research in physical chemistry from my undergraduate years at Williams College through my appointment as Chancellor of the University of Denver in 2005. My work during this time was focused on the molecular dynamics of small, energetic, inorganic molecules. I am the author or co-author of 66 research publications in peer reviewed journals and books, and I hold two U.S. patents.

University Leadership

Apart from teaching and research as a faculty member at the University of Denver I spent many years in leadership positions there, with my last nine years as Chancellor of the University. As Chancellor I had overall responsibility for 12,500 students, more than 2300 FTE employees, and the financial wellbeing of the University. Apart from operational leadership I had responsibility for the development of the University's long term academic and fiscal strategy and its relationships with many external constituencies. I also led our efforts in fundraising, including an eight-year long capital campaign. During my nine years as Chancellor we raised more than \$500 million, funds used to significantly advance the mission of the University.

Boards and Memberships (prior to 2014)

Rocky Mountain Regional Advisory Board, Institute for International Education, 2006-2012

Board of Trustees, Colorado Symphony Orchestra, 2008-2012

Board of Directors, Denver Metro Chamber of Commerce, 2011-2014

Board of Directors, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, 2011-2014

Chair, Committee on Student Aid, 2013-2014

Advisory Board, Denver Schools of Science and Technology, 2011 – 2014

Member, American Council on Education Commission on International Initiatives, 2007-2010

Member, Higher Education Working Group, Council on Foreign Relations, 2009 - 2014

Member, Colorado Concern, 2008-2014

Member, Colorado Forum, 2009-2014

Member, Rotary Club of Denver, 2006-2014

Member, Denver Education Compact, 2012-2014

Personal

My wife (Julanna Gilbert) and I retired from our positions at the University of Denver in 2014, having both grown up in Denver and having spent most of our lives there. We fell in love with New Mexico years ago, though, and bought our home here in Santa Fe in 2011 knowing that retirement would come someday. We are both avid musicians (Julanna plays the violin and I the cello) and have played with the Community Orchestra and with two string quartets here in Santa Fe. After many years in academia teaching is still in our blood, and we've volunteered as math tutors at Santa Fe High School. We love the history and culture of the Southwest and are both outdoor people, enjoying hiking and camping in northern New Mexico and the simple joys of living in Santa Fe with our dogs Gracie and Milo.