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## **Lee Strobel and Colorado Christian University Create Innovative New Center To Impact America with the Gospel**

***The Lee Strobel Center for Evangelism and Applied Apologetics Launches Today***

LAKEWOOD, COLORADO, August 27, 2019 – *New York Times* best-selling author Lee Strobel is teaming up with Colorado Christian University to launch an unprecedented new center for evangelism and apologetics, with the goal of fueling a spiritual renewal in America.

“Who is the next Billy Graham? It is millions of contagious Christians who are trained, equipped, and deployed,” said Strobel. “We have a vision to fulfill this mission as quickly as possible.”



**LEE STROBEL CENTER**  
*for Evangelism and Applied Apologetics*  
at Colorado Christian University

The **Lee Strobel Center for Evangelism and Applied Apologetics** will offer accredited courses on the undergraduate and graduate levels – all designed to help churches, ministries, and individual Christians share and defend their faith naturally and effectively.

CCU is the preeminent interdenominational Christian university in the Rocky Mountain region, with an online impact that spans the globe. “We stand within the great tradition of Christian universities who are serious about faith and the gospel, and we’re thrilled to have Lee Strobel join our team,” said CCU President Don Sweeting. “Strobel’s background as a former atheist, portrayed in the book and film *The Case for Christ*, gives him valuable insight into how to reach people who are far from God.”

Described in the *Washington Post* as “one of the evangelical community’s most popular apologists,” Strobel has authored more than forty books and curricula that have sold nearly 14 million copies, including *The Case for Faith*, *The Case for a Creator*, and *The Case for Miracles*. The Yale-trained former legal editor of the *Chicago Tribune* also has been a teaching pastor at three of the largest and most evangelistic churches in the country.

The Center’s executive director is Strobel’s long-time ministry associate Mark Mittelberg, the best-selling author of such books as *Confident Faith*, *The Reason Why Faith Makes Sense*, and *The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask (With Answers)*.

Through their *Becoming a Contagious Christian* training course, Strobel and Mittelberg have already equipped nearly two million Christians worldwide in how to reach others with the gospel. They have also led the outreach and apologetics efforts of one of the largest and most outreach-oriented churches in America, and for three decades have innovated evangelism and apologetics conferences, training seminars, national simulcasts, and outreach events.

Strobel explained that the word *apologetics* comes from a Greek term used in the Bible for defending the faith – something, he added, that’s needed more than ever in our increasingly

skeptical nation. “We’re focusing on what we’re calling ‘*applied* apologetics,’ which means we’re going to equip Christians who will be actively engaged in the marketplace of ideas – in local churches and communities, in the media, in the entertainment world, on the Internet, and throughout popular culture,” he said.

Strobel and Sweeting agreed that CCU is the perfect home for the new center. Explained Sweeting: “It is a Strategic Priority of Colorado Christian University to share the love of Christ on campus and around the world, and to teach our students to be evangelists. The Strobel Center at CCU is an incredible vehicle to enable us to make new strides to achieve these priorities.”

One of the Center’s unique objectives is to train and certify evangelism directors for local churches, who will serve full-time, part-time or on a volunteer basis in partnership with the senior pastor in order to mobilize the church to reach their community for Christ.

“We believe in the power of leadership,” Mittelberg said. “The senior pastor can’t do everything himself. We want to equip, mentor, and deploy leaders who will work creatively and effectively under the direction of the senior pastor to reach everyone with the gospel.”

To facilitate that training, the Center’s courses will be offered through CCU Online so that people from all backgrounds and stages of life can study from the convenience of their own home. “The Center will feature the latest and most creative technology, the most current and proven content, and live interaction with passionate and credentialed educators,” Strobel said.

Other unique features of the Center include organizing a Think Tank, composed of leading Christian scholars, innovators, and practitioners, to collaborate on fresh ways of explaining and spreading the gospel, as well as hosting national conferences to share best practices and encourage churches in saturating their communities with the Christian message.



Founded in 1914, **Colorado Christian University** provides Christ-centered higher education that transforms students to impact the world with grace and truth. Located in Lakewood, Colorado, a suburb of Denver, CCU is consistently ranked in the top 2 percent of colleges nationwide for its core curriculum by the American Council of Trustees and Alumni.

CCU offers undergraduate and graduate degrees for traditional and adult students through its College of Undergraduate Studies and College of Adult and Graduate Studies. More than 8,000 students attend the University on the main campus, in regional centers throughout Colorado, and online. The Strobel Center’s courses are expected to begin Fall 2020.

For more information on the new Lee Strobel Center at Colorado Christian University, visit [www.ccu.edu/strobelcenter](http://www.ccu.edu/strobelcenter).

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**INTERVIEWS AVAILABLE NOW**  
with Lee Strobel and Mark Mittelberg  
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## MEET LEE STROBEL



Atheist-turned-Christian Lee Strobel, the former award-winning legal editor of *The Chicago Tribune*, is a *New York Times* best-selling author of more than forty books and curricula that have sold nearly fourteen million copies in total. He has been described in the *Washington Post* as “one of the evangelical community’s most popular apologists.”

Lee was educated at the University of Missouri (Bachelor of Journalism degree) and Yale Law School (Master of Studies in Law degree). He was a journalist for fourteen years at *The Chicago Tribune* and other newspapers, winning Illinois’ highest honor for public service journalism from United Press International. He also led a team that won UPI’s top award for investigative reporting in Illinois.

After probing the evidence for Jesus, Lee became a Christian in 1981. He subsequently became a teaching pastor at three of America’s largest churches and hosted the national network TV program *Faith Under Fire*. In addition, he taught First Amendment law at Roosevelt University and was Professor of Christian Thought at Houston Baptist University.

In 2017, Lee’s spiritual journey was depicted in an award-winning motion picture, *The Case for Christ*, which showed in theaters across America and around the world. The movie is still on Netflix. Lee won national awards for his books *The Case for Christ*, *The Case for Faith*, *The Case for a Creator*, and *The Case for Grace*. His latest book is *The Case for Miracles*.

He and co-author Mark Mittelberg recently created the *Making YOUR Case for Christ* video-driven small-group curriculum, which trains Christians how to share and defend their faith. *The Christian Post* named Lee one of the top seven evangelical leaders who made an impact in 2017.

Lee Strobel is teaming up with Colorado Christian University to launch an unprecedented new center for evangelism and apologetics, with the goal of fueling a spiritual renewal in America. The Lee Strobel Center for Evangelism and Applied Apologetics will offer accredited courses on the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Lee and Leslie Strobel have been married for forty-seven years. Their daughter, Alison, is a novelist, and their son, Kyle, is a professor of spiritual theology at the Talbot School of Theology at Biola University.

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