



Learn From Anywhere

About Engagement and Extension

Colorado State University connects with communities across the state through the Office of Engagement and Extension. We excel in our 21st century land-grant mission by connecting in Colorado communities, empowering lifelong learning, expanding access to education, and advancing engagement and research. Engagement is the way universities and communities learn and work together to exchange, develop, and apply knowledge through teaching, research, service and Extension – so that individuals and communities thrive through learning.

Our division includes CSU Extension, CSU Online, Professional and Continuing Education, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and the Colorado Water Center. Together, we share a collective purpose to make the university's educational programs, services, and resources accessible to all.

Our Purpose

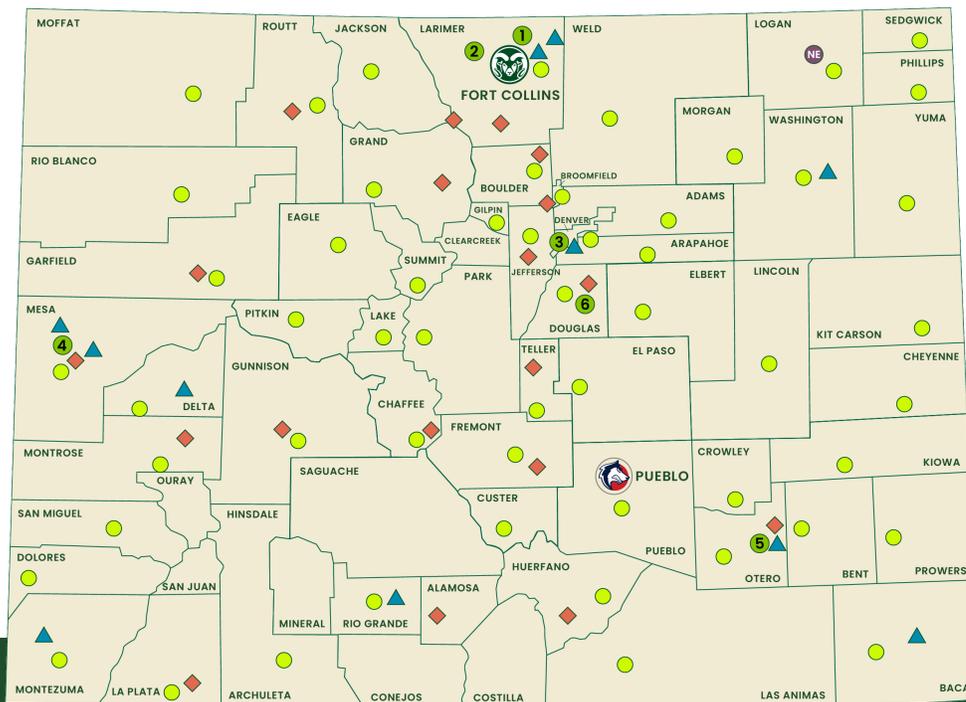
- **Empowering Lifelong Learning:** *Advancing opportunities for all learners*
- **Expanding Access to Education:** *Access for the betterment of all Colorado*
- **Promoting Prosperity in Communities:** *Partnering and innovating alongside Coloradans*
- **Advancing Engagement & Research for Impact:** *Bridging campus, field and communities in support of local needs*

Learn From Anywhere with CSU

CSU believes in the transformational power of education to prepare the next generation of leaders, scientists, artists, educators, and entrepreneurs. We provide innovative educational pathways to empower learners to advance their careers, address workforce demands, and contribute to the prosperity of Colorado and beyond. Our areas of focus include:

- Expanding access to high-demand programs through flexible learning formats
- Developing alternative credentials and workforce-aligned learning opportunities
- Supporting learner success, retention and program completion
- Partnering with industry to develop forward-thinking, high-impact educational offerings

Around the State & In Your Community



LEGEND

- CSU Extension Offices
- ◆ Colorado State Forest Service
- ▲ Ag Experiment Station Research Centers
- Ⓝ Northeast Regional Engagement Center
- ① CSU Foothills Campus
- ② CSU Mountain Campus
- ③ CSU Spur Campus
- ④ CSU Western Campus
- ⑤ CSU Arkansas Valley Campus
- ⑥ Sturm Collaboration Campus

344

Unique Extension programs offered across Colorado

163,286

Contacts reached through the division's Extension programs and outreach

104,000

Youth reached through Colorado 4-H Youth Development programming

11,000+

Volunteers with 4-H Youth Development & Colorado Master Gardener

149

Credit programs offered through CSU Online

1,373

CSU Online program graduates in 2024

4,000+

Learners enrolled in noncredit Professional and Continuing Education programs

1,200+

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) members

Empowering Lifelong Learning

Connecting lifelong learners to education and resources, our programs and offerings include dual enrollment courses for high school students, undergraduate and graduate degree programs and certificates, professional education and noncredit continuing education course available online, hybrid and in-person in locations around the state. Wherever you are, you can access the resources you need to learn, grow and thrive at any age and any stage of life.

CSU ONLINE



Location:
More than half of all CSU Online learners (53%) are from Colorado.



Ages:
77% of CSU Online's learners are under the age of 34.

149 Total CSU Online credit program offerings

- 18 Bachelor's programs
 - 21 minors
 - 8 undergrad certificates
- 41 Master's programs
- 5 Doctoral programs
- 56 Graduate certificate programs

12 New programs launched in 2024

PROFESSIONAL & CONTINUING EDUCATION

4,000+ **Noncredit enrollment**
Learners enrolled in Professional and Continuing Education programs in 2024

30+ **Online and in-person professional education and training programs**

29 **Programs approved in partnership with Colorado Workforce Centers**

Program Highlights: Addressing Colorado's Workforce Needs

- **Project Management:** Equipping professionals with essential skills to lead and execute projects effectively, addressing critical needs in various industries.
- **Health Professions:** Supporting pathways into healthcare fields, which are vital to meeting the growing demand for skilled professionals in the state's health sector.
- **Coding:** Providing learners with in-demand technology skills, empowering them to pursue careers in the thriving tech industry.
- **Construction Management:** Addressing the labor shortage in construction with programs that prepare learners for leadership roles in this essential sector.

2025 CSU Online Outstanding Grad

Former detective, CSU Online grad finds meaning, MIAs on second career path

As a former homicide detective, David Bavencoff is used to digging for answers. He solved high-profile cases in San Diego, California, for about 30 years in the National City Police Department, then was forced to retire due to a work-related injury. Bavencoff shifted his investigatory skills, time and energy to solving cold cases of a different kind, through a different type of digging.

In 2017, he joined Project Recover, an organization that works with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to find and repatriate the remains of U.S. service members lost in battle. In January 2024, he began taking archaeology courses through Colorado State University's online anthropology program to be more useful to the group and its missions.

This spring, Bavencoff will graduate with a bachelor's degree in anthropology and plans to apply what he has learned to recover fallen service members and bring closure to MIA families. He has been named the CSU Online 2025 Outstanding Graduate based on academic achievement and perseverance.

Read the full story:

<https://source.colostate.edu/former-detective-finds-mia-second-career/>



2024 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at CSU is a member-based, member-driven learning community offering an array of engaging and affordable noncredit courses and activities for curious adults of all ages, with special attention to those 50 and better.

Partnerships & Reach

- Ongoing partnership with the San Luis Valley Area Extension office to stream more than five OLLI classes to five different community sites every term
- Launched a travel program with two international destinations for 2025
- 2026 marks the 20th anniversary of OLLI

1,200+ OLLI Members
44% increase in memberships in fall 2024

160 OLLI courses offered

OLLI Spotlight Story

A sound investment: How hearing loops are improving the learning experience at CSU

At CSU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, learning isn't just about acquiring knowledge, it's about engagement, connection, and community. Thanks to a new hearing loop system installed in OLLI classrooms, learners with hearing loss can now participate more fully in discussions, lectures, and interactive sessions, ensuring that no one misses out on impactful educational experiences.

This technology, first developed in 1937, allows learners to receive clear, distraction-free sound directly from an instructor's microphone, cutting out background noise and making participation easier than ever. This advancement was made possible by a generous gift from former CSU College of Business professor Bob Hoel and his wife Barbara.

Read the story: <https://engagement.source.colostate.edu/how-hearing-loops-and-t-coils-are-improving-learning-at-csu-olli/>

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Through CSU Online's dual enrollment offerings, students can start their college experience early by enrolling in CSU courses online while still attending high school.

Dual Enrollment Highlights from the 2023–24 Academic Year

- **185** students enrolled in CSU Online dual enrollment courses
- **58** dual enrollment students (31%) matriculated to CSU as residential students
- CSU Online dual enrollment courses offered in **27 schools across nine counties:** Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Larimer, Las Animas, and Weld

EXTENSION STATEWIDE PROGRAM OFFERINGS

4-H Youth Development

Agriculture

- AgrAbility
- Agricultural Business Management
- Annie's Project
- Climate Smart Agriculture
- Colorado Building Farmers and Ranchers
- Cropping Systems
- Livestock
- Pesticide Applicator
- Rangeland
- Total Ranch Analysis for Colorado

Community & Economic Development

- Family Leadership Training Institute
- Workforce Development

Emergency Management

Food Systems

Health and Wellbeing

- Behavioral Health & Resilience
- Cooking Matters
- Cottage Food Safety
- CSU Produce Network
- Expanded Food & Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP)
- Financial Health
- Food Safety, Preservation, Preparation
- Healthy Aging
- Master Food Safety Advisor
- Nutrition, Disease Prevention and Management

Horticulture

- Beekeeping
- Colorado Master Gardener
- Grow & Give
- Landscape for Life
- Seed Saving/Free Seeds

Natural Resources

- Native Bee Watch
- Native Plant Master
- Rocky Mountain Naturalist

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CSU Extension faculty and staff support programs offered across Colorado

CSU Extension

For over 100 years, Colorado State University Extension has been a trusted partner connecting Coloradans to actionable, research-based solutions, education and programming. Extension specialists serve all 64 counties statewide, advancing CSU's land-grant mission to support local needs of their communities.

Program Spotlights

4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Youth & Volunteer Engagement (2023-2024)

105,000 Colorado 4-H Youth

10,000 4-H Volunteers

1,645 Youth served at four military installations

Outreach and volunteer engagement through Colorado 4-H Youth Development

4-H is delivered by Colorado State University Extension to empower youth through hands-on projects in areas including health, science, arts, agriculture and citizenship.



Colorado 4-H's network of volunteers and 4-H professionals and staff members provides caring and supportive mentoring to all 4-H'ers across the state, helping them to become confident, independent, resilient and compassionate leaders.

COLORADO MASTER GARDENER



Celebrating 50 years of education and outreach

CSU Extension's Colorado Master Gardener program began in 1975, with 2025 marking the 50th anniversary of this nationally recognized program.

More than 1,200 volunteers across Colorado extend the reach of CSU by providing unbiased, research-based information to promote gardening success. These volunteers work locally in their communities to share knowledge, answer questions, lead educational programs and workshops, and promote sustainable landscaping practices.

Volunteer Engagement & Community Outreach (2023-2024)

1,215 Colorado Master Gardener Volunteers

55,602 Volunteer Hours

85,420 Community Contacts

CSU EXTENSION SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Supporting CSU student success through research & community-based projects

The CSU Extension Summer Internship Program pairs Extension experts from around the state with on-campus University faculty who work together as mentors to provide students with meaningful, hands-on learning experiences where they contribute to applied research efforts across Colorado. These paid internship opportunities are available to any CSU student regardless of their academic major or college.

Internship projects range from agricultural field research to K-12 educational outreach, data collection and analysis, natural resource mapping, community and stakeholder engagement, economic development projects with local municipalities, and much more. Interns develop research skills with the support of their faculty and Extension mentors while also exploring new interests, improving their professional communications, strengthening community connections, and preparing for their careers after graduation.

- **365** total internships have been awarded since the program began in 2018
- Students from **all 8 CSU colleges and CSU Pueblo** have participated in the internship program
- In 2024, CSU Extension offered **70 internship opportunities**

CSU Extension

CSU Extension's local, community impact is made possible through federal capacity funding, which must be matched at least dollar-for-dollar, by state funding. This 1:1 match in Colorado is a partnership with our state, county and local partners, demonstrating our shared investment and commitment to our land-grant mission and Extension around the state.

Colorado Drought Advisors

As drought conditions intensify, Colorado producers face substantial challenges, including reduced water availability and increased stress on crops and livestock. Extension collaborated to establish the Drought Advisors network in 2021 to enhance drought preparation and response among producers with a focus on three primary goals: connecting producers with technical experts to develop tailored drought plans; building a robust network to strengthen drought resilience; and improving access to planning resources through training sessions, comprehensive materials and personalized consultations. Eighteen producers have finalized drought plans, with an additional 26 plans in progress. **Full Impact Statement:** <https://nidb.landgrantimpacts.org/impacts/show/7608>

Bridging Producers and Local Food Businesses to Build Thriving Regional Food Systems

For many new and beginning producers, the first step in their farm business is selling directly to consumers through farmers markets and community supported agriculture. As these producers grow and diversify their products, transitioning to larger local and regional food businesses and schools can be a significant challenge. To address this challenge in Colorado, Extension hosted the Farm2LocalBiz Networking Event, bringing together 30 producers who showcased and offered samples of their diverse agricultural products to 50 food business representatives along with a complementary educational program tailored to both producers and food buyers.

Full Impact Statement:

<https://nidb.landgrantimpacts.org/impacts/show/7627>

Native Bee Watch Community Science Program

Native Bee Watch is a community science program that trains and supports volunteers so they can identify and monitor bees. In 2024, 67 volunteers monitored bees and submitted data consistently throughout the summer, contributing over 4,000 plant/bee observations throughout the state. These observations are valuable ecological data that inform local conservation efforts. In addition, 97% of volunteers indicated they have already provided or plan to provide pollinator habitat and native plants on their property. **Full Impact Statement:** <https://nidb.landgrantimpacts.org/impacts/show/6937>

Landscape for Life: Sustainable Cities Program

Parks and recreation departments are vital stewards of urban green spaces, influencing environmental quality and community well-being. By empowering parks and recreation employees with sustainable landscaping expertise, the Landscape for Life: Sustainable Cities program ensures these spaces are managed in ways that conserve natural resources, support biodiversity, and enhance urban resilience. In 2024 CSU Extension delivered six seven-session, in-person workshops designed for parks and recreation employees in partnership with three cities along the Front Range and with the horticulture staff at the Denver Zoo. Curriculum topics included soil health, water conservation, integrating native plants, sustainable design strategies, and maintenance practices tailored to urban parks and public spaces. **Full Impact Statement:** <https://nidb.landgrantimpacts.org/impacts/show/8030>

COMET: Changing Our Mental and Emotional Trajectory

Colorado State University Extension leveraged its trusted reputation within the agricultural community and the public to raise awareness about behavioral health and suicide prevention across Colorado through the implementation of COMET in rural counties. Educational outreach to farmers, ranchers, healthcare providers, community members, and other stakeholders demonstrated critical knowledge gains regarding mental and financial stressors impacting agricultural workers, including the challenges of weather unpredictability, behavioral health struggles, and substance abuse. By equipping individuals with the tools to address behavioral health challenges proactively, CSU Extension is building stronger, more resilient communities across the region.

Full Impact Statement:

<https://nidb.landgrantimpacts.org/impacts/show/7615>

*Serving Colorado for Over 100 Years:
CSU Extension is Where
University Meets Community*

Colorado Water Center

The Colorado Water Center is one of 54 Water Resources Research Institutes created by the Water Resources Act of 1964, which collectively form the National Institutes for Water Resources. The Center aims to connect expertise in Colorado's higher education system with research and education needs of Colorado's water managers and users, building on the rich water history at CSU. Our work and impact focuses on three programmatic areas:

Water Education and Workforce Development

To address the needs of communities and industry employers across the state, the Colorado Water Center hosted the first Colorado Water Workforce Summit in April 2024. Approximately 130 water professionals, educators and students came together to discuss workforce needs and gaps that could be addressed through education and training. The Summit also featured a water career and education fair to connect students and community members with water-related employment and training opportunities.

The Colorado Water Center became the host institution for Colorado Project Water Education Today (WET) in September 2024, making the Center a one-stop shop for water education for students of all ages. Project WET trains K-12 educators across Colorado to bring innovative water science education into their classrooms.

In 2024, the Center expanded the Colorado Water Fellows Program beyond CSU to engage five additional Colorado academic institutions. The 2024 Water Fellows cohort included 46 students from 35 unique majors and six institutions. The year-long program builds the next generation of water leaders by connecting graduate and undergraduate students to careers and opportunities in the water field.



Above: The 2024 Colorado Water Fellows cohort at CSU Spur Hydro.

The Water Literate Leaders of Northern Colorado program expanded its impact, building water knowledge and capacity of community leaders for improved decision-making and dialogue around water planning and management. In May 2024, 20 community leaders graduated from the program and this fall, 21 new leaders were welcomed into the 2024-25 cohort.

Agricultural Water Management

The Colorado Water Center's agricultural water management research and Extension activities focused on efficient irrigation, alternative low-water use crops, and conversion to dryland production methods.

In the northeastern plains region, research focused on maximizing the yield and economics of black-eyed pea production in dryland cropping systems. On the western slope, water conservation pilot programs were assessed for conserved crop consumptive use, forage reduction, grass recovery, and soil health impacts, while drones, artificial intelligence and 3D printing technologies are improving efficiency for irrigation methods and measurements.

Water Quality & Access

The Colorado Water Center facilitates stakeholder engagement on South Platte salinity, working to identify stakeholder needs and translate them into research questions and applicable science with the goal of developing collaborative solutions and management strategies in the municipal, agricultural, water-supply, and environmental context of the Basin.

In 2024, the Center co-facilitated the planning and distribution of 400 water filters to a local mobile home park as an example of ongoing partnerships with communities to develop both short- and long-term solutions to improve water quality and access.

2024 Highlights:

128

Presentations hosted

7,700+

Presentation attendees

46

Water Fellows (2024 Cohort)