

2022

IMPACT REPORT



CSU SYSTEM
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



INSIDE

CSU System: 155 Years of Impact	4
CSU System Overview	5
Our Academic Purpose	6
CSU System Timeline	9
CSU Fort Collins	10
CSU Spur	14
CSU Pueblo	16
CSU Global	18
Making a Difference	20
Access and opportunity	23
Building the State Workforce	26
Community Connections	28
Engagement and Extension	30
CSU System Alumni	32
Core Partner Updates	37

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge, with respect, the history of the land on which our campuses reside and the Indigenous people who made their home in Colorado long before our universities were established – and who continue to lead and influence the path and mission of the CSU System.



Three campuses. One mission.

The Colorado State University System exists to support, enhance, and protect the unique missions of its constituent institutions and to encourage collaboration that benefits students and Colorado.

VISION

The Colorado State University System will create the financial sustainability to fulfill its mission, while expanding its statewide presence and creating opportunities for building a stronger future for Colorado.

VALUES

We embrace these values as we fulfill Our Commitment to Building a Stronger Colorado:

- An entrepreneurial attitude, while consistently demonstrating fiscal responsibility and resourcefulness.
- A passion for excellence and a commitment to continuous quality improvement.
- A willingness to collaborate and work with others in an environment of respect and trust.
- A commitment to open communication, ethical conduct, and full accountability.
- A loyalty to the mission, with a specific emphasis on meeting student needs.
- An appreciation for diversity and inclusiveness.





CSU System: 155 Years of Impact

What is impact? While there are various definitions, this report focuses on “impact” in the sense of leaving a lasting, and even transformational, impression. As a higher education system, our greatest purpose is to have an impact on the lives of our students – including preparing them for careers that are in high demand. Through their success, we have an impact on the life, culture, and economy of our state, communities, and country.

In addition, our faculty have an impact in the classroom and in their disciplines. Our educators and researchers have an impact on the school children they interact with at CSU Spur. Our Extension staff impact families and communities in every Colorado county. Our students and alumni are leaders and citizens who have an impact on the many different communities of which they are a part.

While this report offers a glimpse into the work taking place each day across the Colorado State University System, the true measure of our impact is best experienced in person. We invite you to visit our campuses and centers across the state, connect with our people, and see CSU in action.

These pages aim to provide a snapshot of the CSU System and its reach, to spotlight a few high points from this year, and to invite you to engage with CSU as your Colorado land-grant university.





CSU System Overview

The CSU System, established in 1985, has three degree-granting campuses – the flagship research university in Fort Collins; a regionally focused Hispanic Serving Institution in Pueblo; and a fully online public university, CSU Global. CSU Spur, a public, non-degree-granting campus in Denver, focuses on learning, discovery, and engagement connected with food, water, sustainability, and human and animal health.

Additional facilities and partnerships extend the CSU System’s reach across and beyond Colorado. This includes the Sturm Collaboration Campus in Castle Rock, which is operated jointly with Arapahoe Community College and Douglas County School District. CSU administers the CSU Mountain Campus west of Fort Collins and

CSU Todos Santos, an international campus in Baja California Sur, Mexico, and it oversees CSU Extension, which includes 4-H, the Agricultural Experiment Station network, and the Colorado State Forest Service.

The CSU System is overseen by the Board of Governors, which has nine members appointed by the Governor of Colorado to represent the people of our state and six non-voting members representing the faculty and students of each campus.

Administration of the CSU System is led by the Chancellor, and the CSU System office in Denver provides administrative and coordinating support to share knowledge, promote partnerships and efficiencies, and advance the work of the universities.

THE CSU SYSTEM PROVIDES



Transformational project development and support



Campus oversight, integration, and support



State and federal government relations



SCAN FOR AN INTERACTIVE
VERSION OF THIS REPORT.

Our Academic Purpose

The three campuses of the CSU System educate more than 50,000 students annually and contribute to the world through research, thought leadership, and the economic and civic impacts of highly skilled graduates.

Like all systems of higher education, the CSU System fulfills its purpose through the quality and responsiveness of the academic, research, and service programs of its constituent campuses. The aggregation of three very different campuses – as revealed by their distinctive classifications, programs, and roles within Colorado and the region, country, and world – provides the foundation for the System to respond to the divergent needs that exist within reach of the campuses. Because of the clear and direct

relationship to state and national competitiveness in an increasingly interconnected global society and economy, the CSU System campuses each contribute in distinct ways to the future envisioned for Colorado and the nation by helping to prepare citizens to meet the challenges of the future. CSU Global engages post-traditional students working toward their personal and professional goals; CSU Pueblo empowers learners for academic and career success and serves the Southern Colorado region; and CSU Fort Collins enables undergraduate and graduate students to collaborate with world-class faculty in the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge essential to national and global well-being.

OUR GREATEST IMPACT

The CSU System
campuses have
almost

350,000

living alumni working,
contributing, and
leading in industries and
communities worldwide.



A Message from Chancellor Tony Frank

"In the coming year, there will be plenty of talk about different kinds of centennial celebrations. Colorado will be celebrating its sesquicentennial, or 150 years of statehood. Across the country, there will be events and discussions about the United States Semiquincentennial, observing 250 years since the Declaration of Independence set this nation on a distinctive path of self government that recognizes individual rights while asserting that a government can justly wield power only if individuals, the governed, provide their consent.

"But how best does a pluralistic society – how best do we – do that? How should we balance rights and power, knowledge and action, and interests that too easily diverge, as they have in the past, as we see today, and as I'm sure will be the case in our future? Helping to answer those questions is a big reason that land-grant colleges and universities

have an important place in the national celebration. At Colorado State University, now in its 155th year, that role is even more pronounced in our state's sesquicentennial celebration. Ours has been a partnership from the beginning, one focused on unlocking human potential and on discovering, applying, and sharing knowledge.

"The CSU System is younger than its flagship campus, founded 40 years ago to further elevate this land-grant mission and meet the needs of new groups of students and of different communities. And yet, as we confront challenges and contemplate change in the present, this longer history offers strength and perspective. Each of our campuses has a distinct role to play in preparing students to serve our communities, our state, the country, and the globe as leaders, citizens, and problem solvers.



"This report highlights recent achievements on and across our campuses. It also provides a sampling of stories showing how members of this community – students, faculty, staff, and alumni – are making a difference through their research and scholarship; through their creativity, leadership, and ability to collaborate; and through their compassion and understanding of what it means to be a citizen."



BY THE NUMBERS
CSU SYSTEM

8,500+

Full-time faculty and staff

\$600M

Combined annual earnings

240,000+

News stories in local and national publications

40 Million

Impressions on social media



STATE Magazine

STATE magazine is the premier print publication representing both the CSU System and the flagship campus in Fort Collins. Last year, the magazine's circulation more than doubled to reach about 110,000 households twice a year. The growth allows STATE to reflect the strength of the CSU System and its individual campuses for constituents in Colorado and beyond. Readers include policymakers, businesspeople, community leaders, alumni, donors and friends – an influential readership with important ties to the CSU System and its academic mission.

System Collaboration

The CSU System is making progress in a four-year initiative focused on strengthening student success efforts across the three System campuses. Drawing on an \$8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the Systemwide Collaborative for Advancing Learning and Equity with Data (SCALED-CSU) will centralize student data systems, create a systemwide advising network, and implement an evidence-based learning analytics platform, CML Insights, which uses predictive analytics to boost student academic performance. Funded through the Postsecondary Student Success Grant program, the effort builds on the System's collective strengths and existing investments in student success, enabling collaboration and shared best practices across campuses to remove barriers and help more students achieve their academic goals.

Expanding Broadband Access

The CSU System's Broadband Initiative sought federal funding for rural communities to upgrade to high-speed broadband service. CSU System staff worked with 46 CSU Extension offices across the state to prepare and submit competitive proposals for funding. The System procured funding for NEO Connect (NEO) to perform all engineering designs for high-speed fiber optic networks in a two-phased process.

The first phase, through the Capital Projects Fund (CPF), made \$172 million in federal funding available to Colorado through the Colorado Broadband Office. The initiative's efforts secured \$85.47 million in awards, roughly half of what was available, largely because of the exceptionally high-quality designs from NEO. These awards were provided to six counties, the Southern Ute Reservation, and the Town of Kersey.

An additional \$826.5 million of federal funds became available in a second phase under the federal Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. CSU and NEO constituents initially secured more than 50 additional awards for \$334.4 million in additional broadband projects. Program priorities shifted toward fixed wireless and satellite, i.e. lower speeds and higher latency designs, reducing the awards to CSU constituents to \$160.88 million.

An associated massive effort by CSU System staff involved workforce development to prepare and train staff needed to deploy the new networks. Under the leadership of Kathay Rennels, the System's special advisor for rural-urban initiatives, this statewide effort involved four state agencies, four institutions of higher education, K-12 partners, technical training sites, and numerous industrial participants – all with the shared goal of providing better, faster, and more reliable network access to rural Colorado.

CSU System Timeline

1870: COLORADO ESTABLISHES A LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITY

Six years before Colorado became a state, the territorial governor authorized the creation of Colorado's own land-grant university – the Agricultural College of Colorado, which was located in Fort Collins and would later become Colorado State University.

1884: CSU'S FIRST GRADUATING CLASS EARNS DIPLOMAS

Leonidas Loomis, Libby Coy Lawrence, and Dr. George Glover, made up the first graduating class at Colorado Agricultural College in 1884. They're pictured at their 50th class reunion.

1933: COLORADO INVESTS IN CREATION OF JUNIOR COLLEGES

In the heart of the Great Depression, driven by widespread concerns about traditional higher education not serving all Americans, Colorado invested in the creation of junior colleges. Southern Colorado Junior College, which would later become the University of Southern Colorado and then CSU Pueblo, opened its doors with 63 students and two faculty members.

1985: CSU SYSTEM CREATED

The Board of Governors of the CSU System – then the State Board of Agriculture – created the CSU System to support its universities in fulfilling their missions. The CSU System originally included CSU in Fort Collins, CSU Pueblo (formerly University of Southern Colorado), and Fort Lewis College, which left the System to become a separate entity in 2002.

2007: CSU GLOBAL ESTABLISHED; FIRST OF ITS KIND

CSU Global was created as the nation's first fully online, fully accredited, public university – an integral step in CSU's commitment to serving the educational needs of Colorado.

2022: CSU SPUR OPENS IN DENVER, COLORADO

The final of three buildings making up the CSU Spur campus opened at the National Western Center, with the promise of diverse programming around food, water, and health; open access; and learning and discovery that serve our local and global communities.

1870



1884



1933



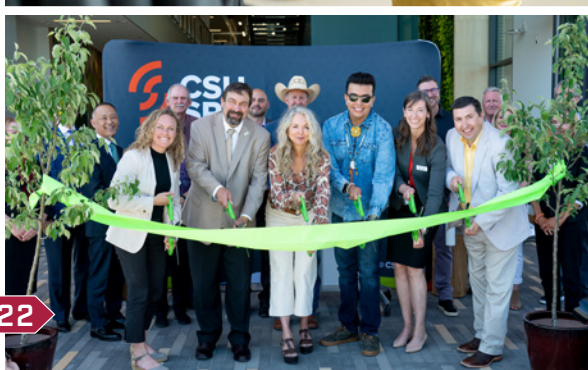
1985



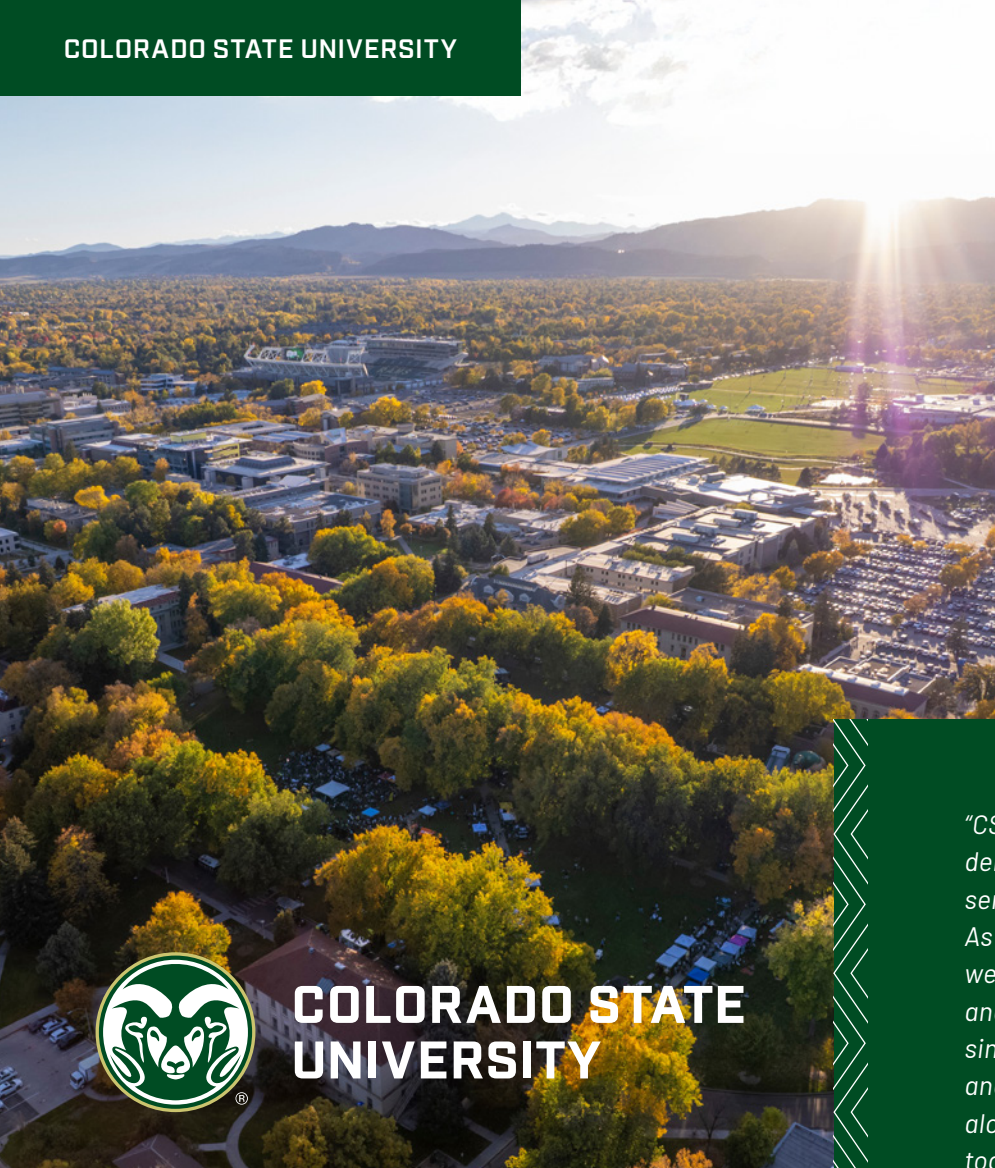
2007



2022



SCAN FOR AN INTERACTIVE
VERSION OF THIS REPORT.



"CSU is now in its 155th year, and we are delivering excellence in teaching, discovery, and service to our state, the nation, and the world. As a model for the modern land-grant university, we remain deeply committed to student access and success – the priorities that have guided us since the beginning. Here, our undergraduate and graduate students learn and discover alongside renowned experts, and they work together to solve problems, build understanding, and enhance lives. CSU faculty and staff prepare students for leadership and service in their careers and communities."

CSU President Amy Parsons

Colorado State University is a land-grant institution committed to excellence and setting the standard for public research universities in teaching, research, service, and extension for the benefit of the citizens of Colorado, the United States, and the world.

The University has world-leading programs in veterinary and translational medicine; environmental and climate research; and agricultural sciences. It also has more than a century of prominence in water research and internationally renowned research in fields ranging from alternative energy to lasers to soil science to global business and communications.

CSU is among the country's 187 doctoral institutions with Research 1 (R1) status, reflecting "very high research activity," the highest research classification available from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of

Higher Education. It is one of 368 colleges and universities in the nation – and one of only three in Colorado – holding the Carnegie classification for meaningful community engagement.

CSU oversees CSU Extension, including 4-H, the Agricultural Experiment Station network, and the Colorado State Forest Service. CSU's land-grant mission is rooted in values of inclusion, integrity, respect, and service – values that shape how we educate, engage, and expand opportunity for people across Colorado and beyond.

University Highlights

CSU landed spots on *Forbes*’ “America’s Best In-State Employers” and “America’s Best Employers for Company Culture” lists in 2025.

In 2025, CSU ranked No. 2 in the country and No. 3 in the world for sustainability among higher education institutions, according to the 2025 Sustainable Campus Index, calculated by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education. In 2015, CSU became the first university in the world to earn a Platinum STARS (Sustainability, Tracking, Assessment & Rating System) rating for sustainability performance, a feat the university has repeated three times.

CSU’s Professional Veterinary Medicine Program, its vet school, is ranked No. 3 in the country, according to the most recent ranking from *U.S. News & World Report*; it has held a spot among the top three U.S. vet schools for more than two decades. The Blue Ridge Institute for Medical Research, an independent nonprofit, ranked CSU’s College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences No. 1 among veterinary schools for research in 2024. Beginning spring 2026, with completion of the new Veterinary Health and Education Complex, the school will have enhanced opportunities for research, innovation, and education. The \$230 million project, made possible through a combination of state, university, and private funds, will bring expanded veterinary medicine and education facilities to the university’s South Campus.



CSU’s research expenditures reached a record \$622 million in 2025, an increase of 8% from the previous year and nearly 90% over the past decade.

More than 5,000 CSU students take part in undergraduate research opportunities every year, and the number of students involved in education abroad has increased by 70% in the past five years.

CSU consistently ranks among the nation’s top universities in the number of alumni serving as Peace Corps volunteers. The 2025 list places CSU at No. 11 among large American colleges and universities, and the university has sent more than 1,770 volunteers since 1961, which is 11th overall. Carol Spahn, who served as the Peace Corps’ 21st director from 2022 to early 2025, joined CSU in fall 2025 for a year-long appointment as a Presidential Executive in Residence.

The Clark Building’s renovated A Wing, part of the four-year, \$136 million Clark Revitalization Project that is underway with support from the state, is on track to open in fall 2026 as “Clark Hall.” With completion of the new four-story Ann Gill Hall, which replaces the B Wing, Clark will be one of the largest academic buildings on campus. Site preparation is underway for the Don and Susie Law Engineering Future Technologies Building, which will be a 165,000-square-foot interdisciplinary learning hub situated in the heart of CSU’s campus.



The \$150 million Advanced Technology Lasers for Applications and Science (ATLAS) facility, located on CSU's Foothills Campus, opens in 2026 and will be one of the nation's most powerful laser research facilities.

Athletics hit new highs in 2024-25: the Rams extended their streak of winning Mountain West championships to 16 consecutive seasons, with titles in volleyball, men's basketball, and in men's track and field for both the indoor and outdoor seasons. A winning season in football led to a trip to the Arizona Bowl. Mya Lesnar, already the 2024 NCAA indoor national champion in shot put, also became the outdoor national champion. Academically, CSU student-athletes across 16 teams posted an NCAA Graduation Success Rate of 87%. The Rams also had nine teams post a perfect 1,000 single-year score in the NCAA's Academic Progress Rate for the 2023-24 year. The Rams will have a new level of visibility in 2026 as CSU joins the storied Pac-12 athletic conference.

CSU's Presence

- A 586-acre main campus, which includes 101 acres for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.
- The 1,433-acre CSU Foothills Campus.
- CSU Mountain Campus on 1,600 acres.
- 10 Agricultural Research Stations across the state, along with 17 Colorado State Forest Service field offices.
- CSU Todos Santos, an international campus in Baja California Sur, Mexico.



In Addition

- CSU Extension serves every county in the state.
- The Sturm Collaboration Campus in Castle Rock and the Northeast Regional Engagement Center in Sterling strengthen local connections and support access across the state.
- In 2016, CSU became the academic partner for the Semester at Sea study abroad program, a multiple country experience for students of all majors that emphasizes comparative academic examination, hands-on field experiences, and meaningful engagement in the global community.
- In 2023, CSU became the academic partner for EF (Education First) Study Abroad. CSU will work jointly with EF to design and implement innovative education abroad programs ranging from programs for first-year students to thematic challenge-based programs on topics such as sustainability to specialized programs for Honors Program students. For non-CSU students who participate in this co-designed suite of program offerings, CSU will authorize academic credit, provide official transcripts, and maintain quality assurance.



BY THE NUMBERS

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

34,412

Total enrollment fall 2025

26,839

Undergraduate

6,862

Graduate

609

Professional

102

Graduate Co-Op Programs
and Self-Improvement

28.4%

Diverse enrollment

24.5%

First generation

66.6%

6-year graduation rate
(2017 entering class)

23.3%

Pell recipients

64.6%

Colorado residents (FTE)

CSU
ONLINE

13,596

Total enrollment fall 2025

52%

Colorado residents

7,018

Undergraduate enrollment

6,578

Graduate enrollment

36,247

CSU Online fall 2025
credit hours



More than 200,000 people have visited CSU Spur for self-guided and formal tours during regular weekday hours and special events since opening.

- “2nd Saturday at CSU Spur” open houses, with programming specifically for families.
- Lifelong learning and youth career exploration in food, water, and health.
- Free field trips for PreK-12 students.
- Cutting-edge research and innovative partnerships with industry and the business community.
- Event spaces to meet a variety of needs.

CSU Spur is a free educational destination in Denver, open year-round to the public, that Connects people, Accelerates innovation, and Motivates transformation. The Spur campus, fully open since January 2023, includes three buildings at the National Western Center: Vida, Terra, and Hydro. Spur focuses on research, education, and engaging PreK-12 students, families, and visitors around the topics of food, water, health, and sustainability through real-world experiences. Visitors to Spur have the opportunity to observe ongoing research, try out new technologies, and watch professionals at work. Since the first building on the campus opened in early 2022, CSU Spur staff have facilitated tours for more than 31,000 PreK-12 students, teachers, and chaperones from schools in Colorado and beyond. These exploratory visits emphasize conservation, sustainability, and academic and career possibilities in such areas as food production, water testing and filtration technology, and veterinary medicine.



Spur Highlights

- The Spur Start program, launched in fall 2025, allows CSU students from the Denver area to complete their first year of courses at Spur before continuing in their degree programs on the main CSU campus in Fort Collins.
- CSU Spur researchers secured about \$27 million in funding this past year through nearly 45 competitive grants. Spur researchers are working in areas that range from the development of performance textiles and assessment of equine-assisted therapies to the use of agrivoltaics and the production of food in controlled environments.
- Since Spur opened, more than 100,000 people have attended 1,705 events at the campus; nearly 40,000 people attended 647 events held at the campus in the past year.
- CSU Spur supports entrepreneurs through the Ag Innovation Center, the Food Innovation Center, the Spur Climate Hub, the Water Technology Platform (TAP), the Institute for Entrepreneurship (I4E), and other initiatives.

BY THE NUMBERS CSU SPUR

~100,000

Total visitors 2025

51,273

General visitors

9,600

PreK-12 students

39,243

Event visitors

39

Research projects

647

Meeting and events

89

*Industry and
government partners*

\$21.3M

Annual economic impact

12

*Lifelong learning
programs*



SCAN FOR AN INTERACTIVE
VERSION OF THIS REPORT.



"At CSU Pueblo, our commitment to being a regional comprehensive university is grounded in the belief that higher education should be accessible, affordable, and achievable for all. We are proud to serve as an access point to higher education for students from southern Colorado and beyond, many of whom are first in their families to attend college, balance work and family responsibilities, or come from historically underserved communities. As one of the few universities in the nation to earn dual Carnegie classifications as both a Research Institution and an Opportunity Institution, CSU Pueblo delivers a high-quality academic experience and embraces the rich diversity of our campus and the communities we serve."

CSU Pueblo Interim President D. Rico Munn

For the 2025-26 academic year, **CSU Pueblo** is focused on ensuring a smooth leadership transition that provides institutional stability and continues to prioritize student success. CSU Pueblo, a federally designated Hispanic Serving Institution, exists to empower students to transform their futures and, in doing so, change the lives of their families and the communities they call home.

University Highlights

CSU Pueblo is one of only 33 institutions in the country recognized through the Carnegie classification system as both a Research College and University (RCU) and an Opportunity College. The RCU designation reflects the university's success building a strong applied research agenda focused on real-world innovation, community needs, and undergraduate research to support both academic growth and local problem-solving. To be designated a Carnegie Opportunity College, CSU Pueblo

documented its success driving social mobility and closing equity gaps for students throughout Colorado.

Credit for Prior Learning opportunities for students continue to expand at CSU Pueblo and are helping to meet the needs of adult learners by awarding credit for learning derived from work or other life experiences. Prior learning portfolio submissions increased 17% in the past year, with portfolio submissions from nursing, athletic training, civil engineering technology, and other subjects. The average age of students receiving credit for portfolios is 27.

CSU Pueblo was recently awarded a grant of \$11.7 million to study and develop hydrogen and natural gas-powered rail technologies. The funding, part of a \$129.5 million federal investment in Colorado rail projects, positions Pueblo as a national hub for sustainable transportation innovation, and it will create significant opportunities for workforce development across the region. The research will be conducted at Pueblo's Transportation Technology Center through the Southern Colorado Institute of Transportation Technology (SCITT), a State of Colorado entity hosted at CSU Pueblo.

The CSU Pueblo CyberWolves continue placing among the country's top programs in the Cyber Power Rankings, which are based on results from National Cyber League (NCL) competitions involving more than 500 colleges and universities. The rankings consider individual and team performances during the year and the number of participating students. The CyberWolves placed eighth nationally in fall 2024 and remained in the top 20 after the spring 2025 season.

CSU Pueblo has approximately 600 student-athletes representing 20 NCAA Division II sports competing in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC). The CSU Pueblo Athletics Department boasts two team national championships, more than 85 RMAC championships, and over 100 national tournament appearances. CSU Pueblo has crowned more than 350 All-Americans and 30 individual national champions.



BY THE NUMBERS CSU PUEBLO

4,378

Total enrollment fall 2025

54%

Diverse enrollment

38%

First generation

41%

*6-year graduation rate
(2019 entering class)*

43%

Pell recipients

86%

Colorado residents (FTE)



Colorado State University Global is committed to advancing student academic and professional success in a global society by providing access to dynamic education characterized by excellence, innovative delivery technologies, industry relevance, and strong stakeholder engagement.

CSU Global offers fully online graduate and undergraduate degrees and certificates and provides courses leading to industry certification exams. It has strong partnerships with industry organizations and the military branches to provide credit transferability for prior learning, including military and organizational training, as well as up-skilling and re-skilling opportunities and support services to students wherever they live. CSU Global, which receives no state funding, offers a tuition rate guarantee and does not charge student fees so that learners can make financial plans to complete their programs.

To equip learners with skills they can immediately apply to their careers, CSU Global programs include:

- Work-ready assignments that can be distributed, shared, and used on the job.
- Industry certification information and preparation.
- Virtual internships.
- Industry technology tools that are used and valued by employers.
- College credit for organizational and industry training.
- Certificate programs that can stack toward a degree.

University Highlights

- **Learner return-on-investment:** Committed to measuring and tracking the success of students, CSU Global conducts an annual survey to gather salary and employment information from its program completers. The 2025 survey measured program completers' return on investment, revealing that:
 - One year post-program completion, 92% of respondents are currently employed, 78% of whom are employed in their field or a related field of study.
 - Five years post-program completion, 91% are currently employed, 80% of whom are employed in their field or a related field of study.



"CSU Global is driven by its mission to support the academic and professional success of adult learners from around the world. As the nation's first 100% online, fully accredited, nonprofit public university, we have been committed from the beginning to providing career-connected, flexible, high-quality programs and on-demand student support services. Our career-connected programs directly address industry and partner-identified skills gaps, guaranteeing that every degree, certificate, and course propels student academic and workplace success while meeting dynamic industry needs. We proudly serve students who navigate the complexities of full-time work, family care, military and community service, and who also may be first-generation learners."

CSU Global President Dr. Becky Takeda-Tinker

- One year post-program completion, respondents saw 11%–46% increases in their median income, depending on the program.
- Five years post-program completion, respondents saw 46%–82% increases in their median income, depending on the program.
- Career Connected Campus Designation: CSU Global was recognized by the Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) for its commitment to providing students with the skills and knowledge to thrive in today's competitive workforce. The University is one of seven institutions in the first group to receive the Career Connected Campus Designation (2024–2027). To earn it, institutions must demonstrate excellence in integrating academic curriculum with work-based learning experiences and prioritizing practical skills and professional development. A career connected university is committed to empowering students with the knowledge and resources needed to succeed in their chosen careers.
- Industry and college partnerships: To address workforce gaps and provide educational opportunities

for professionals across the world, CSU Global partners with more than 3,000 employers in a range of industries, including 53 new partnerships developed in FY25. Partners include local, regional, and national employers such as Denver International Airport, Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers (SCTE), Emily Griffith Technical College, Colorado Mountain College, and School Board Partners.

- Top-ranked: In 2025, CSU Global was *U.S. News & World Report's* top-ranked Colorado-based institution for Best Online Bachelor's Programs (No. 10 in the nation), Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans (No. 4 in the nation), and Best Online Master's in Education Programs (No. 15 in the nation).
- Educator upskilling: In 2025, CSU Global's online Graduate Certificate in Education Leadership–Principal Licensure became fully reauthorized by the State of Colorado. The program is the only 100% online, asynchronous program of its kind to be authorized by the state, providing an accessible option for educators who need the flexibility to accommodate their busy schedules while gaining the necessary credential to become a principal.



BY THE NUMBERS CSU GLOBAL

13,239

*Total active student enrollment
fall 2025 trimester*

59%

Diverse enrollment

31%

First generation

49%

6-year graduation rate

37%

Pell recipients

32%

Colorado residents (FTE)



Building Capacity

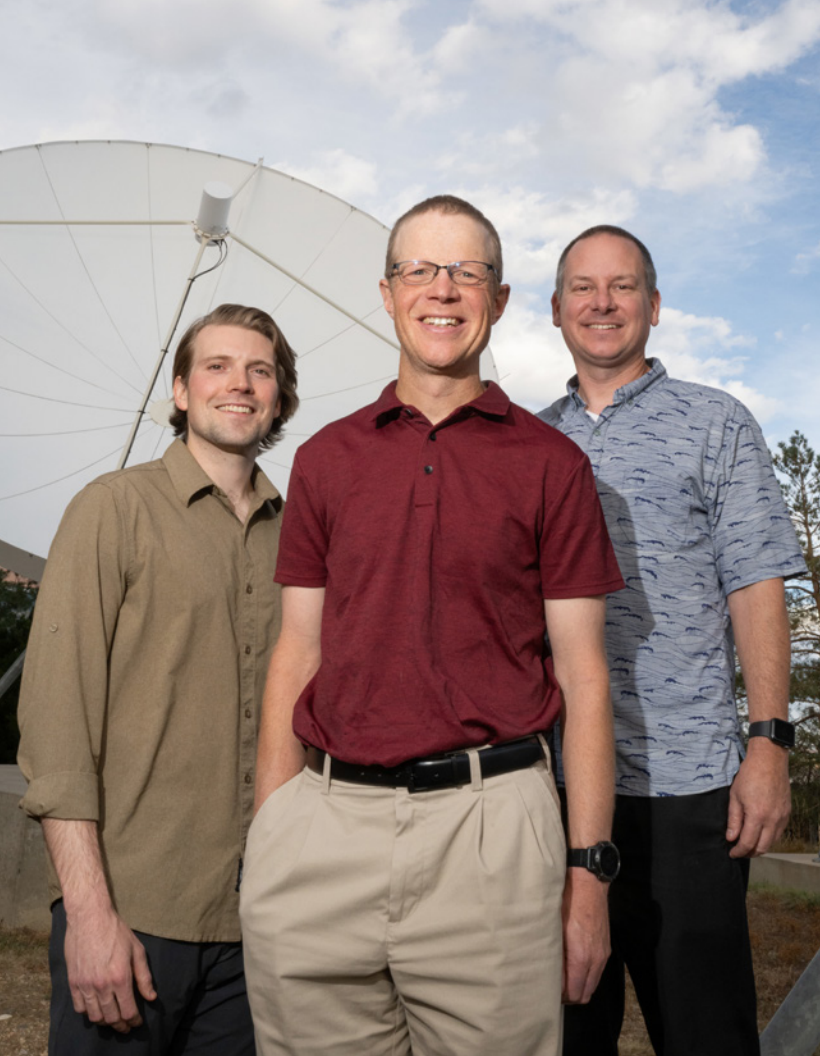
One of the most powerful laser facilities in the world

will open at CSU in 2026, allowing researchers to continue pushing boundaries in developing laser-driven fusion as a source of safe, practically unlimited, carbon-free energy. The facility is the result of a \$150 million public-private partnership.

The future of veterinary education is taking shape at CSU as the university constructs its \$230 million Veterinary Health and Education Complex – new home to one of the top veterinary schools in the world. The construction is the most visible part of a three-pronged overhaul that will allow CSU’s Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program to admit more students, reinvent veterinary curriculum, and provide primary care for more pets in the community.

A \$110 million investment from CSU donors and students means construction is underway on a new engineering building that is focused on digital engineering and artificial intelligence and will put the university at the forefront of teaching and research in technology innovation.





Healthier, Safer, and More Sustainable Lives

- Colorado might be a landlocked state, but **CSU's hurricane research** draws more headlines than any other single scientific undertaking at the university. During the 2024 hurricane season alone, nearly 40,000 international news reports mentioned CSU's renowned Atlantic seasonal hurricane forecast. The university's Department of Atmospheric Science annually releases the forecast – a linchpin in understanding and preparing for natural disasters on the nation's coastlines.
- A greener plastic? **CSU chemistry research could lead to advanced, fully recyclable plastics.** Scientists have outlined a method that would be a critical step toward a circular materials economy, in which products are designed to be bio-based, reused, repurposed or recycled rather than ending up in landfills – greatly reducing the burden of chemicals and plastics on the environment.
- **Bird flu has ravaged some dairy herds – and the virus could be moving through the air** to cause infections, CSU researchers found. If further research confirms the theory, prevention strategies could be amended and perfected to protect dairy cattle nationwide.
- **CSU scientists have shown that plants can rebound from extended drought** – a first-time finding in an intact plant. Their discovery sheds light on a long-contested water-transport process in plants. Understanding the trait that allows this rebound could help improve agricultural productivity and food security in the face of drought.
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved for human use a **first-of-its-kind heart valve replacement** that is based on a patented design first envisioned by a veterinary cardiologist at CSU for use in dogs. Abbott, a multinational medical device and health care company based in Illinois, licensed and developed the technology, demonstrating the power of translational medicine to help people live longer, healthier lives.



SCAN FOR AN INTERACTIVE
VERSION OF THIS REPORT.

Changing the World

World-renowned best-selling author, animal behaviorist, and autism advocate Dr. Temple Grandin changed the beef industry by making the humane handling of cattle a standard practice. She changed perceptions of autism through persistence and global success. And she shifted notions of neurodiversity on campus by becoming a distinguished professor of animal science at Colorado State University. Now, audiences worldwide can learn about her extraordinary life and influence through a [documentary film, "An Open Door,"](#) available on streaming platforms. Grandin also is the subject of a newly revealed painting on display in the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C.

With locations at CSU in Fort Collins and at the CSU Spur campus in Denver, the [Temple Grandin Equine Center](#) is at the forefront of research and education to advance equine assisted services and establish evidence-based best practices.



First-generation Success

In 1984, Colorado State University in Fort Collins became the first university in the country to offer scholarships for first-generation students, creating a model of support that was quickly adopted by universities around the country. As the scholarship program marked its 40th anniversary, the CSU System created an award-winning mini documentary video series called *First Degree* – exploring the personal and academic journeys of first-generation students whose education has given them access to exciting career prospects. Students and recent alumni highlighted include:

- A CSU environmental engineering student who is legally blind and conducts research in mosquito tracking to better understand infectious diseases.
- A recent CSU Pueblo graduate who excelled as a nursing student and track-and-field athlete and now competes nationally while striving to become a hospital executive.
- A Denver high school student who got hooked on higher education through CSU Spur, became a horticulture research assistant, and is now studying landscape architecture at CSU.



SCAN FOR AN INTERACTIVE
VERSION OF THIS REPORT.



New CSU Pathways

The Colorado State University Spur campus in Denver is a free learning destination designed to engage PreK-12 students, families, and the general public in research and problem solving related to food, water, sustainability, and human and animal health. Now, CSU Spur is also a starting point for Denver-area students who want to begin their undergraduate studies close to home before continuing their degree programs at the flagship Fort Collins campus. The **CSU Spur Start program** welcomed a first cohort of 22 students in fall 2025 and provides participants with the opportunity to interact with world-class researchers, scholars, and creators at Spur while adjusting to the challenges of post-secondary education in familiar surroundings.

Spur Start adds to a range of **structured learning opportunities at CSU Spur** that includes graduate programs, CSU OLLI courses for adults over age 50, dual enrollment courses for high school students, internship experiences for high school and college students, and externships for students in CSU's Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program.

The **Ram Transfer Academy**, part of an expanded partnership between CSU and Front Range Community College, offers cost savings and a direct pathway for students to transfer credits between the two institutions on the way to completing bachelor's degrees. The program, which enrolled 90 new students in fall 2025, is supported by a \$500,000 grant from the American Talent Initiative.



College Track Partnership

College Track, a national nonprofit organization, brings dozens of high school students to CSU Spur most afternoons for a specialized curriculum aimed at preparing participants for college and career success. The CSU Spur site, the first of College Track's centers to be located on a college campus, involves more than 120 scholars who are on track to

become first-generation college graduates. It was established through a **unique partnership** with the CSU System that also creates pathways for College Track participants to pursue bachelor's degrees at one of the CSU System campuses: CSU, CSU Pueblo, and CSU Global.

Free Tuition

Promise Grant programs at each of the three CSU System campuses complement the state's Colorado Promise commitment and cover the cost of tuition for qualified Colorado students from low-income households. CSU's Tuition+ Promise program, started in 2010, uses federal, state, and institutional funds to cover some or full tuition for qualified students at the Fort Collins campus. The Pack Promise program at CSU Pueblo, started in 2022, and the CSU Global Colorado Promise Grant, launched in 2024, also provide support tailored for each institution. The three programs complement Colorado Promise, a state initiative started in 2024 that provides a refundable tax credit for Colorado families with incomes of \$90,000 or less to reimburse out-of-pocket tuition and fees for students to attend a public college or university in the state.

Serving Veterans and Military Families

CSU Global achieved a No. 4 ranking in *U.S. News & World Report's* list of the Best Online Bachelor's Programs for Veterans, reflecting the university's focus on affordability, flexibility, and offering career-aligned degree and certificate programs. From special tuition rates to accepting military service as college credit, CSU Global follows the VA Principles of Excellence to make military-affiliated attendance as seamless, supportive, and rewarding as possible – for service members, veterans, and military spouses.



SCAN FOR AN INTERACTIVE
VERSION OF THIS REPORT.



Innovation Energy

Colorado State University in Fort Collins placed in the **top 100 of patent-earning universities** in 2024, according to the National Academy of Inventors, with researchers disclosing 99 inventions and receiving 34 patents in areas that include clean energy, agriculture, biosciences, and engineering. CSU STRATA, which manages the university's tech transfer activities, oversees a portfolio that includes more than 200 active license and option agreements and brought in about \$3.6 million in revenue in 2024. University innovations have supported the launch of more than 60 startup companies since 2007.

Meeting Colorado's Health Care Needs

As Colorado faces a continued shortage of health-care workers, CSU Pueblo is redoubling its efforts to produce nurses and other graduates to meet that need, including in rural areas where demand is often highest. The university's **School of Nursing**, which offers multiple pathways leading to undergraduate and graduate level degrees in nursing, graduates hundreds of students each year. CSU Pueblo's **new digital anatomy lab**, made possible with a \$200,000 instrumentation grant from the National Science Foundation, opened in fall 2025 and offers students in anatomy and physiology, biology, zoology, and other majors a chance for high-tech exploration using two state-of-the-art digital dissection tables.



Expanding Capacity for Behavioral Health Needs

Faculty in CSU's College of Health and Human Sciences will play an essential role in strengthening Colorado's workforce by providing evidence-based services for children, youth, and families with intensive behavioral health needs. With designation from the Colorado Department of Healthcare Policy and Financing to oversee the **Colorado System of Care (CO-SOC) Workforce Capacity Center (WCC)**,

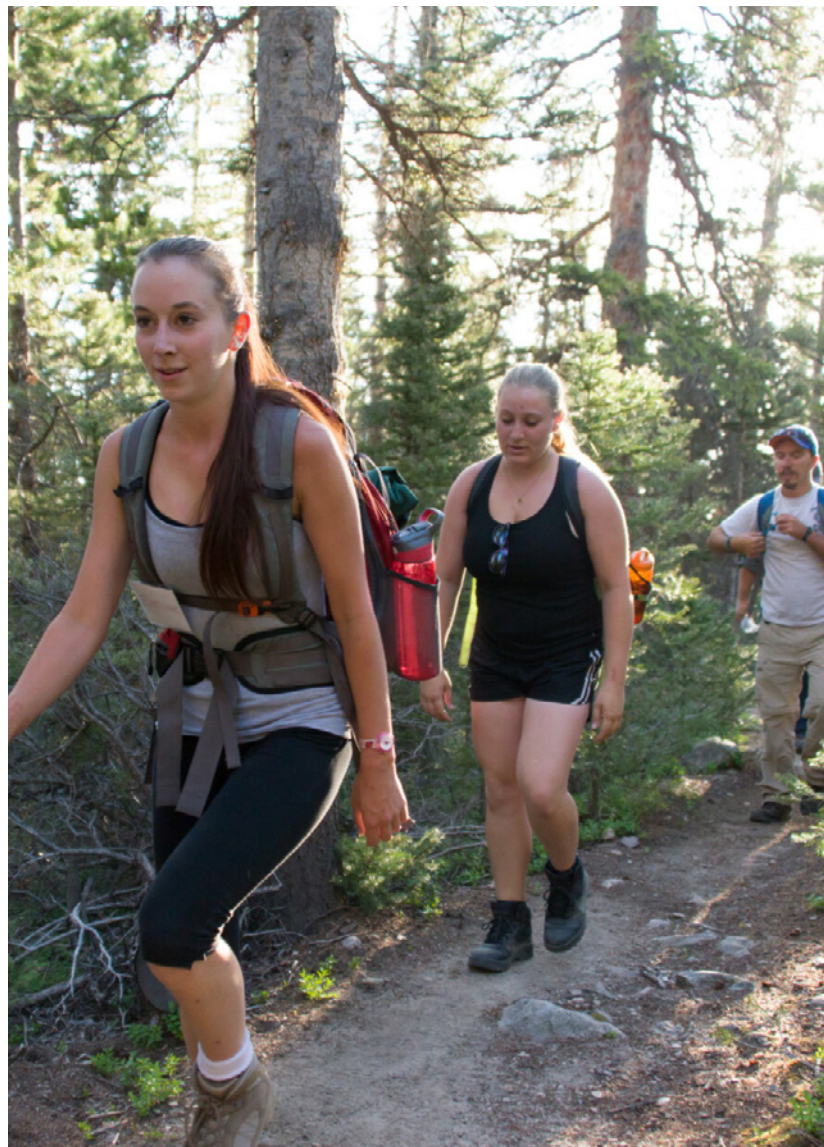
the CSU experts have been charged with developing certification and training programs, providing training and technical assistance, and supporting the recruitment of behavioral health workers.

Staying Career Connected

CSU Global was among seven universities and colleges included on the Colorado Department of Higher Education's inaugural [list of the state's Career Connected Campuses](#). The designation reflects the alignment of CSU Global's curriculum with industry needs, and it required the university to document how it emphasizes student mentoring and support, makes use of data, and maintains strong partnerships involving industry and the community. [Instructors at CSU Global](#) combine academic excellence with their real-world expertise and experience to help students succeed, both in their classes and careers.

Supporting and Sustaining Outdoor Recreation

Given that [outdoor recreation](#) is big business in Colorado, it makes sense that CSU researchers are taking a broad perspective in working to limit its impacts, understand trends, highlight benefits, and promote both sustainability and accessibility. In a recent [survey of Colorado residents](#), CSU researchers found that 72% of respondents reported participating in outdoor recreation at least once per week in the previous year, and 80% indicated that outdoor recreation is an important part of their personal well-being. That puts a premium on research looking at how to value the environment, adapt recreation to a changing climate, produce sustainable skiwear, and support wildlife as more people venture farther into the backcountry.



SCAN FOR AN INTERACTIVE
VERSION OF THIS REPORT.



Supporting Healthy Aging

Reflecting the university's land-grant roots in extension and service, CSU's Columbine Health Systems Center for Healthy Aging supports **interdisciplinary research to promote healthy aging** while preparing the next generation of experts and providing community engagement aimed at enhancing opportunities and services for older adults. Researchers are investigating how virtual reality technology can support mental and physical health, assessing the use of health trackers, and employing translational techniques to understand and even treat the aging process at the cellular level.

Community Connections

Close to 1,500 students participated in the most recent annual day of volunteering known as CSUnity, wielding rakes, clippers, and other tools to complete hundreds of service projects across Fort Collins. The event is sponsored by CSU's office for **Student Leadership, Involvement, and Community Engagement (SLiCE)**, which also supports an annual Involvement Expo, Project Homeless Connect, and other initiatives to connect and empower students to address community needs. It is part of SLiCE's broader effort to help students develop as leaders, connect with CSU's 400-plus student organizations, and pursue their studies with their basic needs met.



Lessons in Leadership

Over its 25-year history, the **CSU Pueblo President's Leadership Program** has graduated nearly 400 students through a curriculum focused on ethics, problem-solving, and public speaking. Alumni, who earn a minor in leadership studies, have become teachers, health professionals, and leaders in public service and industry – often advancing quickly in their careers. Among them is 2016 graduate Antonio Huerta, the CSU Pueblo Foundation's 2023 Distinguished Young Alumni Award recipient, who served as regional director for U.S. Sen. John Hickenlooper and now works as legislative liaison and public information officer for the Colorado Department of Military & Veteran Affairs. The program, along with CSU Fort Collins' President's Leadership Program, which started in 1989, are part of the Colorado Leadership Alliance.

Fighting Food Insecurity

Multiple initiatives across the CSU System are addressing food insecurity, a condition impacting as many as a third of undergraduate and graduate students, according to national estimates. At CSU Fort Collins, the student-supported Rams Against Hunger program takes a multi-pronged approach to increasing access to food and other necessities. That includes operating a food pantry that received more than 250,000 pounds of food from the Food Bank of Larimer County in the past year. The student-led Growing Food Security initiative, started in 2022, provided the food pantry with 11,000 pounds of produce grown at CSU's Agricultural Research, Development and Education Center (ARDEC). In fall 2025, C.A.N.S. Around the Oval, a CSU tradition in its 39th year, raised more than \$63,000 and gathered 22,000 pounds of food for the Food Bank of Larimer County. At CSU Pueblo, the Pack Pantry, founded by a student in 2014, provides access to free food, personal care items, and basic cleaning supplies.

Expanding Broadband Access

Complementing the CSU System's efforts to expand broadband access in rural parts of the state, CSU Pueblo is making use of a \$3 million grant from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to increase broadband access to underserved communities in Pueblo. The **Adelante Connect** program offers free laptops for qualified students, supports free high-speed internet access for 200 students and their families, and provides tech support and services.

CSU Global is working with the Society of Cable Telecommunications Engineers to drive access to affordable upskilling opportunities within the industry by offering special tuition rates for SCTE members and academic credit for select SCTE certifications and courses, reducing both time and cost to complete a program.



SCAN FOR AN INTERACTIVE
VERSION OF THIS REPORT.



Meeting Behavioral Health Needs in Rural Areas

CSU Extension's [AgrAbility Project](#), started more than 25 years ago, continues building capacity to assist Colorado farmers, ranchers, and farm workers with stress management, suicide prevention, and behavioral health needs. In 2024, the program engaged nearly 3,000 rural community members through behavioral health education and outreach programming, delivered 98 presentations on topics related to well-being in agriculture, and hosted more than 600 attendees at viewing parties for "Legacy," a Colorado Department of Agriculture documentary, produced in partnership with CSU Extension, that aims to reduce stigma around mental health.

Protecting Water Resources

The Colorado Water Center, one of 54 research institutes established under the National Institutes for Water Resources, facilitates outreach, education, and applied transdisciplinary research to address evolving water-related challenges. A [USDA-supported project](#) involving collaborators at multiple universities involves the use of artificial intelligence to optimize the use of water and other resources, potentially leading to long-term agricultural changes in the Colorado River Basin. Multiple studies focus on [salinity in the South Platte River Basin](#), examining how agriculture, irrigation practices, water treatment facilities, and other uses affect salt levels, and investigating impacts and effective strategies for mitigation and management.



Hands-on Problem Solving

CSU Extension's [summer internship program](#) dispersed nearly 70 CSU students across the state in 2025 for hands-on learning experiences in which they contributed to applied research efforts across Colorado. One student explored the state's veterinarian shortage, while others looked at ways to make irrigation systems more efficient or support beaver habitat to restore stream health.

Resilient Rangelands

CSU and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe **received nearly \$1 million** from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to increase the long-term resilience and sustainability of rangelands in the western United States. This builds on work by CSU Extension's **Drought Advisors** program, which draws on expertise in areas from range management to education to provide training, consulting, and one-on-one technical assistance with drought plans for the agricultural producers in Colorado.

Supporting Healthy Forests

The **Colorado State Forest Service**, a service and outreach agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources that operates 18 field offices statewide, supports resilient forests and communities by providing timely and relevant forestry information and education. A new **forest tracker**, produced in partnership with CSU's Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, makes comprehensive forest management information available to state policymakers, foresters, land managers, firefighters and others.

50 Years Sharing Gardening Expertise

The **Colorado Master Gardener Program** recently celebrated 50 years of training and making available gardening experts to answer Colorado residents' questions on topics ranging from soil health and weed control to planting trees and growing flowers. The program, part of CSU Extension, started in 1975 and now has about 1,600 trained Master Gardeners. In 2024, these volunteers provided 55,589 hours of service in the 46 Colorado counties that participated in the program.

Rural Initiative

CSU Extension's expanded programming across the state is partly the result of a multi-year, \$8.58 million investment that the CSU System Board of Governors made in 2021 to expand support for rural Colorado students and communities. That funding brought new support and attention to programs in four areas: accessible education, improved health, vibrant communities, and thriving economies.



SCAN FOR AN INTERACTIVE
VERSION OF THIS REPORT.

U.S. Rep. Jeff Crank

CSU, Political Science '90



When U.S. Rep. Jeff Crank moved to Washington, D.C., in late 1990, he knew he was taking a risk. He had a bachelor's degree in political science, earned at Colorado State University in May, and a horse trailer filled with his possessions. He also had a place to stay – his future in-laws lived in the city and offered him space in their basement.

What he didn't have was a job. His plan was to head to Capitol Hill each day and walk from office to office, handing out his resume.

That strategy, and the initial risk, paid off. In January 1991, he landed a job as a legislative assistant for U.S. Rep. Joel Hefley, who represented Colorado's 5th Congressional District, an area that included Colorado Springs and surrounding communities. From that beginning, opening mail in a congressional office, he went on to become Rep. Hefley's administrative director and then to civic, business, and political leadership roles in Colorado, including eight years as vice president and then senior vice president at the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce. In November 2024, he was elected to U.S. Congress, filling the seat once occupied by his early political mentor.

"I still pinch myself at being here," Crank said during a call from his Washington office. "It's the honor of 750,000 of your neighbors selecting you and saying, 'Hey, we want you to go to Washington to represent us.'"

Originally from Pueblo, Crank went to Fort Collins and found himself studying and living alongside people from different backgrounds, with a variety of perspectives, goals, and beliefs. Beyond academics and meeting his future wife at CSU – he and Lisa Crank have been married 34 years – he remembers the enduring friendships he made that transcend political lines, and the dorm discussions and debates that led to deeper understanding, if not always agreement.

"You don't have to change your mind every time you talk to someone, but just having those discussions is super important. That's what makes America the great country that it is."

Julie McCluskie did not set out to run for elected office, much less to be the first woman to serve two terms as Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives.

Yes, she was always politically active, serving on student council even in junior high. While studying chemistry at CSU, she knocked on doors for U.S. Sen. Gary Hart's presidential campaign, and she served as director of academic affairs for ASCSU, energized to be part of student government and to work with students who were always asking, "How can we make this better for our peers?"

After graduating, the mountains called to her and her future husband, Jamie, also a CSU alum. They lived in Vail and Colorado Springs before making their home in Dillon. Working in communications, fundraising, and human resources roles, she stayed engaged in politics and was an advocate for public education and other issues. Then, in 2017, the Colorado house district that included Dillon and other mountain communities became open, and McCluskie was asked to run.

"It wasn't something I had contemplated," McCluskie said. The timing and the opportunity turned out to be right, and she went on to win the seat in the 2018 election. She won again in 2020 in what became House District 13 after redistricting. Now in her fourth consecutive term, the maximum under Colorado's term limits, she has an upbeat perspective on what can be achieved through public service. "I have 90,000 people

in my district, folks with a myriad of perspectives, hopes, dreams, and concerns, and trying to represent all those interests is challenging. But when you can deliver a solution that has real impact on the day-to-day for people's lives, there's great reward. It's a celebration that, yes, good government can work."

While McCluskie does not make direct use of her chemistry major in her legislative work, she argues the technical expertise she gained can be helpful in understanding policy debates. More important, she said, is that many skills gained through higher education, including the ability to analyze and solve problems, are transferable. And that's not all.

"The experience for me at Colorado State University was so important to my development as a human being," McCluskie said.

"I am a testament to what a post-secondary degree can mean for someone to be successful in life, even if the path may not be as straightforward."

Colorado House Speaker Rep. Julie McCluskie

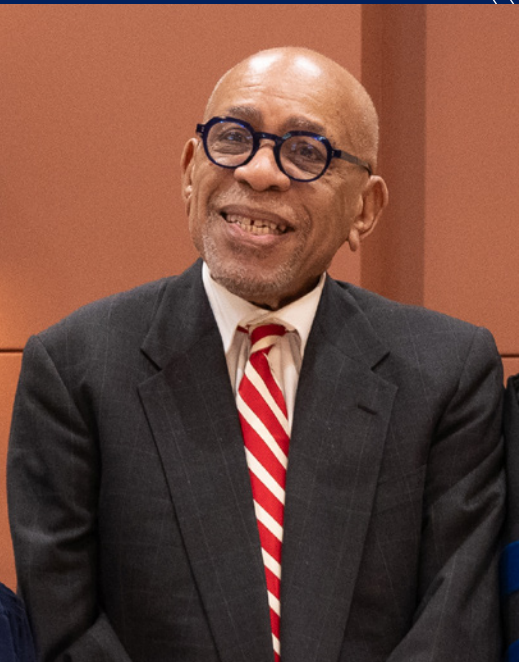
CSU, Chemistry/
Biochemistry '86



SCAN FOR AN INTERACTIVE
VERSION OF THIS REPORT.

Arnold Mitchem

CSU Pueblo (University of Southern Colorado)
History '65



In 1963, when Arnold Mitchem joined the first class of students pursuing bachelor's degrees at what would become Colorado State University Pueblo, he was 24 years old and had been kicked out of two universities. The Pueblo native was determined not to let that happen again.

"I was deadly serious," Mitchem said in a [recent interview with CSU Pueblo's Wolfpack Weekly](#). "I wasn't going anywhere this time. I'd been screwing up, but I knew I was smart as hell and just needed to get serious."

That attitude, combined with the support he received from faculty, helped launch Mitchem on a journey that included earning a Ph.D., becoming a faculty member, and spending nearly three decades as president of the Council for Opportunity in Education, a national nonprofit based in Washington, D.C., that works to make college accessible for low-income, first-generation students and students with disabilities.

Mitchem, who completed his bachelor's degree in 1965, returned to campus in summer 2025 for a ceremony at which he received an honorary doctorate of humane letters. The recent degree recognizes Mitchem's leadership, his vision, and his success as an advocate for the federally funded TRIO programs, which he saw expand nearly 400% to reach more than 872,000 students.

For today's students looking at a changing economy and other challenges, Mitchem offers a perspective shaped by his experiences in the '60s and the decades since.

"Every generation has challenges. Just be persistent, believe in yourself, and learn to trust others. And remember, the early bird gets the worm. If you get up early in the morning, you'll be surprised who else is out there, and who's out there is serious, or they wouldn't be there. They're intentional people with real goals. You want to be part of that pack of intentional people."

In the current chapter of Jordan Fischer-Snelson's career, she's leading public relations and marketing strategy for the Society of Dermatology Physician Assistants, a professional organization with more than 5,000 members across the country, making use of insights from the marketing degree she recently completed at CSU Global.

She's also drawing on lessons from her first bachelor's degree – she studied technical journalism at CSU in Fort Collins, graduating in 2003 – and from professional experiences that include stints working at the White House, the Department of the Interior, and the National Park Foundation; building and then selling a restaurant; five years as a field representative for Wyoming Congresswoman Liz Cheney; and a decade leading her own PR firm.

A theme tying these chapters together, Fischer-Snelson said, is a passion for connecting people and shaping meaningful conversations.

"Each chapter taught me something new about leadership and service," Fischer-Snelson said.

Fischer-Snelson, who grew up in Boulder and now lives in Gillette, Wyo., said the defining feature of her educational experiences at CSU and at

CSU Global was the applied approach to learning, from lighting the set of a TV studio to developing and refining a marketing plan. "I came to see how communication, leadership, and creativity can come together to make a real impact."

In her career, she's also come to appreciate how experiences across domains can deepen understanding. For learners just beginning that journey, she offers simple advice: "Stay curious, stay open, take action with purpose, and don't be afraid to take unconventional paths."

"You can make a difference in so many ways, whether it's in government, business, health care, or your own community."

Jordan Fischer-Snelson

CSU, BA, Technical Journalism '03

CSU Global, BA, Marketing '25



SCAN FOR AN INTERACTIVE
VERSION OF THIS REPORT.

Judge Justin Fay

CSU, BS, Business
Administration, '03



Two experiences stand out in the long educational path that prepared Justin Fay to become one of Colorado's 210 district court judges. The first came when, as an eighth-grade student in Niwot, an English teacher gave him time in class each day to read the newspaper. He became fascinated by court cases, criminality, and the complexities of the criminal justice system.

Later, while studying business administration at CSU, he participated in the Semester at Sea program, visiting Cuba, South Africa, Vietnam, and nine other countries, and observing in each place the different ways governments and justice systems shaped economies, the experiences of citizens, and the connections between people and other countries.

"I realized not only the power in government, but the power the government has with respect to ensuring human rights," Fay said. "And associated with that, it made me appreciate what happens when criminal justice systems become rife with abuse."

After completing his CSU bachelor's degree in 2003, Fay studied law at the Tulsa College of Law. He came back to Colorado, and he spent more than a decade working as a prosecutor in Durango before he was appointed in 2016 to be county court judge in Pagosa Springs. In August 2025, he was appointed to fill a district court vacancy in Colorado's 6th Judicial District, which includes the towns of Pagosa Springs, Durango, and Silverton.

At a time when job and career changes are common, Fay acknowledges that his relatively direct path to becoming a judge might be unusual. It's also a benefit of his Semester at Sea experience and other opportunities that sharpened his focus on what he wanted to be and how he wanted to serve.

"I think there can be value in committing to a job and to a particular path," Fay said.

"I think there's also a lesson in making a good decision about what interests you and choosing a career path that will be satisfying for you."

Center for New Energy Economy

The **Center for the New Energy Economy (CNEE)** team of energy policy experts joined the CSU Energy Institute in July 2025. Started by former Gov. Bill Ritter in 2011 as a CSU think-tank, CNEE assists governors, legislators, regulators, utilities, and others by providing technical and strategic guidance to facilitate America's transition to a clean energy economy. CNEE's 2025 agenda focused on energy affordability, grid reliability, energy security, and data center energy demand growth.

CNEE hosted 26 state legislators at its 9th annual Clean Energy Legislative Academy in July. The event, which brings together a bi-partisan cohort of state legislators for four intensive days, is a politically neutral forum that provides an opportunity for legislators to learn about clean energy policy, discuss challenges in their states, and speak freely.

Two clean energy databases CNEE provides continue to be important tools for legislators and energy researchers across the country. To date, the **Advanced Energy Legislation Tracker** delivers information on more than 48,000 state bills, and the **State Policy Opportunity Tracker for Clean Energy** keeps tabs on progress made across all 50 states in 35 separate policy categories. CNEE also published **policy briefs** on current energy topics such as solar development on degraded land ("Brightfields"), grid-enhancing technologies, and public safety power shut-offs.

Colorado Futures Center

The Colorado Futures Center (CFC) is an independent, non-partisan, and academically grounded organization dedicated to informing economic, fiscal, and public policy issues impacting community economic health and quality of life in Colorado and beyond.

Each quarter, CFC releases the ColoradoCast, the state of Colorado's only short-term (~6 month) economic forecast, as a tool to assist business leaders and elected officials in decision-making. The ColoradoCast is recognized by broadcast and print media as the credible short-term economic forecast for the state. Updates are released for February, May, August, and November. In a separate research portfolio, CFC supports local government and non-profit organizations statewide with socio-demographic data and analysis, with a focus on economic security for Colorado households.

In 2024, CFC released *Social Factors of Academic Success*, a first of its kind inquiry exploring the community-level relationship between a full complement of social factors and third grade reading proficiency. This research and policy recommendations will be updated in late 2025 with post-pandemic data.

CFC's earlier macro/fiscal work was honored with the Most Distinguished Research Award from the Governmental Research Association.



North American Agricultural Advisory Network

The North American Agricultural Advisory Network (NAAAN) is a formal platform and partnership in agricultural advisory services and extension, made up of stakeholders in Canada, Mexico, and the United States. The CSU System hosts the NAAAN Secretariat, and CSU System Chancellor Tony Frank chairs the Steering Committee. The NAAAN links existing agricultural extension communities with one another and with stakeholders in nearly every country in the world through its membership in the Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS).

The NAAAN fills a critical gap by identifying problems, aggregating and curating agricultural expertise and leadership, and implementing solutions through

on-the-ground partnerships. This increased agricultural capacity and global knowledge exchange increases returns on investment in agricultural research. The NAAAN implements its capacity building work across three thematic areas: 1) biodefense and biosecurity, 2) natural disaster mitigation, and 3) workforce development and economic opportunity.

Experts in rural advisory services, extension, and agriculture across Canada, Mexico, and the United States are invited to join the network through the **NAAAN CONNECT** engagement platform.



Salazar Center for North American Conservation

The Salazar Center sparks conservation innovation and action to secure a thriving future for North America's lands and waters, and the life they support. Founded in 2018 by Ken Salazar, former U.S. Senator, U.S. Secretary of the Interior, and Ambassador to Mexico, and Tony Frank, Chancellor of the CSU System, the Salazar Center is a trusted convener and capacity builder that brings people together across boundaries to meet shared conservation challenges.

The Salazar Center seeks to revitalize landscape integrity and bolster climate resilience across borders and ecosystems, from wildlands to urban centers, by igniting the collective care of nature through three program areas.

- The Peregrine Accelerator for Conservation Impact invests in people, projects, and partnerships in vital transboundary ecosystems across North America. In 2025, the Accelerator is providing eight project teams in the North Atlantic region of the U.S. and Canada with seed funding, tailored training and mentorship, and peer learning to effectively move innovative ideas into action.
- As a trusted and valued convener, the Salazar Center brings together North American conservation leaders to identify and activate high-leverage interventions to the continent's most pressing conservation challenges. In May 2025, at its 6th International Symposium on Conservation Impact, the Center convened more than 200 thought leaders in Vancouver, B.C., to explore emerging strategies and tactics.
- Beginning in 2026, the Salazar Center will launch its inaugural Conservation Fellows Program to bring together mid-career professionals from a broad cross-section of society in pursuit of transformative shifts in how we think about and co-exist with nature.



Together We Grow

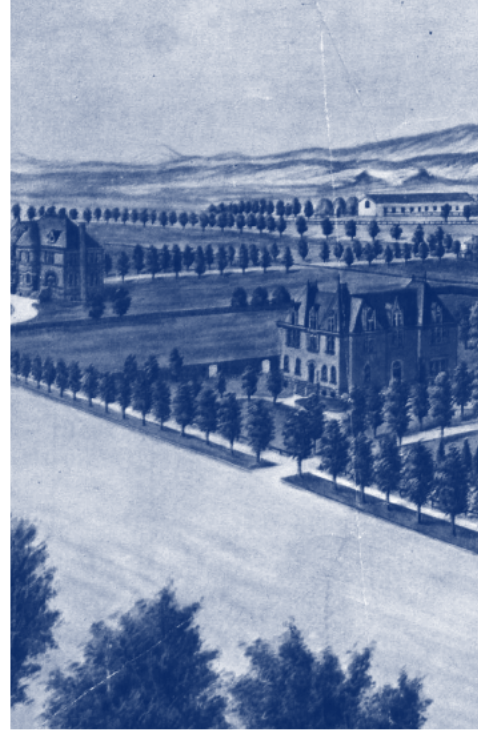
The Together We Grow consortium is made up of companies, non-governmental organizations, universities, and government agencies with a stake in American food and agriculture and a commitment to building a modern workforce that reflects the communities in which we live and work. By providing a platform for these entities to share resources, combine efforts, and ultimately expand opportunities to more communities, it aims to awaken more people to the value they can bring to the industry.

TWG is guided by a vision of a motivated, engaged, and capable workforce to nurture a positive and sustainable agriculture and food industry. To support this work, TWG recently completed a search and interview process for new board members, identifying eight professionals from state government, industry, non-profits, and higher education who will begin working with the executive director and team beginning in 2026.

TWG is focused on implementing its recently completed strategic plan and introducing a new membership structure. This will involve detailing the steps it will take to broaden, connect, and support students and professionals in food and agriculture while providing innovative ways for new entities to invest and get engaged in the work.



SCAN FOR AN INTERACTIVE
VERSION OF THIS REPORT.



SCAN FOR AN INTERACTIVE
VERSION OF THIS REPORT.



CSU SYSTEM
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

