

Colorado Community Partnerships and Faculty Residencies

Submitted by the College of Media, Communication and Information

What we propose: Building partnerships around the state by bringing CU faculty to communities ensures better education, career and engagement outcomes for Coloradans. Beyond outreach, we propose longer-term (minimum of one semester) faculty residencies to provide site-specific education around Colorado. These Instructors and T/TT faculty will bring CU expertise and resources to various locations around the state to teach local community members and conduct site-specific research in those communities. The instruction focus could include traditional and non-traditional undergraduate student education, dual high school enrollment, co-requisite remediation, and graduate education and BA/MA programs.

Why the campus needs it: In 2017 the Colorado Commission on Higher Education (CCHHE) reaffirmed its number one strategic goal to “increase the number of Coloradans aged 25 to 34 who hold a high-quality postsecondary credential—that is, a certificate or degree—to 66 percent by 2025.” By 2020, ¾ of jobs in Colorado are projected to require some level of college education. CCHHE notes that “as the economy continues its rapid shift to information services and technology, colleges and universities are more critical than ever in preparing individuals for the knowledge economy.”

Having a CU presence embedded in communities outside of Boulder/Denver area will bring a vital experience to traditional college-aged students and their families as well as non-traditional students and the communities as a whole. On-site teaching and research will increase affinity for CU and create a positive public impact. It would decrease the overall cost of a college education for Colorado families by reducing room and board costs and shorten time to graduation for students pursuing dual enrollment and remediation. Ultimately, the residency would encourage more Coloradans to pursue degrees at CU. By already experiencing a CU education directly from CU faculty, students would arrive at the Boulder campus better prepared to succeed.

What are the obstacles: Successful implementation of this program would necessitate full campus participation. Faculty would require residency stipends and incentives and cross-disciplinary collaboration would be encouraged. Academic units would need to work with the Registrar’s office and Graduate School to ensure that credits are transferrable to our campus and potentially build BA/MA programs. CU Administrative departments such as Admissions and Financial Aid would also need to perform site visits to educate community members about Boulder campus opportunities and requirements.

Conclusion: Requiring all CU academic units to commit to a long-term community partnership through residency in Colorado communities would meet CU Boulder strategic imperatives, benefit our citizens, contribute to CCHHE’s goal to increase Colorado’s postsecondary credentialing over the next seven years and create new recruitment opportunities for our campus. Faculty would benefit from site-specific research opportunities and working together, faculty, students and communities would have the opportunity to address site-specific problems.