

Call for SPIKE Student Scholar Applications

Applications open to students from the following: (1) College of Engineering and Applied Sciences and (2) Colorado Law

Applications close Friday, July 31st.

Job Summary

Are you passionate about sustainability and already working towards being an agent of change in advancing sustainability? We are gathering the second cohort of SPIKE Student Scholars of 11 undergraduate and graduate students from any CU Boulder college or major to assist in exploring, articulating, and disseminating student engagement within the newly formed [SPIKE Center for Sustainability Education](#) (aka, the SPIKE Center). This position will pay \$20/hour for undergraduates and \$22.50/hour for graduate students. Eligible students may work up to 15 hours per week based on availability, interest, and needs of our work together and in accordance with [CU Student Employment Policies](#). Both work-study and non-work-study students are welcome to apply. The position you are applying for begins in Fall semester 2026 and goes through Spring 2027.

Through this SPIKE Student Scholars community, we will engage in co-imagining the world we want by drawing upon our diverse lived experiences and ways of knowing. We will engage in collective sustainability problem-solving that goes beyond the capacity of individuals. We will do together what we cannot do alone. This role includes cross college collaboration, providing students with opportunities to work alongside a range of sustainability focused centers and offices. We will engage in creative and embodied methods for *how* we come together to collectively solve problems and transform. Together we will be a community of co-teachers and co-learners of generative approaches that nurture this work, *and* a community of un-teachers and un-learners of methods and approaches that impede this work.

Key Responsibilities

SPIKE Student Scholars will primarily work with Faculty Associate Director for Student Engagement (Professor Beth Osnes-Stoedefalke) and the Student Support & Engagement Program Manager (Josefina Hajek-Herrera). Responsibilities will include attending bi-weekly creative meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays from 3:30-5:00 to do and plan for the following:

- (1) In the spirit of “nothing about us without us” we want student participation in continuing to hone the roles, responsibilities, duties, and opportunities of and for the SPIKE Student Scholars.
- (2) Serve as a representative for students within your own college or school for their voice to be heard on issues of sustainability education in various contexts across campus. As appropriate, share the sustainability work of the SPIKE Center Student Scholars and relevant sustainability opportunities with your college or school.
- (3) Your role will include contributing to ongoing programs, activities and events for a wide variety of students to co-imagine and contribute their ideas and priorities for student engagement within the SPIKE Center, including work that may take place outside of our bi-weekly designated meetings including tabling and teaching other students in places they are already gathered.
- (4) We will all participate in research, assessment, and shared analysis of student engagement.

(5) Scholars will participate in a retreat at the end of the Spring 2027 semester alongside the incoming cohort to continue this collaboration.

(6) Attend sustainability related activities, events, conferences at CU, the Boulder Community, Colorado, or nationally. Report key takeaways and learnings back to SPIKE Student Scholars during weekly meetings.

(7) Create a porous, welcoming, loving, and radically accepting community of sustainability learners.

Minimum Qualifications

- currently enrolled full time undergraduate or graduate student at CU Boulder
- attend SPIKE Student Scholar meetings on Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:30-5:00PM
- eligible to work in an hourly student employee role during the 2026-2027 academic year and attend the retreat at end of Spring 2027 semester
- passion for sustainability and some experience and initiative in acting upon this passion
- strong communication and interpersonal skills or strong interest in developing them

Preferred Qualifications

- students far along in their practice, understanding, and/or study of sustainability in action
- can responsibly submit bi-weekly timesheets and work unsupervised at times
- willing to work collaboratively through various iterations of actions in a manner that is responsive, agile, open-minded, kind, and energize
- aptitude for collaborative, creative, and embodied work in community
- willingness to share work publicly at events during Earth Month (April 2027) and/or online to reflect on what this type of opportunity means for students
- willingness to engage in co-imagining the world we want by drawing upon our diverse lived experiences and ways of knowing--to engage in collective sustainability problem-solving that goes beyond the capacity of individuals—to be willing to do together what we cannot do alone
- willingness for radical interdisciplinarity to intentionally direct our efforts - for example, engineers co-producing an Indigenous gathering for dance that provides balance and harmony necessary for sustainable worlding practices, artists learning plant species identification to create resources for our campus as a Living Learning Lab - willingness to intentionally stir it up and all learn to feel comfortable as we step beyond our 'comfort zones'

Learning Outcomes

CU Boulder student employees will be able to take an active role in co-creating the beginning work of the SPIKE Student Scholars and student engagement more broadly conceived while working on their own growth in understanding sustainability by setting goals, reflecting on their experiences, seeking feedback, and building relationships that support their career development.

By the end of this position, you will be able to:

1. Cultivate a sense of belonging to the Boulder Community, the natural world, and be a part of a community of sustainability learners.
2. Expand sustainability competencies and identify areas for growth based on our collective sustainability work.
3. Set goals to build skills and improve their sustainability work individually and collectively.
4. Mentorship and advice from SPIKE Center FADs and Program Managers.

5. Build sustainability focused networks and positive relationships through this collective work that supports their learning and future career plans.
6. Build professional skills applicable to sustainability education and communication.
7. Learn how to practice intentional dismantling of hierarchies and inequities that exist in systems in which we work.
8. Approach our work through embodied and creative practices that acknowledge the whole person.

What You Need to Know

- Interviews will be scheduled as applications are received.
- Job offers will be made once interviews are complete.
- All student employees must verify their employment eligibility within the first three days of employment through the I-9 process. Please reference the [I-9 requirements](#) page for more details.
- For any questions, please email Josefina.hajek-herrera@colorado.edu.
- This position will start on August 20th, 2026.

How to Apply

Email your application to the Program Manager for Student Engagement at the SPIKE Center, Josefina Hajek-Herrera, by July 31st, 2026. Your application must include a document answering the following questions:

1. Name:
2. Year in School as Undergraduate or Graduate Student:
3. Declared Major(s) and Minor(s), or Field of Study as Graduate Student:
4. Your grade:
5. Your School or College at CU:
6. Describe what draws you to applying to be a SPIKE Student Scholar (approximately 50 words):
7. Please share ten words or short phrases that describe your commitment to sustainability:
8. Will you have any other Fall 2026 and/or Spring 2027 student employment positions (e.g., work-study, LAship, RAship, TAship)?
9. Could you commit to 5-15 hours a week of paid student employee time dedicated to being a SPIKE Student Scholar?
10. Please share anything you would like us to know about other commitments.
11. Describe your practice, understanding, and/or study of sustainability in action and why it matters to you (approximately 100 words):
12. Describe your experience in sustainability or related areas (environmentalism, social justice, etc). Please provide specific examples (approximately 100 words):
13. Describe your experience in planning or organizing sustainability-related initiatives (approximately 100 words):
14. Describe any experience you have working collaboratively or in an interdisciplinary or trans-disciplinary way especially as related to sustainability (approximately 100 words):
15. Imagine an idea for a sustainability education initiative, community, happening, etc that you would love to co-create with and for CU students and our larger community. No limits! Describe a dream idea! (approximately 100 words)