CU BOULDER OUTREACH AWARDS

2019–20

Office for Outreach and Engagement
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER
We are excited to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the annual CU Boulder Outreach Awards. Since 1999, $6 million has been awarded to 808 public outreach and community engagement projects, supporting university research, teaching and creative work that has directly benefited 5.5 million people in Colorado and beyond.

We take pride in the faculty, staff and students who are reaching beyond the university to partner with nonprofits, schools, government agencies, businesses and more. Together, we are creating new knowledge and addressing real problems facing communities.

The CU Boulder Outreach Committee received 58 outstanding proposals this year. We are very pleased to announce that for 2019–20, the Office of the Chancellor, Office of the Provost and Division of Continuing Education will provide $460,000 in funding for 34 projects from every college and school at CU Boulder.

These impressive projects represent a portion of our university’s more than 260 current outreach and engagement projects, which embody CU Boulder’s role as a comprehensive public research university that leads, innovates and positively impacts humanity. This work also aligns with the Division of Continuing Education’s mission of providing lifelong learning opportunities for diverse populations across our state.

We invite you to read how this year’s funded projects engage with people and communities throughout Colorado, our region and the world. Together, we can draw inspiration from these projects as we commit ourselves to many more years of partnerships, academic work and enduring impact.

Sincerely,

Philip P. DiStefano
Chancellor

Russell L. Moore
Provost

Sara Thompson
Vice Provost for Outreach and Engagement
Dean of Continuing Education
OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT DEFINED

At CU Boulder, we define outreach and engagement as the ways faculty, staff and students collaborate with external groups in mutually beneficial partnerships that are grounded in scholarship and consistent with our role and mission as a comprehensive, public research university.

For faculty, outreach rooted in scholarship enhances teaching, research, creative work and service while addressing larger societal issues. For students and staff, community engagement and service projects link campus teaching and learning to civic responsibility and community well-being. For communities, partnering with CU Boulder increases the capacity to address important social, economic and cultural issues. At their best, outreach and engagement activities provide significant learning and growth opportunities to faculty, students, staff and partnering communities.

Whether through research projects, teaching activities, civic engagement or service learning, the reciprocal nature of outreach and engagement enriches both our academic mission and the communities we serve.

Endorsed by the CU Boulder Council of Deans, February 16, 2010

CU BOULDER OUTREACH AWARDS

These awards fund faculty-led outreach and engagement projects that connect research, teaching and creative work with public needs. Staff as well as graduate and undergraduate students play key roles in the projects. In some cases, the awards have led to external funding.

The CU Boulder Outreach Committee, which is composed of faculty and staff from many disciplines, selects projects that receive awards based on the following criteria:

- Aligns with campus definition of outreach and engagement
- Responds to a direct request made by a school or community group
- Establishes a long-term relationship with a group or community
- Serves a community with limited access to CU Boulder programs
- Makes the work of CU Boulder’s faculty accessible to the public

The Office for Outreach and Engagement, a unit within Continuing Education, administers the awards, helping to ensure that projects are of the highest quality by consulting with potential awardees and managing the application process.

For more information, contact Jeanne McDonald, jeanne.mcdonald@colorado.edu, or visit colorado.edu/outreach/ooe/outreach-awards.

2019–20 AWARDS’ IMPACT

$460,000 awarded to 34 PROJECTS

245,000+ PEOPLE in Colorado and beyond

601 CU Boulder STUDENTS

193 FACULTY and STAFF

CU BOULDER OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Professor Bud Coleman
Committee Chair
Department of Theatre & Dance

Professor Jaelyn Eberle
Department of Geological Sciences
Director of Museum and Field Studies Program
Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology,
University of Colorado Museum of Natural History

Professor Michael Hannigan
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Associate Professor Jennifer Hayghe
College of Music

Associate Clinical Professor
Sean Helle
Getches-Green Natural Resources and Environmental Law Clinic, Colorado Law

Senior Instructor Veronica House
Associate Director, Program for Writing and Rhetoric

Professor A. Susan Jurow
School of Education

Associate Professor Jill Litt
Environmental Studies Program

David Meens
Director, Office for Outreach and Engagement

Professor Joseph Ryan
Department of Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering

2019–20 AWARDS

COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Attention, Behavior, and Learning Clinic: Affordable Childhood Evaluations
Research Associate Nomita Chhabildas and Professor Erik Willcutt
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
The clinic provides comprehensive evaluations for children who are experiencing academic, behavioral and emotional difficulties while offering participating graduate students valuable educational experience. The clinic operates on a sliding scale that allows many low-income families to access these services at low to no cost.

Brain Behavior Clinic and Boulder County Homelessness
Associate Clinical Professor Emily Richardson
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
More than half of chronically homeless people may have undiagnosed cognitive deficits. This partnership with the Boulder County Shelter for the Homeless, the People’s Clinic and other local mental health centers helps to identify and support those who might have cognitive deficits. Through the clinic, Richardson and her graduate students provide homeless people with neuropsychological evaluations, which can be used to access disability benefits.

Colorado Classics Day 2019
Associate Professor Jackie Elliott
Department of Classics
This program is for middle and high school students from across the state with an interest in ancient Greece and Rome. In September, the classics department hosts Colorado Classics Day, which is designed to broaden students’ understanding of classical language and culture, and their relevance to today.

Co-Designing an Early Education Program for Children Birth to Three
Associate Professor Eliana Colunga
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
By the time they are three years old, middle-income children have twice the vocabulary of low-income children. This project works with Boulder Housing Partners to close this gap by empowering parents to build on their knowledge through a culturally sensitive, parent-based early education program.

Critical Conversations Project: Playback Theatre in Rural Colorado
Senior Instructor James Walker, Norlin Scholars Program
Production, Outreach & Engagement Liaison Ondine Geary, Department of Theatre & Dance
The economy of Colorado’s North Fork Valley is shifting, which has created tension in the community. To help bridge the divide, the North Fork Valley Creative Coalition has asked the CU Boulder theatre department to facilitate a program where residents share their stories and see them “played back” by an ensemble of actors in ways that encourage understanding. The goal is to create a collective conversation around the economic transition.

CU Contemporary Dance Works Residency Tour
Assistant Professor Helanius Wilkins and Production, Outreach & Engagement Liaison Ondine Geary
Department of Theatre & Dance
During a weeklong residency each spring, this graduate student touring company brings dance to Colorado communities that are underserved by the arts. In May, the students will head to Paonia to offer classes, workshops and performances in partnership with schools, a senior citizens group, local nonprofits and community arts organizations.

Students in Paonia learn some new dance steps as part of a CU Boulder dance outreach program. Photo by Ryan Sinton, CU Boulder

Middle and high school students participate in Colorado Classics Day at CU Boulder. Photo by Tyler Lansford, CU Boulder
Empowering Economically Disadvantaged Adolescents with Complex Communication Needs
Clinic Faculty Member Sherri Tennant and Assistant Professor Christine Brennan
Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
Through this project, CU Boulder faculty and graduate students provide training for speech pathologists, educators and other staff at the Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST). This training helps DSST professionals more effectively support middle and high school students with complex communication needs due to autism, cerebral palsy and other medical conditions.

Intervention for Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Children with Developmental Disorders
Associate Professor Pui Fong Kan and Clinical Assistant Professor Amy Thrasher
Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences
This partnership with Boulder Community Health, Imagine!/Dayspring and Boulder Valley School District provides training for speech-language pathologists who work with culturally and linguistically diverse children with communication disorders, focusing in particular on immigrant children who are starting to learn English in school. This early intervention program works closely with families who are traditionally reluctant to seek professional services.

Literacy Practicum
Professor Kira Hall
Department of Linguistics
This program partners with Boulder community literacy programs to provide a service-learning component for an undergraduate course. CU Boulder students work with at-risk children and adults to improve reading and writing skills by applying targeted teaching strategies and information taught during the campus course.

RDS Center: Reaching Out to People with Bipolar Research
Senior Research Associate Alisha Brosse and Adjunct Professor David Miklowitz
Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
The Robert D. Sutherland (RDS) Center for the Evaluation and Treatment of Bipolar Disorder provides comprehensive treatment to people with bipolar disorder, many of whom can’t afford treatment. This community-based clinic also trains graduate students in clinical psychology and offers public seminars, talks and workshops.

LEEDS SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
Demystifying Entrepreneurship Rural Colorado Workshop Series
Executive Director Erick Mueller
Deming Center for Entrepreneurship
Colorado’s rural economies are experiencing slower job growth and lower wages than urban areas. To help spur economic growth and job creation, Leeds faculty are sharing effective business practices and serving as mentors for local entrepreneurs. This series offers workshops in nearly every region of the state for five years, hoping to raise the standard of living in those communities.

Business owners in Vail talk about entrepreneurship through a Leeds School of Business workshop. Photo by Erick Mueller, CU Boulder
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

Improving Educational Outcomes for Low-Income, Latino English Learners
Professor Mileidis Gort, Research Associate Vanessa Santiago Schwarz
and Research Associate Laura Hamman-Ortiz

This project provides teachers from Denver area elementary schools with professional development focused on how to more effectively teach writing to low-income, Latino English learners. A CU Boulder biliteracy research team is partnering with Denver Public Schools to provide educators with targeted writing instruction and strategies to improve academic outcomes for this group of students.

Rethinking Family Engagement at Adams 14 School District
Professor Kathy Escamilla and Doctoral Candidate María de los Ángeles Osorio Cooper

Through a partnership with Cultivando, a community-based nonprofit in Commerce City, this project seeks to identify ways to create dialogue between personnel at the Adams 14 school district and Latino parents. The goal is to develop more culturally inclusive policies and practices within the district, which was identified in a 2014 federal report as a hostile environment for Latinos.

Teaching and Learning to Queer the Curriculum
Research Associate Sara Staley and Research Associate Bethy Leonardi

As part of an ongoing partnership between the School of Education’s A Queer Endeavor and Boulder Valley School District, this project will work with teachers at Centaurus High School in Lafayette to design lesson plans focused on gender and sexual diversity. The goal is to create inclusive practices and document how teachers develop methods for instructing diverse students.

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE

Oil and Gas Contamination of Jackson County Waters
Professor Joseph Ryan
Department of Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering

New oil and gas development has recently started in Jackson County, Colorado. The Western Colorado Alliance for Community Action has asked for support from CU Boulder’s engineering researchers to monitor the Grizzly Creek watershed for possible water contamination from this new development, and to inform the community about potential public health and environmental effects from oil and gas production.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Colombian Displaced Communities: Planning and Urban Design Seminar
Assistant Professor Jota Samper
Program in Environmental Design

Through a five-week summer course, environmental design students study and work in an unplanned settlement near Medellin, Colombia, which was formed when people fled the city because of violence. The residents have created infrastructure, businesses and community centers from the ground up. Students work closely with residents on community projects and also with local academic researchers.
Find out more about 20 years of Outreach Award impact.

- 2.9 million Coloradans
- 2.6 million People outside Colorado
- $6 million awarded to 808 Projects
- 16,000+ Faculty, Staff and Students
INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES: 20 YEARS OF AWARD IMPACT

Since 1999, the CU Boulder Outreach Awards have provided $6 million to 808 projects that directly benefit people in Colorado and beyond. These projects address pressing public needs like K–12 educational disparities, community mental health, air and water quality, rural economic issues and more.

This funding has led to new, innovative research, external grants and community-based partnerships across the state.

Below are several compelling stories of how CU Boulder is serving Colorado and engaging the world, often in areas with limited access to university resources.

Visit outreach.colorado.edu/programs to learn more.

1999: 20th anniversary of the Outreach Awards: 808 projects totaling $6 million

Projects are listed by the first funding year, not necessarily when the projects started.
Middle School Ensembles Program
Associate Professor David Rickels, Associate Professor Leila Heil and Professor Margaret Berg
This program provides local middle school students with an additional musical ensemble experience through a partnership with band and orchestra teachers in Boulder Valley School District and the Boulder Children's Chorale. Undergraduates are able to hone their teaching skills, and high school interns learn about teaching music as a career. Another goal this year is to commission a new work for middle school band.

Piano for Dreamers
Professor Alejandro Cremaschi
Through this partnership with the “I Have a Dream” Foundation of Boulder County, graduate and undergraduate students provide free introductory piano classes to third- and fifth-graders who cannot afford lessons. The elementary school students learn to read and interpret music notation and symbols, perform simple songs and compose pieces.

As One: Authenticity, Compassion and a Transgender Story
Associate Professor Charles Wetherbee
The opera As One garnered national acclaim for its portrayal of a transgender person’s journey, a topic rarely portrayed in media forms. This production aims to bring awareness to the lives and realities of trans people in collaboration with the Dairy Arts Center, Out Boulder, and the CU Boulder Center for Inclusion and Social Change.
RESEARCH INSTITUTES

CU Restoration Ecology Experiential Learning Program
Professor Emeritus Timothy Seastedt
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR)
This partnership with Nature Kids/Jovenes de la Naturaleza, the Wildlands Restoration Volunteers youth program and area high schools combines learning with hands-on restoration of landscapes. CU Boulder undergraduates work with underserved youth in the community to introduce them to ecological restoration, environmental science careers, and ways to improve air and water quality.

Boulder Affordable Housing Research Initiative
Associate Professor Jennifer Fluri, Department of Geography
Associate Director Abby Hickcox, College of Arts & Sciences Honors Program
Program Director Sabrina Sideris, INSTAAR Program, CU Engage
Boulder County and Denver area residents who are looking for affordable housing find few options, an issue that local nonprofits and municipal groups are trying to address. Through this initiative, CU Boulder researchers are partnering with many Boulder and Denver organizations to collect and share data about affordable housing that can be used to design more effective public policies in response to this housing crisis.

Bringing Colorado’s Latino History and Culture to Light
Distinguished Professor Emerita Marjorie McIntosh, Department of History
Senior Instructor Kent Willmann and Lecturer Flora Sanchez, School of Education
Associate Professor Arturo Aldama, Department of Ethnic Studies
The Latino History Project is a collaborative, grassroots initiative that is documenting and preserving Latino history. CU Boulder researchers are partnering with community groups in Boulder County, Pueblo, Alamosa and Trinidad to collect historical information about Latinos in these communities, creating extensive online K–12 resources for teachers and the public, and providing workshops on how to use them.

Fire Adapted Bailey: Launching an Evidence-Based Approach
Assistant Research Professor Hannah Brenkert-Smith, Institute of Behavioral Science
As the U.S. grapples with devastating wildfires, national wildfire officials are recognizing that gathering information from local communities will help create better wildfire public policy.
In partnership with Fire Adapted Bailey, a nonprofit serving 68 fire-prone communities in Park and Jefferson counties, this project will gather key data about homeowner attitudes toward wildfire risk, risk mitigation behaviors and responses to incentives to mitigate risk.

Girls at the Museum Exploring Science (GAMES)
Assistant Professor Jingchun Li
CU Museum of Natural History and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
Education Coordinator Cathy Regan, CU Museum of Natural History
GAMES encourages fourth- through eighth-grade girls who are low-income and/or Latina to pursue their interest in science. Weekly after-school visits to the CU museum allow the students to explore archaeology, botany, entomology, paleontology and zoology through hands-on activities and direct interaction with scientists and museum professionals.

INTERDISCIPLINARY AND FACULTY GROUP AWARDS

Legacy High School students plant trees in Broomfield as part of a restoration ecology project. Photo by Cathy Tate

A CU Boulder faculty member and students research Colorado’s Latino history. Photo by Patrick Campbell, CU Boulder
Communities Code: Engaging Underrepresented Youth in Creative Computing
Associate Professor Eliana Colunga, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience
Assistant Professor Ricarose Roque, Department of Information Science (CMCI)
Director Stacey Forsyth, CU Science Discovery

Through this program, faculty, staff and students join with the Boulder Valley School District, Boulder Housing Partners, Partners Bridging the Digital Divide, rural schools and public libraries to offer technology-focused classes to K–8 students and training for teachers. Classes are designed for girls, students of color and other underrepresented students to increase interest and confidence in computer science, partnering with families to enhance learning.

CU Japanese and Japanese American Community History Project
Assistant Professor Megan K. Friedel, Assistant Professor Adam Lisbon, Archivist David Hays, Communications Program Manager Michael Riberdy and Digital Imaging Technologist Adrienne Wagner
University Libraries

This year marks the 75th anniversary of the end of Japanese American internment in the United States. As part of this commemoration, the University Libraries is partnering with Japanese organizations in Colorado to document the history of Japanese and Japanese American students, faculty and staff at CU Boulder during World War II and after. Photographs, letters, films, recordings and more will be accessible online and in the CU Boulder Archives.

Engineering and Science Inquiry Projects in Rural Schools
Senior Professional Research Associate Daniel Knight and Professor Michael Hannigan
Department of Mechanical Engineering
Associate Dean Joseph Polman
School of Education

This program provides students from high schools in Delta, Weld, Washington, Yuma, Mesa and Arapahoe counties with the opportunity to conduct engineering research. The high schoolers work closely with their teachers and CU Boulder researchers to design projects that investigate local air quality issues, collecting samples using air quality monitors designed by Hannigan’s research group. Researchers are also piloting biological engineering projects.

Co-production of Embodied Climate Curriculum Gains STEAM
Associate Professor Beth Osnes, Department of Theatre & Dance
Assistant Professor Carl Simpson, CU Museum of Natural History and Department of Geological Sciences
Senior Educator Jim Hakala, CU Museum of Natural History
Doctoral Candidate Patrick Chandler, Department of Environmental Studies

An ongoing CU Boulder outreach program brings free kits containing real and cast fossils as well as lesson plans to schools statewide, and this new project is piloting additional ways to teach the curriculum. Working closely with teachers at Stober Elementary School in Jefferson County School District, the CU Boulder researchers are designing curricula that will help fourth- and fifth-graders learn about natural history through theatre, dance and movement.

The Communities Code program partners with families to help students learn computing skills. Photo by CU Science Discovery

A Greeley high school student presents her original air quality research. Photo by Oksana Schuppan, CU Boulder
Indigenous Connections at Rocky Mountain National Park
Professor Patricia Limerick and Research Associate Brooke Neely, Center of the American West
Associate Professor Clint Carroll and Assistant Professor Angelica Lawson
Department of Ethnic Studies and Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies
Professor Andrew Cowell, Linguistics and Center for Native American and Indigenous Studies
This partnership among Rocky Mountain National Park (RMNP), tribal nations and CU Boulder researchers is helping to deepen and expand the way information is shared about Native Americans who have connections to the region. The park is developing new exhibits and programs to better represent indigenous histories and ongoing tribal relationships to the area that will open in 2020.

Past, Present, Future: Exploring Boulder's Natural Environment
Professor Katharine Suding
Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR)
Professor Suzanne Anderson and Associate Professor Noah Moleotch
Department of Geological Sciences and INSTAAR
Education and Outreach Coordinator Alexandra Rose, Niwot Ridge Long-Term Ecological Research Program
Professional Research Assistant Eric Parrish, INSTAAR
Associate Director Sabre Duren, Hydrologic Sciences Graduate Program and INSTAAR
The Boulder Creek Critical Zone Observatory, the Niwot Ridge Long-Term Ecological Research Program, and the Center for Water, Earth Science and Technology have partnered with the Museum of Boulder to create a bilingual art exhibit of the Boulder Creek watershed and a climate change awareness program at the museum. The goal is to share educational resources with youth and adults that explain the changing Boulder environment.

Partnership to Strengthen Systemwide Science Education
Professor Erin Marie Furtak, Assistant Professor Melissa Braaten and Doctoral Candidate Caitlin Fine
School of Education
Colorado adopted new academic standards for science in 2018 that incorporate everyday, practical approaches to teaching scientific content. The Aurora Public School District is implementing the new standards and asked School of Education researchers to help them develop culturally and linguistically responsive units and assessments that accurately measure student progress.
Shakespeare and Violence Prevention in Schools
Senior Research Associate Beverly Kingston and Research Assistant Laurie Keith
Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence
Associate Professor Kevin Rich and Associate Professor Tamara Meneghini
Department of Theatre & Dance
Outreach Director Amanda Giguere and Outreach Coordinator Heidi Schmidt, Colorado Shakespeare Festival

This project works to reduce bullying and violence in Colorado schools. Using the latest anti-bullying research, faculty, staff and students have created Shakespeare performances and workshops for students in grades 3–12. The goal of the project is to spark conversations about violence and school safety, and how to speak out against bullying. Plays this year include The Tempest and Romeo and Juliet.

Colorado Shakespeare Festival presents its anti-bullying program in area schools. Photo by Jennifer M. Koskinen

BROCHURE DESIGN TEAM

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Serving Colorado, Engaging the World

Discover how CU Boulder faculty, staff and students are reaching out and impacting communities around the state and beyond.

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