



# **CU BOULDER OUTREACH AWARDS**

**2020–21**



Office for Outreach and Engagement  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER



## A MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PROVOST

As we move through the current issues facing our world, the role of outreach and engagement has never been more crucial. In the upcoming year, the university will continue its commitment to supporting public outreach and community engagement projects that connect university research, teaching and creative work with communities in Colorado and beyond.

The CU Boulder Outreach Committee received 64 outstanding Outreach Award proposals this year. We are very pleased to announce that for 2020–21 the Office of the Chancellor, Office of the Provost and Division of Continuing Education will fund 28 projects that collaborate with communities to address complex societal challenges.

During the 2020–21 academic year, project teams will reach beyond the university to partner with nonprofits, schools, government agencies, businesses and more. While meeting with community members in person may not be possible, CU Boulder faculty, staff and students are finding innovative and creative ways of adapting their programs to virtual environments.

This important work embodies both CU Boulder's role as a comprehensive public research university and 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 are building community throughout our state, region and world during these uncertain and tumultuous times.

Sincerely,

**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

The CU Boulder Outreach Awards fund faculty-led outreach and engagement projects that connect faculty research, teaching and creative work with public needs. Staff as well as graduate and undergraduate students play crucial roles in advancing these projects. Award support has been used to leverage additional funding from other sources.

The CU Boulder Outreach Committee, which is composed of faculty and staff from many disciplines, selects the projects that receive outreach 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, helps to ensure that projects are of the highest quality by consulting with potential awardees and managing the application process.

For more information on how to apply for an outreach award, visit [colorado.edu/outreach/oe/outreach-awards](https://colorado.edu/outreach/oe/outreach-awards)

# 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*  
*and Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology,*  
*University of Colorado Museum of Natural History*

**Clinical Professor Carla Fredericks**  
*Colorado Law*

**Associate Professor Jennifer Hayghe**  
*College of Music*

**Associate Professor Jill Litt**  
*Environmental Studies Program*

**Associate Professor Kelty Logan**  
*College of Media, Communication and Information*

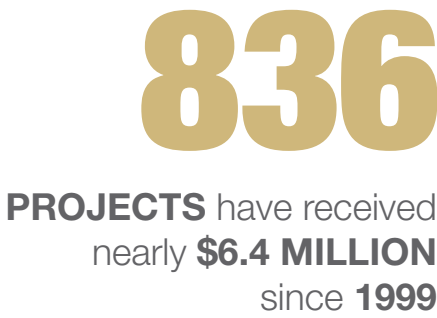
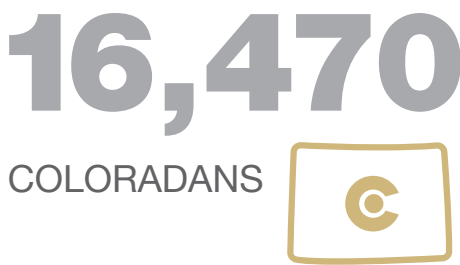
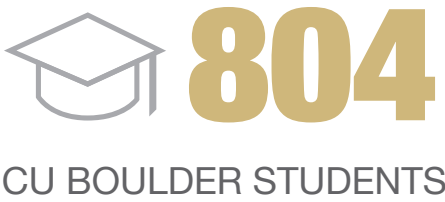
**Associate Professor Enrique López**  
*School of Education*

**David Meens**  
*Director, Office for Outreach and Engagement*

**Senior Instructor Don Oest**  
*Leeds School of Business*

**Professor Joe Ryan**  
*Department of Civil, Environmental*  
*and Architectural Engineering*  
*College of Engineering and Applied Science*

# THIS YEAR’S AWARDS IMPACT



2020-21 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 graduate students valuable educational experience. Researchers will be piloting telehealth visits in the coming year, which may allow the clinic to expand services to rural Colorado communities. The clinic operates on a sliding scale that allows low-income families to access these services at low to no cost.

Brain Behavior Clinic and Boulder County Homelessness

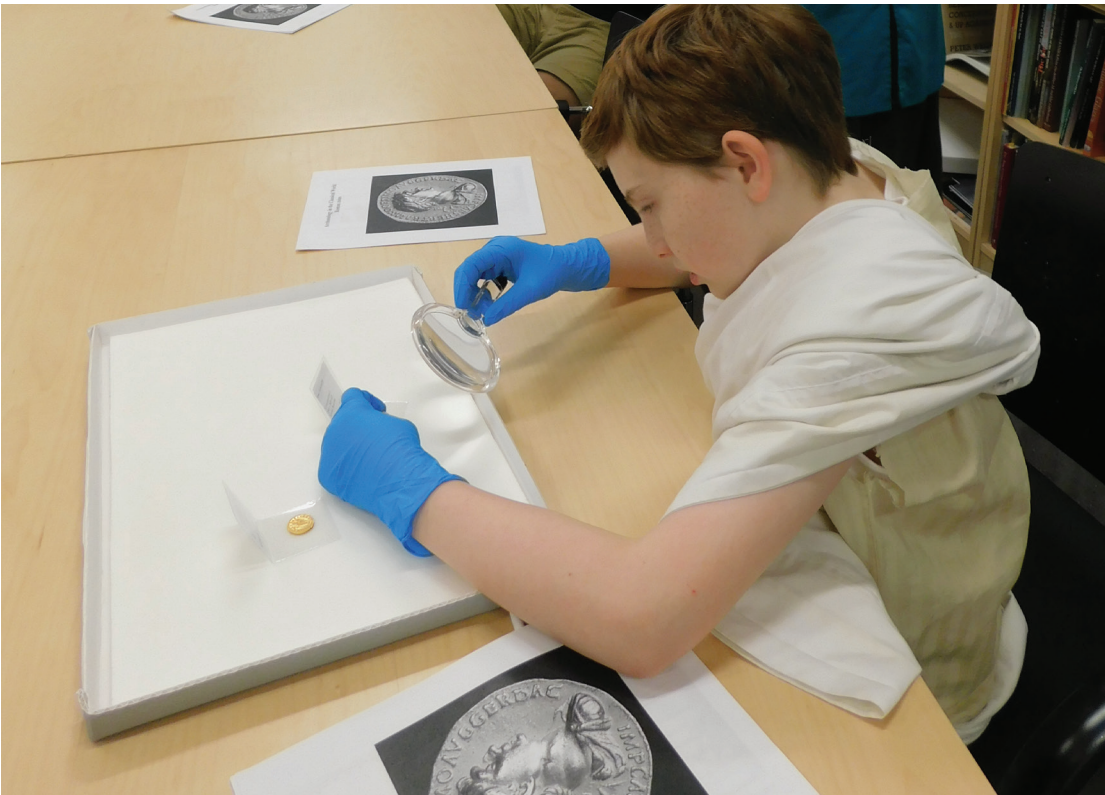
Associate Clinical Professor Emily Richardson, Department of Psychology and Neuroscience

Chronically homeless people have high rates of undiagnosed cognitive disabilities. This partnership with the Boulder County Shelter for the Homeless, the People’s Clinic and other centers helps to identify and support those who have cognitive deficits. Through the clinic, Richardson and her graduate students provide neuropsychological evaluations in person and through telehealth visits, which can be used to access disability benefits.

Colorado Classics Day 2020

Professor Dimitri Nakassis and Assistant Professor Zachary Herz, Department of Classics

The program is for middle and high school students from across the state with an interest in ancient Greece and Rome. In October, the classics department will host an online Colorado Classics Day for students around the state, which is designed to broaden students’ understanding of classical language and culture, and their relevance to today.



Middle school student checks out ancient artifacts as part of Colorado Classics Day at CU Boulder. Photo by Reina Callier, CU Boulder

PROGRAM IN FOCUS

Literacy Practicum

Professor Kira Hall, Department of Linguistics

As part of an undergraduate linguistics course, this program partners with literacy organizations in Boulder. CU Boulder students work with children and adults to help them improve reading and writing skills, applying targeted teaching strategies and gaining valuable educational and personal experience. Participants will pilot innovative online instructional methods this year.

Started in  
2007

Involved  
800+  
CU Boulder students

Served  
2,000  
community members



“Our practicum would be impossible without the consistent and generous support we have received from Outreach Award funding over the last decade, which has enabled us to create an innovative and well-loved program by students of all ages.”

—Professor Kira Hall



CU Boulder undergrad and elementary school students display a book they made as part of the Literacy Practicum. Photo by Andrew Ting, CU Boulder



### **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 communities across the state that are underserved by the arts. In May, the students will offer classes, workshops and performances in Paonia in partnership with schools, a senior citizens group, local nonprofits and community arts organizations.

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## SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

### **2020 Children's Book Festival**

Associate Professor Bridget Dalton, *Literacy Studies*

This festival brings together families, K-12 teachers and community members to celebrate literacy and allows CU Boulder students to learn how to develop a community event. Education faculty, alumni and students, together with the Boulder Book Store, will partner on an online festival this fall, hoping to attract nationally known diverse authors, include participation from underrepresented groups and coordinate author visits with local schools.



Author Emily France talks to participants at the 2019 Children's Book Festival. *Photo by Bridget Dalton, CU Boulder*

### **Family Inquiry on Elementary Reading and Digital Literacy**

Assistant Professor Silvia Noguérón-Liu

Bilingual children learning English have unique needs that can be overlooked in the classroom. Through online and in-person workshops and a summer literacy program, this project connects researchers and teachers with families of elementary school children to collaboratively create resources to enhance reading and digital learning at school and at home. A key aim is to help minority families feel part of the school's decision-making process.

### **Public Impact Project on Affordable and Quality Housing**

Executive Director Roudy Hildreth and Faculty Co-Director Siomara Valladaries, *CU Engage*  
Graduate Research Assistant Beatriz Salazar

Housing prices in Boulder have nearly doubled over the past 10 years and rents are also rising, placing significant burdens on low-income residents some of whom are being evicted. This community-initiated, student-driven project seeks to leverage CU Boulder's resources and partner with multiple community groups, housing organizations, policymakers and the public to address affordable housing issues.

### **Special Educator Roles in Multi-Tiered System of Supports**

Research Associate Professor John Hoover

Culturally and linguistically diverse learners are disproportionately placed in special education nationwide, particularly in rural schools. As part of an ongoing partnership, education faculty members collaborate with Eagle County and Roaring Fork school districts in Colorado to improve instruction, assessment and referrals for diverse learners. Currently, the project is focused on increasing the role of special educator teachers in developing best practices.



Associate Professor John Hoover and Eagle County School District educators discuss inclusive teaching practices. *Photo by Hannah Fletcher, CU Boulder*

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## GRADUATE SCHOOL

### **Colombian Displaced Communities: Planning and Urban Design Seminar**

Assistant Professor Jota Samper, *Program in Environmental Design*

Through a six-week summer course, environmental design students study and work in an unplanned settlement near Medellín, Colombia, which was formed when people fled the city because of violence. The 10,400 residents have created infrastructure, businesses and community centers from the ground up. During 2021, students will collaborate (possibly online) with residents to mitigate landslides, map water access and plan how to enhance public spaces.



# COLORADO LAW

## **The Acequia Project: Helping San Luis Valley Farmers**

Professor Sarah Krakoff

Deputy Director Shaun LaBarre, *Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment*

This project provides free legal assistance to low-income and predominately Hispanic farmers in the San Luis Valley whose water rights are at risk. CU Boulder law students, attorneys and community partners work closely with local farmers or irrigators to draft bylaws for their irrigation ditches (acequias) that capture runoff from mountain snowmelt, so they can take advantage of Colorado laws and protect the traditional ways acequias operate.

## **Constitutional Literacy in Colorado High Schools**

Professor Suzette Malveaux, Adjunct Professor Matthew Cushing,  
Clinical Professor Colene Robinson and Senior Assistant Dean Jennifer Sullivan

This project through the Byron R. White Center in Colorado Law is designed to give Colorado high school students deeper knowledge of the Constitution so they can better advocate for constitutional rights in their communities. Law students will work remotely with schools statewide through a Constitution Day program in September and also prepare students for Colorado and national moot court competitions, which will likely be offered virtually.



High school students present their case to judges as part of a Colorado Law moot competition. *Photo by Ariel Amaru, CU Boulder*

## **Criminal Clinic/City of Boulder ID Project**

Clinical Professor Ann England

Colorado Law's Criminal Defense Clinic works with the city of Boulder to help homeless clients charged with illegal camping or other misdemeanors. Through this program, law students serve as public defenders, advocating for their clients in court. In addition, the program helps homeless people obtain identification, transportation and housing deposits, which are the biggest barriers to finding places to live.

## **Expanding Representation for Colorado's Workers**

Associate Clinical Professor Zachary Mountin

Low-income workers struggle to find legal representation when they have a dispute with their employer. Through Colorado Law's Civil Practice Clinic, law students help workers understand and fight for their employment rights. The clinic partners with government agencies and nonprofits to identify workers who need legal support, and is anticipating more requests in the coming year from workers seeking unemployment benefits and earned wages.

## **Implementing Indigenous People's Rights through the UN Declaration**

Professor Kristen Carpenter

Colorado Law teamed up with the Native American Rights Fund in 2019 to determine how the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples could address urgent tribal legal issues, including land loss, religious freedoms, language rights and child welfare. Tribal leaders from the Shawnee, Euchee, Muscogee and Cherokee nations asked the legal team to create educational materials and virtual training sessions, which will be piloted this year.

## **Supporting Native Voting Rights during a Global Pandemic**

Clinical Professor Carla Fredericks

This project builds on the work of First Peoples Worldwide, which trained and dispatched non-partisan election observers to Colorado polling places in 2018 to ensure tribal members could vote amid confusing and changing laws. In the midst of the pandemic, barriers to voting will only increase; this project will provide tribal voters in 50 states with essential online and printed materials about voter ID requirements, registration, polling places and more.



Colorado Law students working as election observers prepare for flight to North Dakota. *Photo by Carla Fredericks, CU Boulder*



## COLLEGE OF MUSIC

### PROGRAM IN FOCUS

#### Middle School Ensembles Program

Associate Professor David Rickels

This program provides local middle school students with an additional (possibly virtual) musical ensemble experience through a partnership with band and orchestra teachers in Boulder Valley, St. Vrain, Adams-12 and other school districts. 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 the middle school bands.

Started in  
**2007**

Served  
**1,300**  
middle school students

Involved  
**400+**  
CU Boulder students



*"Outreach Award funding enables us to keep this program accessible to all students in our community. We have never turned a student away for financial reasons, and having this funding means we can reduce or waive fees so that everyone can participate."*

—Associate Professor David Rickels



CU Boulder undergraduates and middle schoolers rehearse as part of the Middle School Ensemble Program. Photo by David Rickels, CU Boulder

## RESEARCH INSTITUTES

#### Girls at the Museum Exploring Science (GAMES)

Assistant Professor Jingchun Li

CU Museum of Natural History and Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Science Education Coordinator Gianna Sullivan, CU Museum of Natural History

GAMES encourages fourth- through eighth-grade girls who are low-income or Latina to pursue their interest in science. Through weekly after-school visits to the CU Museum (which will be either in person or virtual this year), students explore archaeology, botany, entomology, paleontology and zoology through hands-on activities and direct interaction with scientists and museum professionals. Family science nights introduce families to the museum's resources.



Middle schoolers participate in science program at the CU Museum of Natural History. Photo by Gianna Sullivan, CU Boulder

## INTERDISCIPLINARY AND FACULTY GROUP AWARDS

#### CU Restoration Ecology Experiential Learning Program

Professor Tim Seastedt

Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology and Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research (INSTAAR)

Professor Sharon Collinge, Department of Environmental Studies

Instructor Tracy Halward, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Academic Services Associate Director Kristin Lopez, Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology

This partnership with Nature Kids/Jovenes de la Naturalez, the Wildlands Restoration Volunteers youth program and area high schools seeks to combine learning with hands-on restoration of landscapes. CU Boulder undergraduate and graduate students work with underserved youth in the community to introduce them to ecological restoration, environmental science careers, and ways to improve air and water quality.

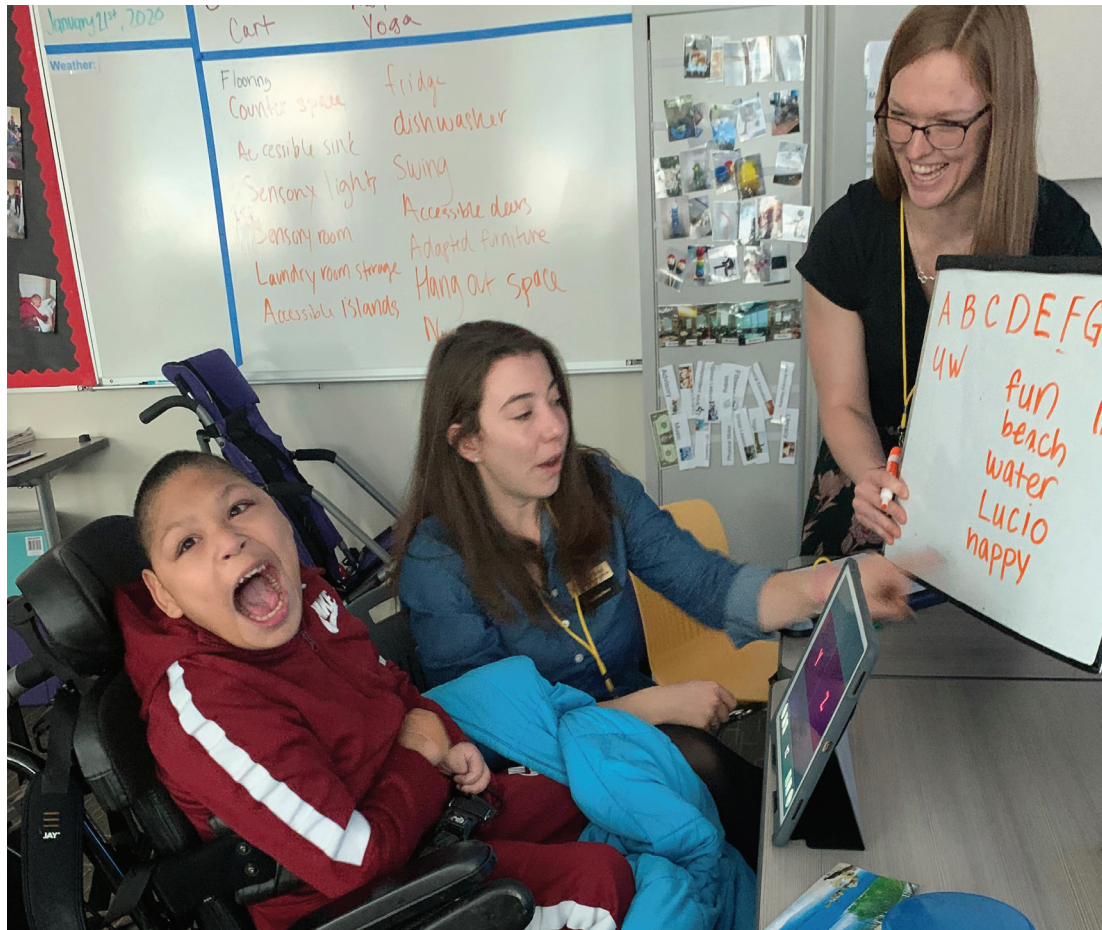


### **Empowering Economically Disadvantaged Adolescents with Complex Communication Needs**

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 virtual and in-person training for speech pathologists, educators and other staff at the Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST). The 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 and also support their families.



CU Boulder speech-language pathology graduate students help DSST students with writing activities. *Photo by Sherri Tennant, CU Boulder*

### **Expanding Awareness of Colorado's Latinx History and Culture**

Distinguished Professor Emerita Marjorie McIntosh, *Department of History*

Associate Professor Arturo Aldama, *Department of Ethnic Studies*

Senior Instructor Kent Willmann, *School of Education*

Director Jason Ramero and Advisory Council Member Linda Arroyo-Holmstrom, *Latino History Project*

The Latino History Project is a grassroots initiative that collects and preserves Colorado Latino history, creates online K–12 resources for teachers and the public, and provides workshops on how to use these materials. This year, CU Boulder researchers and community members will continue remote work in Boulder County, Pueblo, Trinidad and Alamosa, and will start collaborating remotely with groups in Denver, Carbondale and the Roaring Fork Valley.

### **Indigenous Connections at Rocky Mountain National Park**

Professor Patricia Limerick and Research Associate Brooke Neely, *Center of the American West*  
Associate Professor Clint Carroll, Assistant Professor Angelica Lawson and Doctoral Student Natasha Myhal, *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, 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. To better represent indigenous histories and ongoing tribal relationships to the area, the park is developing new exhibits, story maps and programs that are scheduled to open in 2021.



Rocky Mountain National Park *Photo by Emily Musumecchi, CU Boulder*

### **Lyrpeutic Storytelling Project: Urban Youth Learning Initiative**

Assistant Professor Kalonji Nzigna, *School of Education*

Associate Professor Arturo Aldama and Doctoral Student Shawn O'Neal, *Department of Ethnic Studies*

This project addresses wellness outcomes for Latinx, Indigenous and Black youth in Denver, who are less likely than white youth to seek mental health care. By leveraging community-based narratives about healing, youth learn from community members about cultural healing practices and mental health care. Youth participants will recite and record these narratives as hip-hop and spoken word performances.



### Pesticide Exposures in Agricultural Workers and their Families

Professor Shelly Miller, *Department of Mechanical Engineering*

Research Associate Lupita Montoya, *Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering*

More than one billion pounds of pesticides are used annually in the United States, mostly in agriculture. This means agricultural workers are routinely exposed to pesticides that cause cancer, birth defects and more, often bringing these chemicals home on their clothing. In partnership with local nonprofits and city governments, this project will assess how pesticide exposures impact agricultural workers and their families in Boulder County.

### Rural District Partnerships for Post-Pandemic Planning

Professor Valerie Otero, *School of Education*

Professor Angela Bielefeldt, *Department of Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering*

Director of Curriculum and Assessment Shelly Belleau, Director of Professional Learning Emily Quinty and Director of District Partnerships Jonathan Mann, *School of Education*

High school physics instructors are often asked to lead engineering courses, but in many cases do not have the background to teach these concepts. Through a partnership with school districts and cooperative education services in northeast Colorado, researchers with the CU Boulder-based PEER physics program will provide virtual professional development and engineering and physics classroom resources to science teachers in rural districts.



High school students explore waves in a course using a CU Boulder-designed physics curriculum. Photo by Glenn Asakawa, CU Boulder

## PROGRAM IN FOCUS

### Shakespeare and Violence Prevention in Schools

Director 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 seeks 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 third through 12th graders to spark conversations about violence, school safety and how to speak out against bullying. Classroom workshops this year will include recordings of “Comedy of Errors” and “Much Ado about Nothing” and virtual discussions.

Began in  
**2011**

Total impact:  
**110,000+**  
K-12 students

Reaching out to all  
**64**  
Colorado counties



*“This funding has been instrumental in sharing our program statewide and getting the research on what works to prevent violence into the hands of community partners. We’ve been able to develop a program that builds empathy and connectedness in young people, key ingredients of a healthier school climate.”*

—Senior Research Associate Beverly Kingston



Colorado Shakespeare Festival actor performs “The Tempest” as part of a violence prevention program. Photo by Patrick Campbell, CU Boulder.



### **School of Education-University Hill Partnership for Equity**

Associate Professor Andrea Dyrness and Professor Deborah Palmer, *School of Education*

Assistant Professor Enrique Sepúlveda, *Department of Ethnic Studies*

A commitment to equity led University Hill Elementary School administrators to reach out to CU Boulder researchers for help developing educational support for students who are Latinx, English language learners and/or eligible for free or reduced lunch. Through professional development and after school programs, the partnership seeks to engage racially and linguistically marginalized students with culturally appropriate resources.

### **Science-Engineering Inquiry Collaborative In Rural Colorado**

Senior Research Associate Daniel Knight, Professor Michael Hannigan and Associate Professor Greg Whiting,

*Department of Mechanical Engineering*

Associate Dean and Professor 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 soil quality monitoring projects.



Student from Lone Star School in Otis, Colorado measures air quality on a local farm using hand-held monitor.

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## **BROCHURE TEAM**


### **Writer and Editor**

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### **Graphic Designer and Production**

Emily Musumecchi





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



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[colorado.edu/outreach/ooe/outreach-awards](https://colorado.edu/outreach/ooe/outreach-awards)

**Be passionate. Be inspired. Be connected.**

**Be Boulder.**