



# Office for Outreach and Engagement

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

## What's New with the Community Perspectives Program?

Greetings! It's hard to believe that it's been more than a year since the first CU Boulder Community Perspectives cohort visited Southeastern Colorado. Back in June of 2022, our staff and participating faculty members learned so much in conversation with you.

We are pleased to announce that a new cohort will be selected this fall. This group will travel to Southeastern Colorado in June 2024 to hear directly from local leaders, spend time getting to know your communities and identify potential partnerships that address community goals and enhance cohort members' work.

Community Perspectives is a program from CU Boulder's Office for Outreach and Engagement that supports faculty from across campus in connecting their research, teaching and creative work with community-led efforts to address identified needs and challenges in Colorado communities beyond the Front Range.

The 2024 cohort will draw upon information and themes that were shared during the 2022 Community Perspectives Tour. If you have additional ideas or specific requests for ways your organization or community group might connect with CU Boulder, please let us know. This will help us recruit participants from academic disciplines that align with specific community needs.

We look forward to continuing our work together and exploring new possibilities.

Sincerely,

David Meens, Director of Outreach and Engagement  
University of Colorado Boulder

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## Partnership Updates



### CSU Pueblo & CU Boulder

Tin Tin Su, CU Boulder professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology, is partnering with CSU Pueblo on two projects.

The first is with Jim Carsella, professor of chemistry and director of MAPS Foundry. Su and Carsella are studying the effects of lead levels on DNA and dispositions for cancer. Lead has often been studied in relation to neurological issues but less so for its connection to cancer.

Carsella sent Su soil samples with high, medium and normal lead levels from a superfund site near Pueblo. A summer research student from CU Boulder is exposing fruit flies and human cells to purchased samples of pure

lead and the soil samples from Pueblo. Results from the samples exposed to pure lead, which are helping to design the study's experimental conditions, are expected this fall. CU Boulder's Office for Outreach and Engagement and the University of Colorado's Cancer Center are funding the collaboration. Thanks to the recently received grant from the cancer center, the group will add the study of cadmium and arsenic—toxic metals found with lead in the soil samples from the superfund site. The results will advance knowledge about the risks to residents near the superfund site —most of whom are lower-income and minority community members.

The second Project between Su and CSU Pueblo is a speaker exchange. CSU Pueblo has chosen CU Boulder Postdoctoral Research Fellow Arturo Barbachano-Guerrero from the BioFrontiers Institute and Professor Andreas Hoenger, Department of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, to visit CSU Pueblo during the 2023-24 academic year.



## Pueblo High School Students Studying Air Quality

Nine Pueblo-area high school students participated in a half-day camp about monitoring air quality in July. The Boys and Girls Club of Pueblo County and CU Boulder's Science-Engineering Inquiry Collaborative in Rural Colorado (SCENIC) partnered to host the club members and four of the club's staff members. Three CU Boulder engineering students lead the camp under the supervision of Associate Research Professor Daniel Knight.

This fall, Pueblo East High School will welcome SCENIC to a physics class to implement a semester-long program. SCENIC works with Colorado high school students on science, technology, engineering and math to develop student-driven, inquiry-based science projects related to air and soil quality. Graduate and undergraduate CU students learn the SCENIC curriculum and prepare to mentor K-12 students through an academic course. CU Boulder's Office for Outreach and Engagement provides funding for SCENIC.



## Marketing Canyons & Plains of Southeast Colorado

Canyons & Plains of Southeast Colorado worked with a group of CU Boulder MBA students on the organization's digital marketing. As part of their class project, the students audited the website, prepared blog posts, and ran a Facebook ad campaign.

"From the Canyons & Plains side, we have enjoyed working with the students," said Board President Rick Wallner. "I have been impressed by their talents and ideas, and we would be happy to extend this relationship for future classes."



## Who's Using Trails in Fremont County?

Fremont Adventure Recreation (FAR) is partnering with three CU Boulder graduate students to collect qualitative and quantitative data regarding the local economic and quality of life impact of trails to the Royal Gorge Region—the first study of its kind in the area.

Thirty-nine trails covering 58 miles have been built as part of efforts to drive outdoor recreation to help diversify Fremont County's economy. Students are surveying trail users in and around Canon City at three major trailheads: Royal Gorge, South Canon, and Oil Well Flats Trail Systems. The students' final report will assist the Canon City Council and Fremont County Tourism Council with discussions and decisions about ongoing stewardship of the trails.

Nathan Boyer-Rechlin, Eric Howard, and Joshua Corning are students in the Masters of the Environment professional program at CU Boulder. They are conducting the Fremont County research as part of a capstone project required to earn their degrees. Data collection is happening throughout the summer and the final report will be completed this fall. The Office for Outreach and Engagement provided funding support for this project.



## The 2023 Trinidad Water Festival & the Acequia Assistance Program

University of Colorado Law School students Oliver Skelly and Ellen Beckert represented the Acequia Assistance Project at the 2023 Trinidad Water Festival. Below is an excerpt from a Q & A with Skelly and Beckert.

### What do you think the pay-off of the festival is for the community members there?

Beckert: Community members receive an entire day of celebration with good food and great conversation. Ideas are shared and new connections are made.

### What does CU Boulder get from participating?

Beckert: For our booth in particular, we made some inroads with both the students, teachers, and local community members and organizations of Trinidad and the surrounding area. We should be able to leverage this into new and exciting partnership opportunities to come. Moreover, students who attended our booth are hopefully inspired to learn more about acequias. This was especially rewarding seeing as many of the students came up from New Mexico, a place with a thriving acequia community.

### Tell me your favorite story from the day?

Skelly: It's more so a general sentiment, but I really liked how every student group realized the immense tradeoffs between the prior appropriation doctrine and the acequia system of water sharing. Without explicitly saying "high transaction costs," students were able to identify how much more work the acequia system required, while also acknowledging the more equitable outcomes.

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## Upcoming Events



### Protecting Antarctica: Science, Diplomacy and Storytelling from the Bottom of the World

Come to CU on the Weekend and listen about Antarctica, and how beyond its extreme beauty, it also serves as a critically important global commons.

Saturday, September 23 · 1–2:30 p.m. · CASE Auditorium



### Defining Beer in the Ancient World

Examine the earliest archaeological evidence of beer and brewing and explore how the very terms used to damn and scrutinize beer brewing and drinking populations were used later and still shape the terms and definitions we use today.

Friday, November 3 · 1–2:30 p.m. · CASE Auditorium

You can choose to attend in person or virtually. Both formats will include audience Q & A, closed captioning and, by request at least one week in advance, ASL interpretation. All CU on the Weekend lectures are free and open to the public. **Learn more at [colorado.edu/outreach/ooe/cu-weekend](https://colorado.edu/outreach/ooe/cu-weekend)**



**View the 2022 Community Perspectives Listening Tour Report**

