

Call for SPIKE Faculty Fellows: AY 26-27

Overview & Expectations

We have resources and support for CU Boulder faculty who are critical to our emerging global leadership in sustainability education. The founding of the new SPIKE Center for Sustainability Education (SCSE) is critical to this success.

The timely theme for the AY 26-27 SPIKE Faculty Fellow cohort will be **information integrity and sustainability education**. This theme includes research on climate change and environmental relations that intersect with building societal trust, fostering healthy public spheres of engagements, mis-/disinformation campaigns, and transparency of data. We seek applicants to contribute to intellectual and public understandings of research, risk assessment, and response to the contemporary moment we face. We particularly welcome faculty teaching classes and engaging with students in ways that relate to sustainability that do or should qualify for the CU Boulder Common Curriculum skills of information literacy, critical thinking, and communication, as well as the habits of mind of discovery, reflection, and engagement. We are excited for applications from alpine scientists engaging in public science communication to social scientists of disaster planning to historians of ecofascist propaganda to experts in deep fakes, to name just a few relevant areas of relevant expertise.

SPIKE Faculty Fellows will be expected to provide critical faculty voice, perspective and labor-power to link centers and institutes with broader CU Boulder efforts. Primary functions and responsibilities of each SPIKE Faculty Fellow include approximately 5 hours a month, including delivering the May 2027 Sustainability Across the Curriculum training and resources for the training, as well as regular meetings throughout the academic year, which will be:

Tuesday, September 15, 2026, 4-6pm

Longer retreat: Friday, October 30, 2026, noon-5pm (catered lunch provided)

Tuesday, November 10, 2026, 4-6pm

Tuesday, December 1, 2026, 4-6pm

Tuesday, January 19, 2027, 4-6pm

Longer retreat: Friday, February 26, 2027, noon-5pm (catered lunch provided)

Tuesday, March 9, 2027, 4-6pm

Tuesday, April 6, 2027, 4-6pm

Sustainability Across the Curriculum Training: May 5-6, 2027, 9am-6pm

Outcomes from SPIKE Faculty Fellows Accomplishments

There are many potential outcomes from SPIKE Faculty Fellows efforts that benefit CU Boulder. In coordination with administration, staff, students, and faculty colleagues across campus, the AY 2026-2027 class of SPIKE Faculty Fellows will collaborate to:

- co-create and coordinate a campus-wide agenda for transformational learning (*note: this is not curriculum work, which will be vetted through a separate yet coordinated SPIKE Curriculum Ambassadors program*)

- provide information, deliberate, and illuminate best practices for sustainability education to help inform broader efforts across campus and as an international leader
- commiserate on barriers we have faced in sustainability education and praxis
- advocate for innovative initiatives that energize us to actualize pedagogy for more sustainable futures
- cultivate faculty networks of support across campus, including serving as liaisons to centers and institutes across campus
- collectively prepare and deliver a faculty training on campus, including a digital toolbox and vetting applicants from participants
- identify, assess, and collect sustainability education materials for teaching and learning
- publish a coauthored report (and perhaps more, such as a coedited book or a campus conference) on information integrity and sustainability education

Eligibility

If interested in joining the next cohort of SPIKE Faculty Fellow, please submit the following materials by March 2, 2026, by noon MT to spikecenter@colorado.edu. Decisions will be announced by March 13, 2026.

1. a cover letter (no more than 2 pages, 12-point font) describing:

- (a) a brief summary or highlights of your leadership, commitment, and/or innovation in the area of information integrity and sustainability education (even if not explicitly using those phrases), as well as interdisciplinary collaborations on or off campus; SPIKE fellows in this cohort are welcomed to identify related courses, campus curriculum, or public engagement curriculum goals;
- (b) any CU Boulder centers or institutes with which you are affiliated or involved in any meaningful way) to identify your existing network(s) on campus, as well as any global networks related to the UN or other scholarly or governmental entities working on sustainability and information;
- (c) one to two sessions you would be excited to offer as part of Sustainability Across the Curriculum Training on campus, including how and what—as well as which of the three themes the training would most support (sources of information pollution, creating climate evidence, or information literacy);
- (d) what you think is—or easily could become—touted as our campus’ greatest asset in sustainability education leadership

2. your current CV

Criteria

Letters must highlight the applicant's potential to lead significant collaborative projects, develop vision and deliver novel and impactful scholarly work.

- Demonstrate research expertise in and a compelling point of view on the theme

- Demonstrate pedagogical expertise and/or interest
- Communicate experience working collaboratively across disciplines
- Share ability and capacity to make time to fulfill the Fellowship responsibilities
- Willingness to coauthor a report on information integrity with an openness to additional collaborations, if a fellow chooses

We encourage faculty across campus to apply. Applicants must be rostered faculty (tenure track or non-tenure track teaching professor or research track with noted regular student engagement) at CU Boulder and able to fulfill the responsibilities of SPIKE Faculty Fellowships in person on campus.

NOTE: Involvement in another SPIKE or sustainability-related fellowship/role on campus will not preclude selection; however, given the deep time commitments of this fellowship, we ask faculty to recognize this fellowship is a significant investment of time and energy.

Process

SPIKE Faculty Fellows are selected by the leadership team of the SPIKE Center for Sustainability Education. As needed for subject area expertise, we also will invite faculty trainers to lead sessions in Sustainability Across the Curriculum that are not Fellows. Service as a SPIKE Faculty Fellow will begin in August 2026 and continue through May 15, 2027. Compensation is \$10,000 and will be issued in accordance with CU's [Additional Compensation Guidelines for Faculty](#). The sessions will be co-designed and facilitated by Prof. Phaedra C. Pezzullo (CMDI/COMM), Faculty Associate Director of Faculty Engagement of SCSE, and Prof. Max Boykoff (CIRES/ENVS), Executive Director of SCSE.