

The University of Colorado  
is in your community . . .

in Western Colorado

CU is in your community

What do you think of when we talk about the University of Colorado? You probably picture our four campuses—Boulder, Denver, Health Sciences Center, and Colorado Springs. But the fact is, CU is committed to western Colorado cities, towns, and rural landscapes beyond these campuses.

How?

In western Colorado, CU brings cultural, science, technical, expertise, and medical innovations to citizens from Cheyenne to Grand. For example, faculty from CU's Health Sciences Center have brought master's level nursing courses to various mountain and Western Slope communities so full-time nurses don't have to travel to Denver for continuing education.

Why are I telling you this now? Our programs are an integral component of CU's new Total Learning Environment (TLE) initiative. The TLE is redefining the University of Colorado to provide a more exciting and relevant learning experience for students on our four campuses by supporting innovations in learning, being more responsive to our students and other practitioners using technology to improve teaching, learning, research, and management; and enhancing the University's infrastructure. Beyond the campus, the TLE is expanding the definition of a university by developing distance learning opportunities, providing access to a wealth of university-related information, and encouraging research and outreach programs that directly benefit communities throughout our state. In short, the TLE is responding to the needs of Colorado.

I invite you to take advantage of CU's research centers and faculty, students, and staff expertise. This brochure highlights just a small sampling of our programs. You will find a more comprehensive listing on our website. With our website on the back panel for details. When Coloradoans participate in these CU opportunities, everyone benefits. Together, we can ensure that the University of Colorado continues to be a vital resource for Colorado's future.

John C. Buckner  
President John C. Buckner

THE SOUTHERN PLAINS  
THE FRONT RANGE  
WESTERN SLOPES

**KEEPING DOWNSTREAMS HEALTHY**

**Keeping Downstreams Healthy**  
People aren't the only ones with health concerns. The health of communities, too, can be affected by environmental and economic factors. In cities and towns, the downstream reality often means that people breathe into the whole community. Recognizing that fact, the Colorado Council for Community Development on the Denver campus obtained grant funding and organized a workshop in conjunction with the Colorado Communities Revitalization Association to examine how communities can design and preserve healthy downstreams. Representatives from 27 communities met in Grand Junction to learn from national experts how a fact-based approach to determine programs can **revitalize their downstreams**. Grand Junction was selected as the workshop site because it provides a model of how good design, strategic promotion and marketing, organizational development, and economic strengthening can result in more dynamic community centers. Future events and programs promise to expand the reach of this comprehensive approach to downstream planning as that more Colorado communities can preserve the health of their downstreams.

**NEW LOUIS VALLEY HEALTH STUDIES**

**New Louis Valley Health Studies**  
Promoting longer, healthier lives. That's the goal of several health studies being conducted by Health Sciences Center faculty among Hispanic and non-Hispanic populations in the San Luis Valley. Researchers are gathering information about the prevalence, incidence, and risk factors associated with gene-environment-dependent diabetes in Hispanics. Type 2 diabetes, at its lowest, affects Hispanics two to four times as often as non-Hispanics and is a leading cause of death. In fact, it can **reduce life expectancy by half in ten years**. More than 3,000 San Luis Valley residents have participated in structured studies of diabetes, genetics, heart disease, and aging. With their help, CU researchers are providing information at the molecular level that promise insights for treatment and prevention of type 2 diabetes. Researchers already have published more than 70 articles about genetic and environmental risk factors that may contribute to the disease. This information is helping health care providers understand, prevent, and manage the disease more effectively.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ACCESS PROGRAM**

**Early Childhood Education Access Program**  
Having the educational needs of Colorado's youngest residents, particularly special needs children, can be a challenge in less-populated areas of the state. Denver campus education faculty offer a solution. They have taught courses required for both a master's degree in early childhood education and an endorsement in early childhood special education at locations including Douglas County, Clearwater Springs, and Steamboat Springs. A Personnel Preparation Grant from the U.S. Office of Education helps to fund courses for participating students. Graduate students are offered to educate children from birth to age-eight and at specialties in working with families from diverse cultures. Working as lead teachers, administrators in early childhood education centers, and consultants to school systems, these professionals help to **ensure quality education for the state's youngest learners**.

**SANJUANA CAMPUS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**

**Sanjuanita Campus Environmental Impact Report**  
When CU gets involved in communities around the state, it often works in partnership with local authorities and—in many cases—other educational institutions. These collaborations can bring complementary perspectives to local issues and can help communities **create the best solutions to challenging problems**. One such collaboration involved a team of Boulder campus students who wrote an environmental impact report for Sanjuanita County and Colorado Mountain College (CMC). CMC's building in Silverthorne had become inadequate to meet its student needs. CU students analyzed the campus situation, consulted with county, town, and college representatives, and evaluated expansion options. They studied not just aspects as the impact that a new building would bring to the area, wildlife, utility patterns, and housing for seasonal employees. They report concluded the viability of a building site later selected by local and college authorities. A new building will save Sanjuanita County college students time and resources by eliminating lengthy commutes and will provide additional economic development opportunities for the area.

**PROTECTING**

**Comanche County Flood Mitigation**  
No one can control the forces of nature, but education and prevention measures can help reduce the threat of natural hazards, such as floods. A spring break project involving Colorado Springs campus students, faculty, and staff, for example, has helped reduce flooding in Comanche County. Directed by the Center for Community Development and Design, and funded by the Colorado Office of Emergency Management, the program uses multiple educational and community development goals. Participants provided free labor for installing sump pumps, French drains, and other protective devices on selected properties in one of the county's prairie counties. They also conducted analyses of other properties and trained citizens in flood hazard mitigation techniques. Both students and county residents learned vital emergency management skills for this flood-prone area while engaging in a valuable cross-cultural experience that helped students learn about Hispanic community issues.