



# OFFICE OF ENGAGEMENT AND EXTENSION

## COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

### OUR HISTORY

Colorado State University connects communities across the state through the Office of Engagement and Extension. Beginning in 1914 with the Smith-Lever Act, the Cooperative Extension System was created, and the 4-H youth program was nationalized. Other major milestones include the establishment of the Colorado Water Center in 1965, CSU's continuing education division in 1967, and the Colorado Master Gardener Program in 1975. In 2006, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute was launched, and in 2010, the Office of Engagement and Extension was formally established, bringing these services together for the collective purpose of making the University's educational programs, services, and resources accessible to all.

**11K+**

**VOLUNTEERS**

with 4-H and CO Master Gardeners

**104K**

**YOUTH REACHED**

CO 4-H Youth Development Program - 2024

**4,000+**

**LEARNERS**

Professional and Continuing Education programs - 2024

**1,373**

**GRADUATES**

CSU Online - 2024

**1,200+**

**MEMBERS**

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute - 2024

### UNITS, PROGRAMS, CENTERS & INSTITUTES

- CSU Extension
- CSU Online
- Colorado Water Center
- Northeast Regional Engagement Center
- Professional and Continuing Education
- 4-H Youth Development
- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
- Colorado Master Gardeners

### KEY PRIORITIES

**Embracing service** with enthusiasm, curiosity, and an entrepreneurial spirit.

**Creating meaningful and reciprocal partnerships** in response to community needs.

**Catalyzing innovation** by bridging and integrating community and campus expertise.

**Meeting learners where they are** with solution-focused offerings and services in their communities.

Discover how OEE programs are solving unique challenges, advancing engagement and research, partnering with communities, and delivering educational programming and resources across Colorado.





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**RECENT HIGH-IMPACT WORKS**

<p><b>COLORADO DROUGHT ADVISORS</b></p>	<p>Colorado producers face substantial drought challenges, including reduced water availability and increased stress on crops and livestock. Extension established the Drought Advisors network in 2021 to enhance preparation and response among producers with three goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>1. Connect producers</b> with technical experts to develop tailored drought plans.</li><li><b>2. Build a robust network</b> to strengthen drought resilience.</li><li><b>3. Improve access</b> to planning resources through training sessions, comprehensive materials, and personalized consultations.</li></ol> <p>Through this effort, 18 producers have finalized drought plans, and an additional 26 plans are in progress.</p>
<p><b>COMET: CHANGING OUR MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL TRAJECTORY</b></p>	<p>CSU Extension leveraged its trusted reputation within the agricultural community and the public to <b>raise awareness about behavioral health and suicide prevention</b> across Colorado through the implementation of COMET in rural counties. Educational outreach to farmers, ranchers, healthcare providers, community members, and other stakeholders demonstrated critical knowledge gains regarding mental and financial stressors impacting agricultural workers, including the challenges of weather unpredictability, behavioral health struggles, and substance abuse.</p>
<p><b>NATIVE BEE WATCH COMMUNITY SCIENCE PROGRAM</b></p>	<p>Native Bee Watch is a community science program that trains and supports volunteers to <b>identify and monitor bees</b>. In 2024, 67 volunteers monitored bees and submitted data consistently throughout the summer, contributing over 4,000 plant/bee observations throughout the state. These observations are valuable ecological data that inform local conservation efforts.</p>
<p><b>LANDSCAPE FOR LIFE: SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAM</b></p>	<p>Parks and recreation departments are vital stewards of urban green spaces, influencing environmental quality and community well-being. By <b>empowering employees with sustainable landscaping expertise</b>, the Landscape for Life: Sustainable Cities program ensures these spaces are managed in ways that conserve natural resources, support biodiversity, and enhance urban resilience. In 2024, CSU Extension delivered six seven-session, in-person workshops designed for parks and recreation employees in partnership with three cities along the Front Range and with the horticulture staff at the Denver Zoo. Curriculum topics included soil health, water conservation, integrating native plants, sustainable design strategies, and maintenance practices tailored to urban parks and public spaces.</p>
<p><b>COLORADO WATER CENTER 2024 EXPANSIONS</b></p>	<p>CWC became the host institution for <b>Colorado Project Water Education Today</b> in September 2024, making it a one-stop shop for water education for students of all ages. Project WET trains K-12 educators across Colorado to bring innovative water science education into their classrooms.</p> <p>CWC expanded the <b>Colorado Water Fellows Program</b> in 2024 to engage five additional Colorado academic institutions. The 2024 Water Fellows cohort included 46 students from 35 unique majors and six institutions.</p>