



## Rural Centered

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Colorado Center for Rural Education

May 2023

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### How Inservice Stipends Support Rural Teachers

The [Colorado Center for Rural Education](#) and the [Colorado Department of Higher Education](#) work together to help alleviate the teacher shortage in rural Colorado school districts. To that end, we award [stipends](#) of up to \$6,000 to qualifying rural inservice educators who want to:

- Teach concurrent enrollment courses;
- Add an additional endorsement; or
- Fulfill a local faculty need.

The stipend offsets the cost to attend a qualifying program at one of Colorado's institutions of higher education. We asked three of the recipients to comment on how the stipend will help them achieve their academic and career goals.



#### Kristin Esposito

Kristin Esposito teaches third grade at Hudson Elementary School in the Weld County School District RE-3J in Hudson, Colorado. She said the stipend is helping her pursue a master's degree in educational equity and cultural diversity.

"Trying to pay for a master's degree while helping my oldest child through college was going to be a huge burden on my family," Esposito said. The stipend allows her to continue working toward her degree without having to take on student loans or getting a second job. "This degree will help me ensure that all of my students, especially emergent bilingual students, have access to quality instruction," said Esposito.

*Kristin Esposito, 3rd Grade Teacher, Hudson Elementary School, Weld County School District RE-3J, Hudson, Colorado*

#### Brie Sampson

Brie Sampson teaches fifth grade at Akron School District No. R-1 in Akron, Colorado. She plans to use the stipend to obtain a master's degree. "I set a goal for myself in 2018 to obtain a master's degree, before I even went into education," said Sampson. She's not sure what her area of concentration will be, but it will be education-related so that she can provide the best experience for all of her students.



*Brie Sampson, 5th Grade Teacher, Akron School District No.R-1, Akron, Colorado*



*Abigail Anderson, 1st Grade Teacher, CheyenneWells Elementary School, Cheyenne County School District RE-5, Cheyenne Wells, Colorado*

#### Abigail Anderson

Abigail Anderson teaches first grade at Cheyenne Wells Elementary School in the Cheyenne County School District RE-5 in Cheyenne Wells, Colorado. In the photo, she's decked out in the school team's (go Tigers!) gear for homecoming spirit week. "This stipend was much appreciated because it assisted me in continuing my education. I gained more knowledge that I can use with my students in our rural school district," said Anderson.

### UPCOMING APPLICATION TIMELINES

[Colorado Substitute Stipend](#) applications accepted: Ongoing

[Colorado Rural Student Teaching Stipend](#) applications for fall 2023 accepted: December 1, 2022 through May 31, 2023

[National Board Certified Teacher Stipend](#) applications for fall 2023 accepted: January 1, 2023 through May 31, 2023

[Rural Inservice Educator Stipend](#) applications for fall 2023 accepted: May 1, 2023 through August 31, 2023

[Colorado Rural Student Teaching Stipend](#) applications for spring 2024 accepted: July 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023

Visit TEACH Colorado's [Financial Aid and Scholarship Information](#) page for information about additional scholarships.

For financial aid available to in-service and aspiring educators, download the Colorado Department of Education's [Educator Recruitment and District Supports flyer](#).



### UNC Teacher Candidates Tour Rural CO Schools

On March 22, 2023, 15 University of Northern Colorado junior and senior teacher candidates took a bus tour of rural schools in several rural Colorado school districts. [Northeast Colorado BOCES](#) representatives gave a short presentation, where they shared information about northeast Colorado schools, the jobs currently available at those schools, and other resources available to teacher candidates in rural schools.



The teacher candidates spent the entire day with a supervising teacher in the Akron, Buffalo, Lone Star, Otis, or Yuma school districts. "Students were incredibly positive," said Tamara Durbin, Executive Director of the Northeast Colorado BOCES. "I thank everyone at UNC and CCRE for their support of our Northeast Colorado Bus Tour of Rural Schools with UNC students. We are hopeful this experience will bring new educators into the pipeline."



Dr. Robert Fulton, State Coordinator for the CCRE, said, "Before we left Akron to return to Greeley, I asked everyone on the bus, 'Was this a good day for you?' and the students said they highly valued the experience." One student, who had been skeptical about the experience at the start, told Fulton, "It has me thinking."

"It's an event the students will remember and talk about for years to come," Fulton added.

### Our Featured Partners

#### Colorado Christian University

Colorado Christian University Online offers a variety of fully online undergraduate and graduate level [educator preparation programs](#) in both non-licensure and licensure pathways. These programs, authorized by the Colorado Department of Education, are offered through CCU's College of Adult and Graduate Studies and are specifically designed to meet the unique needs of working adults.

#### Colorado Classrooms Live

[Colorado Classrooms Live](#) (CC-LIVE) is a free service that supports new rural Colorado 7-12th-grade math teachers through virtual teacher mentorship. CC-LIVE also allows rural schools with math teacher vacancies equitable virtual access to certified, experienced Colorado math teachers regardless of location.

### Contact Us

The [Colorado Center for Rural Education](#) supports educators by providing financial support to pre- and in-service teachers and special services providers. Visit our [website](#) for more information about our mission and available [stipends](#).

Robert Fulton, PhD  
State Coordinator  
[Robert.Fulton@unco.edu](mailto:Robert.Fulton@unco.edu)  
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Colorado Center for Rural Education at the University of Northern Colorado  
McKee Hall 103 | 501 20th Street | Campus Box 106 | Greeley, Colorado 80639