



## Rural Centered

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Colorado Center for Rural Education

August 2022

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## Stipends Make a Difference for Colorado's Rural Teachers

The \$6,000 [Rural Inservice Educator Stipend](#) helps meet the needs of Colorado's rural schools, one recipient at a time. A rural PK–12 educator may use the stipend to offset costs incurred to earn additional qualifications at a Colorado institution of higher education. The qualifications allow the recipient to:

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

The program is a joint effort of the [Colorado Center for Rural Education](#) and the [Colorado Department of Higher Education](#).

We asked three recent recipients how the award will help them achieve their career goals.

### Emily Barnett

Emily Barnett teaches fourth grade at Pioneer Elementary School in Fort Morgan, Colorado, in Morgan County School District No. Re-3.

She said, "I was stunned by the diversity when I first started teaching at Pioneer Elementary. I immediately thought about returning to school so that I could learn to serve the community better. Despite raising a young family and having a full-time job, it seemed plausible to pursue my master's degree in the Culturally Linguistically Diverse program at UNC. This stipend supports people like me who are willing to pursue lifelong learning. I cannot express how grateful I am to have the opportunity to become a better teacher."



### Dana Alderman

Dana Alderman recently became a Math Interventionist at Aspen Elementary School in Aspen, Colorado, in Aspen School District. Before that, she had been teaching middle-school and high-school math for 14 years.

She said, "I am excited about how best to support K-4 mathematics instruction and how to be an effective leader in the public school system. With these funds, I am able to attend an Educational Leadership Specialist program at UNC.

It is important to me to learn how to better foster relationships with staff and I am ready to focus on educational leadership. I'm looking forward to gaining the tools I need in the program at UNC! In my new position at Aspen Elementary, I would like to build a sense of team unity among the mathematics teachers and help teachers implement a new math curriculum."

### Deserae Gruntorad

Deserae Gruntorad teaches kindergarten through second grade special education at Garnet Mesa Elementary School in Delta, Colorado, in Delta County School District.

She said, "This award has helped me gain more education about how to improve my relationships with my students. I am able to apply more effective motivational strategies to daily lessons and pass those strategies on to other teachers as well."

Click [here](#) for more information about the Rural Inservice Educator Stipend.



## UPCOMING APPLICATION TIMELINES

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

[Rural Inservice Educator Stipend](#) applications for fall 2022 accepted: Through August 31, 2022

[Special Services Provider Stipend](#) applications for fall 2022 accepted: Through August 31, 2022

[Colorado Rural \(Student\) Teaching Stipend](#) applications for spring 2023 accepted: Through October 31, 2022

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](#).



## WESTERN COLORADO UNIVERSITY

ADULT DEGREE COMPLETION

## Partner Spotlight: Western Colorado University Adult Degree Completion New Degree Completion and Teacher Licensure Program Available—100% Online!

[Western Colorado University](#) (WCU) is offering a new [degree-completion program](#) that gives adults a path to complete their degrees and obtain a teaching license online. Though the program is available to any adult, it was designed for working professionals and paraprofessionals. Individuals may maintain their existing employment while attending classes.



In the final year of the program, students enter their student-teaching residency and are paired with a teacher mentor. They complete the remaining licensure coursework online and take the appropriate Praxis exams. The work culminates in a recommendation for an initial Colorado teaching licensure in either elementary education, special education, or secondary education.

The cost of the program for in-state students is \$376 per credit hour, and scholarship opportunities are available.

WCU has partnered with the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative to offer up to \$2,000 to those who:

- Have been out of school for two consecutive semesters; or
- Have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, students may receive up to \$10,000 through a one-time stipend offered by the Colorado Department of Education [Educator Recruitment and Retention program](#). The stipend is available to paraprofessionals who agree to serve for three years:

- In any rural or small rural district in Colorado, in any licensure area; or
- In any Colorado district, in the licensure areas of secondary math, special education, or world languages.

For more information, visit the [program website](#) or email [adc@western.edu](mailto:adc@western.edu).

## Our Featured Partners

The [Colorado Boards of Cooperative Educational Services \(BOCES\) Association](#) provides educational services to two or more school districts that alone cannot afford the service, or find it advantageous and cost-effective to cooperate with other districts.

The University of Colorado at Boulder offers an online [Teacher Leadership Program](#). Students earn stackable graduate certificates in subjects such as "Social and Emotional Learning" and "Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students" that can lead to an MA in Teacher Leadership.

[TEACH Colorado](#) links potential teachers with jobs in their districts and provides licensure support for paraprofessionals and high-school students who are interested in teaching.

Western Colorado University's [Adult Degree Completion Program](#) – General Studies + Teacher Licensure allows adults to complete their degrees and obtain a teaching license. The program is entirely online and allows individuals to maintain their existing employment while attending classes.

## 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](#).

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Learn about CCRE

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