



Mission

The mission of the Colorado Center for Rural Education at the University of Northern Colorado (UNC) is to support the needs of rural educators in Colorado. This mission is accomplished through five sustainable priorities:

- 1) Expansion of Educator Pipeline Programs
- 2) Identification of Rural Teaching Scholars from among pre-service junior and senior teacher candidates who commit to student teach in rural Colorado school districts
- 3) Cultivation of a Rural Teacher Leaders program that prepares teachers in rural communities for expanded professional roles through participation in programs leading to become National Board Certified Teachers or receive Concurrent Enrollment Certification
- 4) Development of a coordinated Professional Development Network for rural educators
- 5) Cultivation of advocacy and scholarship focused on rural education, including collaboration for grant proposal writing

VISION

The vision of the Colorado Center for Rural Education is to ensure an excellent education for children in rural Colorado. The primary vehicle in support of this overarching vision is to create a comprehensive system for professional development of educators across the rural school districts in Colorado that is focused on locating, preparing, and supporting effective educators in rural school districts.

MAJOR GOALS

The priority goals of the Colorado Center for Rural Education at UNC were developed in alignment with the provisions of Senate Bill 16-104 that established enabling legislation for a sustaining rural educator recruitment and retention program. The following four priority goals are outlined for Center operations.

Major Goal 1: Establish a Pipeline of New Rural Teachers

- Goal 1A – Increase the number of early education experiences for pre-collegiate students to encourage more individuals from rural school districts to consider teaching as a career
- Goal 1B – Increase the number of pathways available to become a qualified teacher in rural school districts

Major Goal 2: Increase the number of college students from rural districts who graduate from teacher preparation programs and who commit to student teaching in rural school districts.

- Goal 2A – Develop a Rural Teaching Scholars program that identifies junior and senior teacher candidates who commit to complete their student teaching experiences in rural school districts

Major Goal 3: Develop a Concurrent Enrollment Certification or National Board Certification of Teachers in Rural School Districts

- Goal 3A – Increase the number of National Board Certified Teachers from high-need areas (e.g., science, mathematics, special education, or cultural/linguistic diversity) who are teaching in rural school districts
- Goal 3B – Increase the number of teachers residing in rural districts and holding appropriate college degrees that return to complete requirements for Concurrent Enrollment Certification in high-need areas and who commit to teach in rural school districts

Major Goal 4: Retain Rural Teachers

- Goal 4A – Provide ongoing mentoring and professional development of teachers entering high-need, rural schools to increase retention during first year induction phase of their teaching careers through creation of a Rural Professional Development Network
- Goal 4B – Assess, disseminate, and sustain the best recruitment and retention practices

Major Goal 5: Cultivate Rural Education Scholarship and Advocacy

- Goal 5A – Seek and secure external funding to promote high quality rural education that extend the vision and mission of the Colorado Center for Rural Education
- Goal 5b – Develop a focused program of ongoing scholarly activities and research to support rural education

SUPPORT

The clientele served by the Center for Rural Education include the current and prospective educators (i.e., teachers, administrators, and special service providers) who work in Colorado’s rural and small rural school districts. The organizations that support these educators across the state of Colorado, and who have provided commitments to support the establishment of the Center for Rural Education, include:

- Colorado Association of School Boards (CASB)
- Colorado Association of School Executives (CASE)
- Colorado Association of School Personnel Administrators (CASPA)
- Colorado BOCES Association (CBA)
- Colorado Council of Deans of Education
- Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Commissioner's Rural Education Council
- Colorado Education Association (CEA)
- Colorado Institutions of Higher Education
- Colorado Rural Alliance
- Colorado Rural Education Collaborative
- Northern Colorado Superintendents
- Southern Colorado Superintendents
- Western Slope Superintendents

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