



## Rural Centered

November 2023

A Monthly Newsletter from the  
Colorado Center for Rural Education



# Awards of Up to \$4,000 Help Teacher Candidates Stay in Rural Schools

The [Colorado Center for Rural Education](#) and the [Colorado Department of Higher Education](#) encourage talented teacher candidates to student teach and become a teacher in Colorado rural school districts. We award a stipend of up to \$4,000 for a semester of student teaching to qualified applicants. A condition of the award is that when the teacher candidate finishes student teaching in a rural school, they apply to and work in a rural school district.

Here's what a few recent recipients had to say about how the stipend helped them achieve their career goals.

## Stephanie Hileman

Teacher candidate Stephanie Hileman (pictured above) said:

"I am in my second year of teaching sixth-grade science and social studies at [Fremont Elementary School](#) in Florence, Colorado, which is part of the [Fremont School District Re-2](#). This area is remote—located in rural southern Colorado, southwest of Colorado Springs. Fremont Elementary is a Title I school with the majority of the student body living at or below the poverty line.

"Serving in a rural community has been an interesting and inspiring experience for me. These students are some of the most kind and hard-working human beings I've ever met. They inspire me to expect more of myself and to work harder to give them the education and keys to a good future they deserve. Being in this district—in this school—is, to me, the ultimate gift of fate.

"It's a privilege to be here and see the progress in each student day to day, week to week, unit to unit, and quarter to quarter. At the end of the school year, I'm thrilled to shake my students' hands at 'continuation' and send them on to their middle- and high school journey. With all the challenges that come with this profession, I wouldn't trade it for anything. It's changed who I am as a person forever and it's what I love to do. I can't wait until 2029, when I get to attend my first class's high school graduation.

"The Colorado Center for Rural Education stipend has helped me cover the costs of the alternative licensure program that was one of the requirements for my new career path. As a single mom of three, it also helped me provide for my household and make ends meet. Thank you so much for helping me pursue this dream."



## Alyssa Wenzel

"I am a student at [Colorado Mesa University](#) and am student teaching at Kathryn Senior Elementary School located in New Castle, Colorado, in [Garfield School District No. Re-2](#).

"I would like to thank the Colorado Center for Rural Education for awarding me this stipend that financially assists me as I am working toward my dream. Thank you."

# Olivia Canadine

"I first started student teaching at [Park Elementary](#) in [Durango School District 9-R](#) for kindergarten through fifth grade. Now I am currently student teaching at [Animas High School](#) for ninth through twelfth grades. I'm attending classes at [Fort Lewis College](#) in Durango and majoring in art education K-12.

"The stipend has made a meaningful impact on my teaching journey by providing essential financial relief. With this support, I can fully focus on all the amazing aspects of the student teaching experience, including creating connections and community with my students."



## Upcoming Application Timelines

**Colorado Substitute Stipend** applications accepted: Ongoing

**National Board Certified Teacher Stipend** applications accepted: January 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024

**Rural Inservice Educator Stipend** applications for fall 2024 accepted: May 1, 2024 through August 31, 2024

**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**.





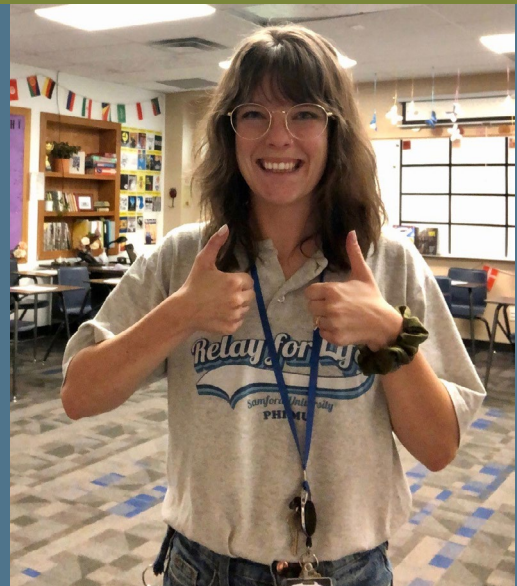
## Annabel Estrada

"Thank you to the Colorado Center for Rural Education for granting me a stipend for my student teaching this year. I am teaching at Elk Creek Elementary in New Castle, Colorado, in [Garfield School District No. Re-2](#) and working with fifth graders in all subjects.

"I am eternally grateful for this opportunity. The stipend allowed me to pay for some of the costs to enroll my son at the same school for ALL-DAY preschool. That way, I can do my student teaching all day, every day!"

## Melanie Duke

"I teach social studies and drama at Custer County High School in Westcliffe, Colorado, which is part of [Custer County Schools](#). I'm so thankful to have been awarded this scholarship so that that I can really focus my energy and passion on my students' success!"



## Heidi Andringa

"I am an art teacher at [Mountain Middle School](#) in [Durango School District 9-R](#). Being an art teacher is all I've ever wanted to be. I am so grateful to have the opportunity to pursue my master's degree in education so that I can share my love of art with kids and be the best teacher possible. Thanks so much!"

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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Robert Fulton, PhD | Director

