Advancing Environmental Education in Colorado

Explore  Elevate  Spark

Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education 2014
We are Empowering Colorado with Environmental Education!

Environmental education equips us with knowledge, skills, and motivation to care for our environment, which strengthens our...

Education
- Academic Performance
- Issues Analysis
- Scientific Knowledge
- Citizenship
- Problem Solving
- School Attendance
- Graduation Rates
- Self-Confidence
- Improved Behavior
- Increased Engagement

Communities
- Access to Healthy Food
- Access to Green Space
- Increased Safety
- Reduced Crime
- Social Equity
- Recreational Opportunities
- Clean Neighborhoods
- Physical & Mental Health
- Environmental Justice
- Sense of Community
- Community Action

Economy
- Environment
- Education
- Communities
- Economy

Environment
- Ecological World View
- Environmental Quality
- Sustainable Communities
- Sense of Place
- Conservation
- Environmental Knowledge
- Environmental Literacy
- Environmental Attitudes
- Stewardship
- Green Jobs
- Career Readiness
- STEM
- Job Skills
- Problem Solving
- Future Workforce
- Real-World Application

The Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education (EE) has been a state-wide leader in promoting EE since 1989. We offer support and resources to EE providers. We value inclusion and welcome all advocates for increased access to EE opportunities to join us! www.caee.org

Check out over 600 available resources at www.coloradoee.org
Colorado’s Innovative Environmental Education Landscape

Increasing Energy Savings and Empowering Students
powerED McKinstry
over $5 million saved in schools empowering students to address energy efficiency

Restoring Urban Forests and Growing Active Stewards
PreK-12 Program Poudre Learning Center
over 25,000 students in 5 districts exploring local ecosystems

Engaging Students in Stewardship of Waterways
Keep It Clean- Neighborhood Environmental Trios Earth Force & Denver Public Works
10 outdoor learning sites where students take action to protect parks and waterways near their schools

Connecting Students to Nature Through Interdisciplinary Learning
PreK-12 Program Poudre Learning Center over 25,000 students in 5 districts exploring local ecosystems

Innovative Collaboration to Ensure a Continuum of EE Opportunities
Boulder County EE Collaborative 25 organizations coordinating efforts county-wide

Developing Youth Leadership and Ecological Restoration
Youth and Inclusiveness Program Wildlands Restoration Volunteers
600 youth project leaders engaged in service learning annually

Decreasing Waste and Catalyzing Community Leaders
Multi-Family Communities Zero Waste Education Program Eco-Cycle
31% increase in recycling and composting in 634 multi-family units

Driving Water Conservation at Home and School
Waterwise Classroom Presentation: Fire, Flooding & Your Water Supply Colorado Springs Utilities
over 7,000 students in 7 districts engaging with water conservation

Fostering Investigation and 21st Century Skills
ESI: EcoSystems Investigations Lookout Mountain Nature Center-Jefferson County Open Space
5,000 4th graders evaluating their role in Colorado Ecosystems

Cultivating Environmental Stewardship at 14,000 Ft.
Earth Corps Rocky Mountain Field Institute college students addressing environmental challenges at high elevations

Fostering Community Engagement in Agriculture
Agriculture Tours Boulder County Parks & Open Space over 2000 participants in 20 tours deepening understanding of local food and water systems

Visit www.caee.org/awards2014 to learn more about these innovative programs.
Environmental Education Champions: People, Schools, and Programs

Pioneer, Professor, and Mentor for EE
Jeff Brigham, Professor Emeritus, Colorado Mesa University

Dr. Jeff Brigham, Ed.D., is considered a true pioneer in developing, transforming, and inspiring the field of environmental education (EE) in Colorado for over 45 years. Jeff’s greatest legacy is his positive and lasting impact on thousands of teachers, students, and adults through his integration of hands-on and minds-on learning opportunities into his college courses, workshops, and projects, which he facilitates in and out of the classroom. Some cite Jeff as the most profound mentor in their professional career, some express gratitude for the tangible results of his leadership and extraordinary partnership building skills, and others reflect on his superior facilitation skills during the workshop that captured their imagination and instilled a real desire to connect with the natural world. Jeff’s infectious enthusiasm and inspiring devotion to nature contribute to making him a truly exceptional environmental educator. As a college professor instructing hundreds of pre-service teachers at Metropolitan State College and Colorado Mesa University, Jeff modeled effectively incorporating EE as a dynamic teaching methodology and how to use EE to meet statewide education standards. Countless numbers of Jeff’s students have gone on to pursue 10-, 20-, and even 30-year teaching careers following his refreshing example in their teaching methodologies. A former student shared, “Jeff is responsible for why I do what I do and for the ways in which I do it.” It is staggering to imagine how many young minds have since benefited from Jeff’s mentorship of these teachers. Affectionately referred to as Dr. Nature in the schools, Jeff always allowed nature to be the teacher, so his methods touch the heart and inspire the soul, as much as feed the mind. Jeff’s extraordinary partnership building and facilitation skills led him to become one of the original architects involved in the development of CAEE. As one of seven key EE leaders, Jeff stressed the need for a more cohesive and collaborative statewide approach to EE, which supported CAEE in becoming a reality.

Elevating the Climate Change Conversation
Mike Nelson, Chief Meteorologist, 7NEWS

7NEWS Chief Meteorologist Mike Nelson has been studying the weather since he was six years old. His passion for weather and climate is showcased not only through his nightly broadcasts, but through his work educating the community about weather and climate. As a TV meteorologist, he is often asked to provide viewers with insight and explanations on earthquakes, meteors and comets, tsunamis and volcanoes. For many Americans, meteorologists are the closest scientists they will encounter. Mike uses this opportunity to engage Coloradans in lifelong learning and elevate the conversation around climate change. He shares his knowledge of weather and climate with young and old, visiting nearly 100 schools, clubs, and service organizations each year. His Tornado Dance is a much anticipated event! In 2001, he was recognized by the Colorado Broadcasters Association as their “Citizen of the Year” for his volunteer work in Colorado schools. After 38 years in the industry, Mike Nelson has received 18 Emmys, been named Colorado Broadcaster of the Year twice by the Colorado Broadcasters Association, and earned the 2010 Broadcast Meteorologist of the Year given by the National Weather Service and his peers.

Ensuring Balanced, Fair Education Approaches for Complex Topics
Dan Witkowsky, Course Coordinator, Colorado Mining Association Education Foundation

Dan Witkowsky, Course Coordinator for the Colorado Mining Association Education Foundation, Inc., was instrumental in providing an accurate and unbiased curriculum on mining industries for the last 17 years. He ensured that education emphasized the importance of environmental stewardship and how educators could apply this information in their classrooms. Dan is a retiring educator recognized for excellence in the field.

Colorado Green Ribbon Schools
Recognized by the US Department of Education for ensuring sustainable, healthy school environments and effective EE

Programs Demonstrating Excellence in Environmental Education

- Waterwise Classroom Presentation, Colorado Springs Utilities - www.csu.org/Pages/presentations-students-r.aspx
- Preserve the Greenbelt Environmental Education Program, Institute for Environmental Solutions - www.i4es.org
- powerED, McKinstry - www.mckinstry.com
- Multi-Family Communities Zero Waste Education Program, Eco-Cycle - www.ecocycle.org
- Earth Corps, Rocky Mountain Field Institute - www.rmfi.org
- Agriculture Tours, Boulder County Parks & Open Space - www.bouldercountyopenspace.org/ag
- Poudre Learning Center PreK-12 Program, Poudre Learning Center - www.PLOutdoors.org
- Boulder County Environmental Education Collaborative - www.bceecollaborative.org

Visit www.caee.org/awards2014 to learn more about these innovative programs.
CAEE is an affiliate member of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). CAEE adopted the National Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education, established by NAAEE, to guide the development of balanced, scientifically accurate, and comprehensive environmental education programs.

Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education  
15260 S. Golden Road Golden, CO 80401  
303-273-9527  
www.caee.org