

Annual Report 2017

Inspiring Connections and Expanding Reach



Colorado
Alliance
for
Environmental
Education

2017 CAEE Board Letter

Dear Friends,

Everything we do together, as the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education, is strengthened by our combined thousand voices!

Thank you to the environmental educators and supporters we meet everywhere we go -- in schools, businesses, churches, parks, farms, and government agencies.

Together, we are increasing the opportunities for every Colorado resident and visitor to make or deepen physical, emotional and intellectual connections to nature and communities where they grow, live, work, and play. In 2017, CAEE's Board of Director's adopted a new strategic plan, setting ambitious goal for how we can strengthen member support and grow the impact of EE in Colorado.

CAEE is committed to elevating the awareness and need for environmental literacy locally, statewide, and nationally. In 2018, we will create greater opportunities for community engagement, collective impact, and advocacy for environmental education. We look forward to collaboration with members and partners in growing the voice and impact of CAEE.

Janna Six,
Board President

Katie Navin,
Executive Director

**2017
CAEE Board
of Directors**



Left to Right Top: Keith Desrosiers, Laurel Olson, Joel Koenig, Natalie Brower-Kirton, Martin Ogle, Melissa Yoder, Melanie Armstrong Bottom Left to Right: Janna Six, Sarah Johnson, Katie Navin, Michelle Finchum, Barbara Patterson

OUR MISSION

To advance environmental education in Colorado by fostering collaboration, mobilizing support, and driving excellence.



Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education

CAEE works to ensure everyone in Colorado has an opportunity to learn about the environment.

We value inclusion and welcome everyone to the field of environmental education. CAEE does not discriminate on the basis of race, age, color, ethnic background, creed, marital status, religion, national origin or ancestry, sex, gender, disability, veteran status, genetic information, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression.

Where is EE making an Impact

All Coloradans are environmentally literate and make choices that support the health and well-being of all life on our planet.

Sustainability

Businesses

Schools

STEM

Higher Education

Conservation

Health

Environmental Justice

Community Action

And More

Recreation

OUR VISION

Our members are reaching over 800,000 learners in Colorado.

Driving Excellence

“Lesser Tribble Experts are divided on the consequences of the recent decline in the population of the lesser tribble. Although this obnoxious and invasive animal has been the bane of farmers and ranchers since its introduction 25 years ago, the 40 percent population drop in the last year has even some tribble-haters worried.” At the 2017 Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education Train-the-Trainer workshop hosted by CAEE, participants were challenged with memorizing and then repeating this fictional passage to one another. You might be wondering ‘what for?’ A key characteristic of environmental education materials is Fairness and Accuracy. After discussing what words from the passage participants remembered best, what parts of the statement were changed, and which parts brought up bias, participants were able to discuss the relationship between fairness, balance, and bias in the context of environmental education materials.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2,000+

Educators learned from national experts in partnership with the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) Webinar Series.

176

Educators built their skills through in-person trainings.

26

Educators became certified trainers in the *Guidelines for Excellence in Environmental Education*.



AWARDS FOR EXCELLENCE IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

15

Educators and programs were recognized for their outstanding contributions to excellence in EE.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CERTIFICATION

23

Educators became certified environmental educators by demonstrating exemplary knowledge and skills in the field.

Over **100**

educators certified since the programs inception.



Mobilizing Support

Environmental education has a monumental impact on families, schools, and communities, however, we often struggle to communicate that impact. We want to change that! In 2017, CAEE in collaboration with Blue Lotus Consulting & Evaluation launched the Collective Outcomes in EE Project. With generous support from the Pisces Foundation, we began bringing together practitioners, funders, evaluators, and researchers to define common outcomes for environmental education in Colorado. With a strong understanding of our shared outcomes, we can build capacity for program evaluation, align practitioner and funder needs, and help us tell a stronger story about the impact of environmental education!

Thank you, Pisces Foundation for making this effort possible!



Regional EE Leadership Councils at Shadowcliff Mountain Lodge discussing priorities for PreK-12 EE.



Louise Chawla, sharing thoughts on the collective outcomes with national experts here in Colorado.

COLORADO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION LEADERSHIP COUNCILS:

Created a 5-year strategic plan to implement Colorado's K-12 Environmental Education Plan.



A VOICE FOR EE:

CAEE joined others across the country to support EE appropriations at the federal level.

CAEE supported strong inclusion of EE in Colorado's State Education Standards revision.

SHARED OUTCOMES FOR EE:

CAEE brought together funders, practitioners, and evaluators to align efforts to better show the impact of EE.

Fostering Collaboration

Around a campfire on a beautiful fall evening before the West Slope Summit in Gunnison, environmental education providers from across the region enjoyed handmade tacos while sharing stories of community engagement with youth from Western State Colorado University's SEED (Sustainability Education Equity and Diversity) program. SEED youth ambassadors shared their experiences working with the local Cora population of indigenous Mexicans through sustainability and environmental education, which provided a great kick-off to the event!



ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE:

244 participants shared ideas and built partnerships

CAREERS IN NATURAL RESOURCES INITIATIVE:

CAEE connected

330 partners

of the Careers in Natural Resources Initiative to the EE community,

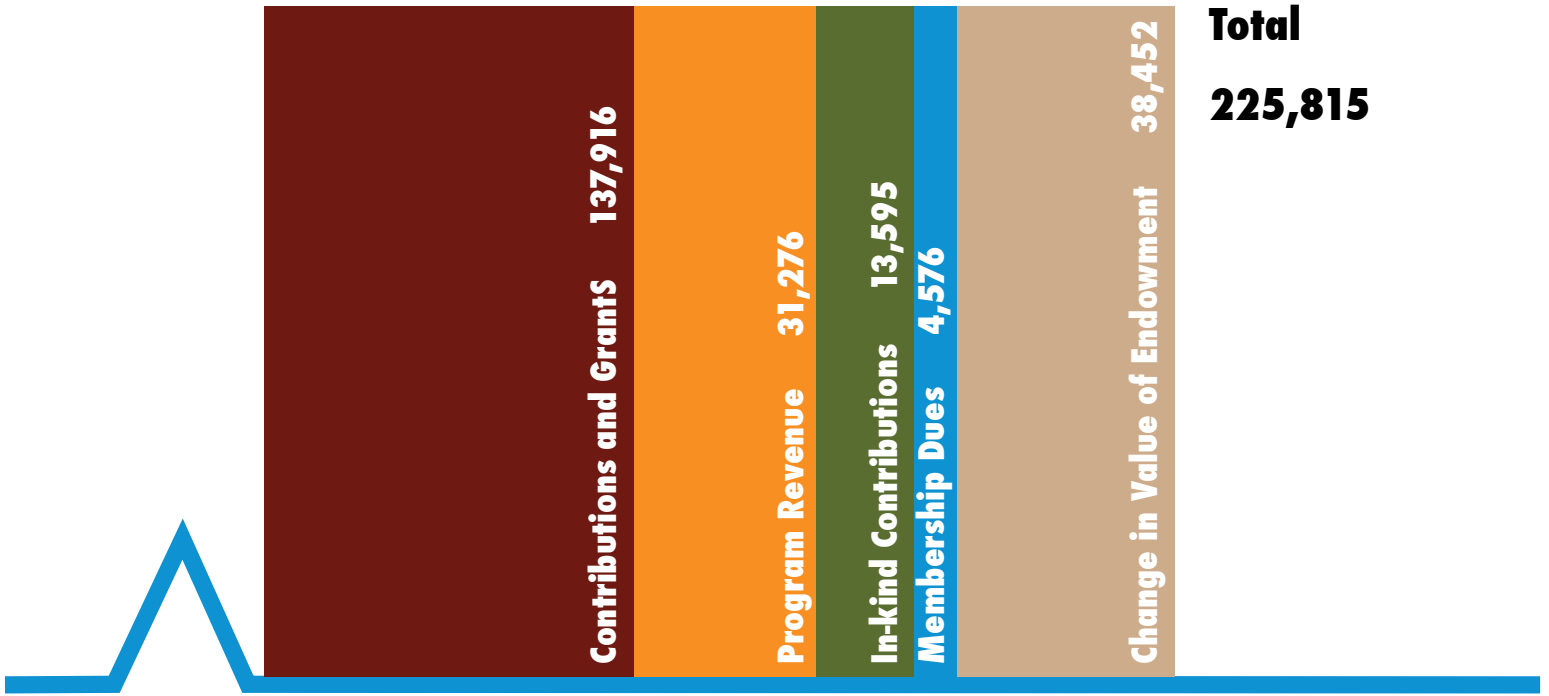
including **65** who are trained to support their learners in natural resource career development.

WEST SLOPE SUMMIT:

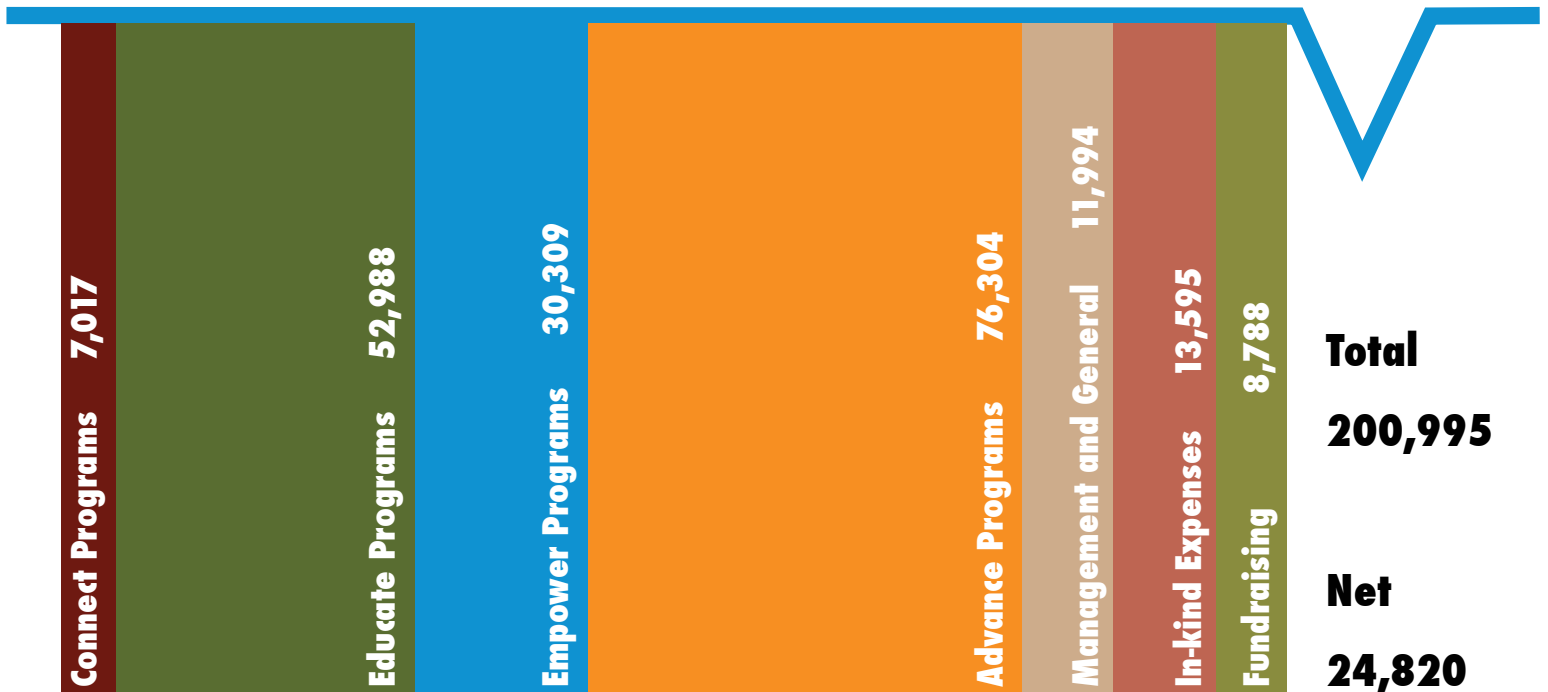
40 participants explored best practices of community engagement and formed new relationships



Revenue



2017 Financials



Expenses

We are so grateful to all our donors and members, like you, who make environmental education strong in Colorado. Membership dues only provide a small part of our annual budget, so our sponsors, grant supporters, in-kind donors and individual contributions are critical for our success an alliance. With your support, CAEE's Legacy Fund has grown to 275,010.

You can request full financials by emailing director@caee.org
Thank you!

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2017 Sponsors



GET INVOLVED

ADVANCE ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

BECOME A MEMBER

CAEE advocates for the field and provides you with direct benefits to meet your professional needs and personal values. Visit www.caee.org/membership to find out more.

PARTICIPATE

Attend CAEE events like the annual conference, professional developments and more. Make connections, learn and share. See what's coming up at www.caee.org.

BE A LEADER

Over 150 dedicated volunteers give their time and expertise to advance environmental literacy. Join a committee to build support for EE, advance diversity and inclusiveness, plan the annual conference, awards for excellence in EE, or certification. Visit www.caee.org/volunteer to learn more.

BE A VOICE

Tell your leaders and decision makers how important environmental education is in Colorado. Promote EE locally, across the state, and nationally. Tell your Senators and Representatives to Support No Child Left Inside Legislation. Visit <http://www.caee.org/advocacy> to find out more.

DONATE

Make a financial donation to CAEE to ensure the long-term impact of programs. Visit www.caee.org/support to learn more.

Together we move into another exciting year and further success in growing environmental education initiatives.



Since 1989, the Colorado Alliance for Environmental Education has been a state leader in promoting quality and access to environmental education in Colorado.

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

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www.caee.org