

2026

ANNUAL

IMPACT

REPORT



CSU SPUR
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



CSU Spur is a public-facing education, research and engagement center where we connect people, accelerate innovation and motivate transformation.

THE YEAR AT CSU SPUR

JULY 1, 2025-JUNE 30, 2026

VISITORS: **111,677**
(More than 400,000 since opening in 2022)

General
visitors
59,162

PreK-12 students
hosted at Spur
16,528

324 schools from 84
Colorado school
districts

Attendees at 550
meetings and events
35,987

43
CSU System funded
projects and programs

476 field trips

33 summer camps

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

26
Globeville and Elyria-Swansea (GES)
school and non-profit partners

127
Events with GES
community

15,178
Attendees





LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

CSU Spur leads impactful community engagement with a commitment to lifelong learning, discovery and co-creating knowledge. In less than five years, CSU Spur has welcomed more than 400,000 visitors – including about 50,000 PreK-12 students from across Colorado – who have explored science, sustainability and career pathways through hands-on experiences. We've catalyzed inspired research programs in food, water, health and sustainability; modeled transparent, problem-solving approaches; and deepened partnerships that advance innovation and strengthen Colorado's economy.



Our work is tightly woven into CSU's land-grant mission of expanding educational access and opportunity for all residents. CSU Spur takes that mission to a new level – showing what higher education can do when we engage the public directly, ask questions together and meet community needs in real time. With CSU Extension's century-long presence in every Colorado county, CSU Spur now joins the Office of Engagement and Extension to amplify statewide connections and create new ways for Coloradans to learn, collaborate and thrive.

The CSU Spur Start program exemplifies our access mission. In its inaugural year, 22 students from 17 school districts in and around Denver completed their first year of college at Spur. Their success – and the doubling of interest for the next cohort – demonstrates how CSU Spur opens doors to higher education and builds bridges between communities and campuses. We're expanding opportunities for learners at every stage, from PreK-12 field trips and virtual "fifth day" programs to adult learning and professional development.

CSU Spur continues to grow as a hub for research and innovation, advancing work in water reuse, controlled environment agriculture, climate science and animal-assisted therapies. Partnerships with Denver Water, Humane Colorado, the Salazar Center for North American Conservation, College Track and others magnify our impact. We convene vital discourse and support public deliberation with science and rigor. CSU Spur is a partner in shared success.

As redevelopment at the National Western Center progresses and our relationship with the National Western Stock Show deepens, CSU Spur stands ready to spark new discoveries, opportunities and approaches that serve Colorado and beyond. The future is bright.

Rico Munn

Executive Vice Chancellor, CSU System & Vice President
for Metro Denver Engagement and Strategy, CSU

James Pritchett

Vice President for Engagement and Extension, CSU

THE WEB OF PROGRAMS

AT CSU SPUR

CSU Spur is a deeply interconnected ecosystem in which research, education and community programs reinforce and guide one another as they deepen understanding in the thematic areas of our three buildings: Vida (health), Hydro (water) and Terra (food). For example:

- **Research projects on our Green Roof and in our leasable labs connect with Climate Hub activities and with investigations involving climate, water and agriculture.**
- **The Family Resilience Center shares a focus on human mental health with the Temple Grandin Equine Center, where ongoing research explores the relationship between horses and humans and the efficacy of equine-assisted therapies.**
- **The Translational Neurological Lab emphasizes outreach, collaboration and education as it advances research and provides support for people with brain injuries.**
- **Programs and initiatives ranging from Music Lab, held during 2nd Saturdays at CSU Spur, to the Food Innovation Center advance CSU's land-grant mission by engaging the public through art, creative activities and agricultural innovation.**





DISCOVERY



CSU Spur was developed to model a new level of transparency and accessibility for scientific research. In the words of CSU System Chancellor Tony Frank, it puts science – and career possibilities – on a stage. Spur uses glass and technology throughout the campus to engage visitors in the work researchers are doing to solve problems in our communities. Research at Spur centers on pressing questions involving food, water, human and animal health, and sustainability, and the campus culture embraces investigations that connect across disciplines and explore innovative solutions.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Water Technology Acceleration Platform (Water TAP) at CSU Spur is a hub for developing next-generation water treatment technologies using real-world water sources, including water recovered from industrial areas to understand plant development and growth.**
- **TGEC—the Temple Grandin Equine Center—conducts research at the intersection of human and animal health while creating opportunities to bring equine-assisted therapies to our community. TGEC served 4,900 clients in 2025.**
- **The Regional Air Monitoring System (RAMS) on the rooftop of the Hydro building measures ozone and formaldehyde levels and builds understanding about how air quality impacts the well-being of community members.**



A SPACE FOR INNOVATION

CSU Spur continues to strengthen in its role as CSU's "front door" in Denver, attracting industry leaders, entrepreneurs, policymakers, researchers and community members to connect and engage through high-profile events, strategic partnerships and workforce development programs.

Colorado Climate Week, the Water in the West Symposium and Water TAP industry engagement activities, along with community programs and a variety of statewide convenings, all serve to attract media attention and elevate CSU Spur's reputation as a leader in climate, water, food and entrepreneurship innovation.

CSU Spur is accelerating innovation and impact by facilitating meaningful conversations, interactions and connections involving industry partners, researchers from multiple disciplines, students and community members.

- **49 climate-related events hosted during Colorado Climate Week, bringing 800+ external participants to the CSU Spur Climate Hub.**
- **26 AgTech companies pitched solutions to 54 producers representing 100,000+ acres and 40,000 head of cattle through Idea Farming (Ag Innovation).**
- **31 AgTech founders, CSU researchers and students received business-focused advising and support from the Ag Innovation Center, based at CSU Spur.**
- **30 researchers and practitioners convened to address water, energy and policy implications of data center growth (One Water Solutions Institute).**
- **42 interviews conducted by the Climate Hub to identify corporate partners for possible future collaborations.**

OUR ACCESS MISSION

CSU SPUR START

CSU Spur Start is a one-of-a-kind program that offers a new educational pathway for CSU to deliver on its land-grant mission of expanding educational access and opportunity. Launched in fall 2025, the program offers students an opportunity to complete the first year of their CSU education at CSU Spur. Designed for students from Denver and surrounding communities, CSU Spur Start saves families money by allowing students to live at home while taking courses in the CSU core curriculum. The program provides a welcoming and supportive experience that prepares students for their journey to CSU Fort Collins in year two.



FIELD TRIPS

PreK-12 programs and field trips are at the heart of CSU Spur's mission to provide experiential, hands-on educational opportunities on a campus that celebrates discovery, creativity, learning, career exploration and inspiration. Virtual "5th Day" programming for school children across Colorado's 64 counties extends CSU Spur's reach across the state and creates opportunities for enrichment and exploration.



LIFELONG
LEARNING/
ACADEMIC
PROGRAMS

1

Master's
program

2

Certificate
programs

1

Ph.D.
program

22

Inaugural
Spur Start
students



CSU Spur is proud to be part of the National Western Center redevelopment. During the 2026 National Western Stock Show, with completion of the Legacy Building and other Stock Show facilities, CSU Spur was located for the first time within the ticketed grounds of the 16-day event, making the three-building campus a part of the overall visitor experience and creating new opportunities for engagement through special activities, events and themed programming. This new level of connection reflects decades of planning for our footprints to be joined and our impacts magnified.



SPUR RECOGNITION



Wiz Kid, a free digital streaming science show for children, completed its second season of programming and won a local Heartland Emmy Award for children's programming.



The Hydro Building received LEED Platinum Designation.



For a second time, Denver Public Schools awarded CSU Spur with its Platinum Star Partner Award.



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Learn more at
[CSUSpur.org](https://www.CSUSpur.org)