



CU Anschutz Community Partnerships

CU Anschutz strives to be an anchor Institution for North Aurora and the greater Colorado community. Our efforts are centralized and decentralized efforts, and all focus on the mission-specific areas of: Education (K-12 and Higher Education), Clinical, Research and Community Engagement. We have:

- More than 80 programs that partner with the community and more than 30 pathway programs
- A total of 10 FTE focus solely on community engagement on campus (5 in the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Community Engagement (DEICE) and 5 in the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI)), and
- Hundreds of faculty engaged in community-based research, and literally thousands of faculty providing health care to the community.

Through DEICE, we have two guiding governance groups, the Community Advisory Board and Academic Collaboration and Connections group, which includes representatives from Aurora Public Schools (APS) and the Community College of Aurora (CCA). The mission-focused partnerships are in:

Education: K-12 partnerships focus on career awareness, augmenting life science curricula, and life and professional skill development. Partners include urban, suburban, and rural schools and organizations:

- Aurora Public Schools' Hinkley, Vista Peak and Central high schools, and Aurora Science and Technology, which is on the former Fitzsimons Army Medical Base property, and our PURPLE initiative provides behavioral health awareness program in APS
- We provide mentors through the Youth Success Program with One Nation Church, and Reading Partners, in which students and faculty read to children in APS elementary schools.
- A \$1 million congressional Community Funding Project is allowing us to expand Think Like a Scientist, a science program for 3rd graders, the CU Prehealth Scholars (CUPS) program focused on middle and high school students, a weekly summer camp that includes more than 100 APS students, the University Prehealth Program (UPP) for undergraduates, and an internship program with the Community College of Aurora called SeaPhages - Science Education Alliance-Phage Hunters Advancing Genomics and Evolutionary Science.
 - To extend these programs for another three years, \$250,000 has been allocated both from the CU President's DEI funding and the Chancellor's office. The Area Health Education Center (AHEC) network is also providing \$225,000.
- The new three-year, \$4.2 million state-funded (partnership with the Colorado Office of Human Services Office of Behavioral Administration) Hummingbird Project will focus on improving the behavioral health of at-risk high school students from urban and rural areas by teaching professional skills and providing mentoring.

Higher Education partnerships include:

- The College of Nursing Integrated Nursing Program with Community College of Aurora enrolls 20 students annually and a new joint degree program with Fort Lewis College.
- The CU Physical Therapy program recently partnered with UCCS on a new degree program
- The School of Medicine requires each of the 184 first- and second-year students to volunteer with one of more than 60 community organizations as a service-learning project. The SOM also is partnering with CSU in Ft. Collins and UC Health in Colorado Springs to expand medical-degree enrollment.



University of Colorado **Anschutz Medical Campus**

- We partner with the Colorado Black Health Collaborative to provide scholarships for African-American students, and the Psychiatry Undergraduate Research Program and Learning Experience (PURPLE) prepares undergraduate students for careers in behavioral health. IN total, we have more than 30 formal pathway and internship programs.
- The Latino Research and Policy Center trains undergraduate and health professional students to identify Latino public health issues and implement successful interventions.

Clinical: Partnerships focus on access to affordable and priority care needs. Examples include:

- The Aurora Wellness Community (AWC), which was refiled as a nonprofit organization with the Secretary of State and has filed for 501(c)(3) designation with the IRS. The AWC intends to launch a clinic and see patients in January. Community-based organizational strategy meetings are underway to improve food systems and affordable childcare, focusing on building on what is currently working in the community.
- The Dawn Clinic, which provides free care to 1,000 indigent patients per year in North Aurora. On average the clinic sees 25-40 patients every Tuesday night, and somewhere around 50 new patients per month. There are 45 physician volunteers and 35 students per night.
- The Department of Psychiatry will be providing mental health care for Cherry Creek School District students starting next year.
- The College of Nursing's Sheridan Clinic is a Federally Qualified Health Center that provide low-cost clinical care directly to community members.
- Funded by a Community Funding grant, the Black Health Initiative trains physicians at Children's Hospital Colorado on culturally responsive communications in clinical settings, thereby improving their patients' quality of care.
- ECHO (Extension for Community Health Outcomes) connects CU Anschutz medical specialists and rural health care providers to discuss specific public health issues, such as diabetes, youth mental health and long-term Covid.

Research: The Community Engagement and Health Equity core within the Colorado Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute (CCTSI) focuses on the outreach, effectiveness, adoption, implementation and maintenance of research in the community. Its Partnership of Academicians and Communities for Translation (PACT) builds trust between academics and the community. This core also manages:

- The State Networks of Ambulatory Practices and Partners (SNOCAP) brings 282 practices across the state together in a research network. The network is 51% rural/49% urban.
 - SNOCAP has 29 active projects, 24 funding sources and 16 priority topics

Community Engagement: The Community Connector program within DEICE focuses on workforce development, community wealth building, and improving access to services through navigation.

Initiatives include:

- A new Supplier Diversity Initiative
- The Resident Leadership Council (RLC) of North Aurora, that includes 25 volunteer residents;
- El Alba, a cooperative that incubates catering companies