EXTENDED STUDIES
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY PUEBLO



THE IMPACT

Newsletter

January 2026



The Dean's Dispatch

Happy New Year! Our team is excited for the new year ahead as we find new ways to support our community in gaining access to professional development opportunities and the ability to further their education.

As we welcome the new year, we celebrate the endless possibilities that learning can bring. Each January is a fresh chapter – a chance to explore new ideas, gain new skills, and embrace growth. Education is a lifelong journey, and the start of a new year reminds us that curiosity and

ambition have no expiration date. Let's make this year one of discovery and achievements together.

With warm regards,
Kathryn Starkey, Ph.D.

DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS

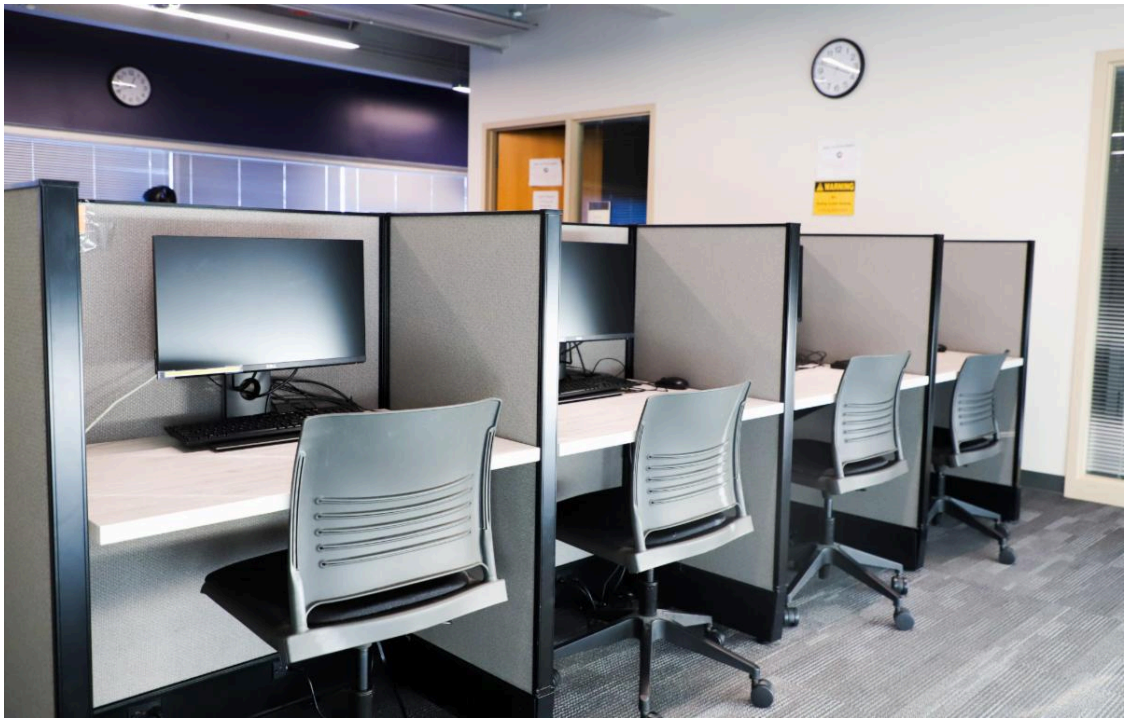


Partnership with UCHealth

Extended Studies is excited to announce its recent MOU signing with UCHealth. Now registered nurses in UCHealth can earn up to $10,000 in tuition reimbursement annually for CSU Pueblo's online RN-BSN program. CSU Pueblo is committed to helping develop bachelor's prepared nurses, as data shows they help with improved patient outcomes, can support career advancement for nurses in specialized roles, and can lead to higher earning potential for BSN graduates.

Our curriculum helps students demonstrate care through patent advocacy, learn how to collaborate effectively within a healthcare team, and demonstrate professional integrity and leadership within a healthcare setting. Interested UCHealth employees should contact Sean Brutscher at **Ascend@uchealth.org**.

Read more about this partnership!



DSST Exams Now Available at CSU Pueblo

The CSU Pueblo Testing Center now offers DSST (DANTES Subject Standardized Tests) as part of the university's Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) options.

DSST exams allow students to demonstrate mastery in specific subject areas and potentially earn academic credit—saving both time and money on their path to a degree.

DSST exams are commonly used to validate knowledge in areas such as Principles of Statistics, Human Resource Management, Environmental Science, Management Information Systems, and more. This new offering is made possible through a strong collaboration between Extended Studies, the CSU Pueblo Testing Center, and dedicated academic faculty who review DSST exams to determine course equivalencies.

Together, these efforts help recognize students' lived and professional experience, opening doors to academic credit and making degree completion more accessible.

For more information, please contact the Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) Office or the CSU Pueblo Testing Center.

Contact us!

OUTREACH

Online Preferred Partnerships Program

One exciting new venture we are thrilled to launch is our new Online Preferred Partnership Program. If your company offers tuition reimbursement to your employees, we are offering a 10% discount to your employees who earn their degree through CSU Pueblo Online. For more information about this new program, please contact **Hawley Young**, our Rural Outreach and Partnerships Specialist, at 719-549-2198 for more information.

CONTACT US HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Welcome Manitou Springs High School- New STS Partner

We're thrilled to welcome Manitou Springs High School as our newest STS partner! Earlier this fall, our team visited the school to advise and register students for four college-level courses in Math, Art, Spanish, and Health Science.

Thanks to the dedication of four outstanding high school teachers serving as STS instructors, Manitou Springs students earned 207 college credits through CSU Pueblo—all from the comfort of their own classrooms.

The STS program offers high school students an incredible opportunity to begin their college journey early. Research in Colorado shows that students who participate in Dual Enrollment programs are more likely to continue their education after graduation and achieve higher college GPAs.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

Flexible Options for Adults - Host an Information Session

Independent Study courses provide an exceptional level of flexibility for adult learners seeking to start, continue, or complete their **bachelor's degree**. With multiple enrollment options, students can begin a degree program at the start of the Fall, Spring, or Summer semester.

Prefer not to wait? Students may enroll at any point during an active semester and begin coursework as early as the next day.

We are pleased to continue our collaboration with the Pueblo County Department of Human Services to share how Extended Studies supports students in earning college credit and completing their degrees. Our Independent Study and Credit for Prior Learning teams offers on-site information sessions—bringing the resources directly to you.

Want to learn more about how STS can benefit your students? Visit our **website for details**!

LEARN MORE

Interested in learning more about our customizable Interdisciplinary Studies degree or opportunities to earn **college credit for professional experience**? Contact us today to schedule an information session.

LEARN MORE

STUDENT RESOURCES

Prior Learning Assessment (PLA)



On one hand, Samuel Lund seems like your typical college student. He studies science, enjoys campus events, and takes the bus to and from school. On the other hand, most students haven't earned 63 undergraduate credits before their 20th birthday!

By taking CLEP and DSST exams, Sam Lund of Colorado Springs jumpstarted his college journey . Sam earned 21 college credits before the end of his first semester.

How did he do it? Sam received advising from the Prior Learning Assessment Specialist in the Division of Extended Studies. With an exam selection and study strategy and some helpful revision tools, Sam earned a whopping 18 credits the summer before he even started his first college course!

Now, while his peers are meeting mandatory pre-requisites, Sam is able to focus on his rigorous biomedical science major & chemistry minor. His exam prowess even granted him the flexibility to easily add a minor in Leadership Studies from the President's Leadership Program through the Honors College. Credit by Exam facilitates students to earn credit for what they know and add value to their CSU Pueblo degree.

Be like Sam! Schedule an appointment to discover your potential for PLA credit today!

LEARN MORE

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

We are excited to offer financial support options to our students. Please click the link below to discover these scholarship opportunities.

FIND SCHOLARSHIPS

WOLF TRACKS PODCAST

View Our Wolf Tracks Podcast Here

A podcast brought to you by Extended Studies highlighting the people and projects that we get to work with every day!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ready, Set, Enroll Dates
Saturday, January 17th 8-Noon

Classes Begin: January 20th
High School Programs Senior Night: February 26th
Spring Break: March 23rd-27th
Sturm Graduation Celebration: April 8th
Classes End: May 8th
Commencement: May 16th

Past Newsletter Issues

2200 Bonforte Blvd
Pueblo, CO 81001-4901
719-549-2316

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY PUEBLO

If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter and learn more about Extended Studies programs, please have them email **rachel.jiron@csupueblo.edu** and they will be added for the next issue!

Colorado State University Pueblo | 2200 Bonforte Blvd | Pueblo, CO 81001 US

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