



EXTENDED STUDIES  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY PUEBLO



# THE IMPACT

## Newsletter

December 2024





## The Dean's Dispatch

Dear colleagues,

Welcome to the December installment of The Impact. At CSU Pueblo, we are gearing up for the end of the term. Soon, final exams and the holidays will be upon us. One of our initiatives for the upcoming spring term is to launch some of our new offerings under the Career

and Professional Enhancement wing of our division. This is a great place to look for professional development opportunities for yourselves or your team. Additionally, if you'd like us to put on a training for your team, we are happy to work with you to do so. More information about our offerings can be found [here](#). We hope you enjoy this month's edition of our newsletter!

Happy Holidays!

Kathryn Starkey, Ph.D.

## KEY FEATURE



# PSYCHOLOGY DEGREE

## BACHELOR OF ART & BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

IN-PERSON ● CORRESPONDENCE ● ONLINE ● HYBRID

Extended Studies is excited to announce that students can now start and finish the B.A. and B.S. in Psychology degrees entirely through the Independent Study program. Students can earn their bachelor's degree in psychology by taking self-paced courses digitally through Blackboard

or through the print-based correspondence modality. Psychology is the 5th degree option offered through the Independent Study program and was one of the most requested degree programs by current and prospective justice-involved students. Extended Studies is proud to offer this degree option for distance learners, including those in correctional facilities in Colorado and nationwide.

## DIVISION HIGHLIGHTS BY PROGRAM



### Division of Extended Studies- Expanding Educational Access

The primary goal of the Division of Extended Studies is to provide courses to part-time students. A variety of educational methods – classroom instruction, correspondence, on-line courses, conferences, workshops and seminars – are utilized to expand educational access and meet the needs of students at convenient times and settings. Students may earn academic credit toward a degree, study for career advancement, or pursue cultural and vocational interests.

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**RURAL  
OUTREACH**

### Walsenburg: Ready, Set, Enroll!

Meeting our learners where they are is crucial to our programs and serving rural Colorado. CSU Pueblo recently brought our services to our CSU Pueblo at Spanish Peaks campus in Walsenburg to help students enroll in classes, answer their financial classes, and get them ready for the semester ahead! The event saw many returning students and even some new students that are looking to begin classes in the spring semester. Currently, CSU Pueblo students in Walsenburg primarily consist of students working towards their Bachelor of Science in

Nursing, and other students who are starting to take general education courses as they get started on their journey. The event was also attended by our partners from the Spanish Peaks Regional Health Center who shared their excitement for the collaboration and to see students engaging in the space.

CSU Pueblo at Spanish Peaks offers local learners an opportunity to earn a credential in their own community. We are proud to partner with all our friends in Huerfano County!

[CONTACT US HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)



## HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS

### Senior to Sophomore is expanding!

For the Fall 2024 semester, we launched two new partnerships with Colorado School Districts 38 and 49 to offer college courses to students on their high school campus. We're excited to work directly with students and teachers at Falcon High School in Falcon, Colorado and Lewis-Palmer High School in Monument, Colorado to help students get a head start on their college career.

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## INDEPENDENT STUDY

### Student Testimonials

The Independent Study program offers correspondence courses to hundreds of justice-involved students every year. Here's what students are saying about the program:

*"the thorough feedback I get from professors particularly in English and Sociology classes has always been very helpful and encouraging and receiving it is always the highlight of my week"* -current B.S. in Sociology student.

*"every single person in every department from the program coordinator and counselors to the library and financial aid staff were so nice and helpful every time I called. It was inspiring to know there are places with such kind and professional people"* - current B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies student.

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Education is a Catalyst for

Education is often seen as a personal motivator for growth and development but we sometimes overlook just how important it also is as an opportunity builder for our communities. When we grow with knowledge and skills, we also gain confidence to pursue better-paying jobs, start small businesses, or adopt innovative and entrepreneurial practices. Access to higher education enhances these opportunities, leading to higher household incomes and increased economic stability.

Here at Extended Studies, our online programs work for adults throughout the state, connecting them with incredible faculty who teach from their own experiences in the workforce and from the latest developments in their various program industries, making this a powerful lever for professional growth.

Our online team at Colorado State University Pueblo, includes enrollment counselors, advisors, and instructional designers who all work with the university admissions and registrar offices, with other advisors, faculty and with program leaders. Together, they help guide our students through degree programs and certificates in addition to working with faculty to develop and revise courses to meet accreditation and industry requirements.

Our students come from all communities both urban and rural, as do our faculty and staff. The university team not only provides access to the broad menu of digital education, but they also advocate for and provide educational connections that foster community and shared purpose. As the online educational field continues to grow, so will new windows to blossoming technologies that will become integral to global resource connectivity for communities around the world. That same connectivity will continue to help preserve local traditions while also embracing modern advancements.

The pathway forward for education is full of new strategies that will continue to be accessible, relevant, and provide integral instruction and training to meet the challenges of our communities for generations to come.

Jacob Walter, one of our amazing Extended Studies staff members, knows first hand what education in rural communities is like.

*"As a resident of rural Colorado, I understand the challenges these communities face in accessing higher education. Many lack physical access, and those that do often offer fewer degree options than urban institutions. CSU Pueblo Online, along with programs like Satellite Campuses, High School Partnerships, and Prior Learning Assessment, allows learners to pursue education while balancing work, family, and community commitments. These efforts support rural students in achieving their goals without uprooting their lives, strengthening both individuals and their communities."*

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## STUDENT RESOURCES

### PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT (PLA)

CSU Pueblo Extended Studies degree programs have been approved on the Colorado Workforce Board's Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL)\*. Under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), prospective students who wish to start a CSU Pueblo Division of Extended Studies degree program can apply for funding from their local Workforce Board. Funds can be applied toward tuition, supplies, books, or equipment related to pursuing a degree. For more information, contact your local Workforce Development Board to see if you qualify for funds to help you pursue your degree and enhance your skills with CSU Pueblo!

\*Funding eligibility is determined at the local level. A few local areas do not support certain degree programs.

[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](#)

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## 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

**Read Set Enroll Events: Various Dates**

Saturday, December 7th 8 a.m. - noon

Saturday, January 18th 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**Tuesday, January 21st**

Spring classes begin

**Wednesday, January 22nd, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

PAWS EXPO: Campus & Community Resources

Occhiato Student Center (OSC)

**Thursday, March 6th, 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Construction Management Discovery Day

Recreation Center

**Monday, March 17th**

Spring B classes begin

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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](mailto:rachel.jiron@csupueblo.edu) and they will be added for the next issue!



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