



Water Workforce 2024 SUMMIT



Tuesday, April 2, 2024

Auraria Campus: Tivoli Student Union Turnhalle

7:30 – 8:30 *Summit Check-In; Coffee & Light Breakfast*

8:30 – 9:00 Welcoming Remarks
Summit Logistics
Water Workforce Overview

Karen Schlatter, Summit Chair, Associate Director,
Colorado Water Center at Colorado State University
Nona Shipman, Summit Venue Host, Co-Director, One
World One Water Center at Metropolitan State University

9:00 – 10:20 Panel Session:
Diversifying Water Workforce

*Moderated by Breanna González, Environmental Justice & Outreach Unit
Supervisor, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment*

Rebecca Andrus, P.E., Deputy Director of Water and
Wastewater Operations, City of Greeley

Ruthie Redmond, Senior Program Manager, Strategic
Initiatives, US Water Alliance

Victor Sam, P.E., Stantec, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
Committee Chair, Rocky Mountain Section American
Water Works Association

Jessica Thrasher, Water Equity Program Leader, Colorado
Water Center at Colorado State University

10:20 – 10:40 *Coffee Break*

10:40 – 12:00 Panel Session:
Pipeline Programs

*Moderated by Jill Garber, Director, Colorado State University Center
at Sturm Collaboration Campus*

Mary Dawson, Senior Environmental Education &
Outreach Specialist, Aurora Water

Chris Madsen, Instructor, Arvada West High School,
Adjunct Professor Red Rocks Community College

Kaitlin Mattos, Ph.D., Interim Director, Four Corners Water
Center, Assistant Professor, Fort Lewis College

Claude Strait, Executive Director,
Colorado Rural Water Association

12:00 – 1:20 *Buffet Lunch*

1:20 – 3:00 Breakout Rooms with Roundtable Discussions
Barriers, needs, gaps, existing programs & resources, steps forward

3:00 – 3:20 *Coffee Break*

3:20 – 4:40 Panel Session:
Student Voices & Experiences

*Moderated by Gregg Cannady, D.M.A., Senior Manager of STEM and
Student Experience, DSST Public Schools*

Dream Lang, High School Student, Littleton Public Schools
Leah Dory, Undergraduate Student, Metropolitan State
University of Denver, 2023-24 Water Fellow

Evani Gomez, Undergraduate Student, Colorado Mesa
University, 2023-24 Water Fellow

TR Heydman, Graduate Student, Colorado State University
Makenzie Chesak, P.E., Civil Engineer, Kimley-Horn, Young
Professionals Committee Chair, RMSAWWA

4:40 – 5:00 Synthesis
Closing Remarks

Karen Schlatter, Summit Chair, Associate Director,
Colorado Water Center at Colorado State University

5:00 – 6:30 *Networking Reception (Hors D'oeuvres, Cash Bar)*