Planning Committee

- Metropolitan State University of Denver
- CSU Spur
- America Water Resources Association Colorado
- Aurora Water
- City of Fort Collins
- Colorado Community College System
- Colorado Rural Water Association
- Colorado Water Conservation Board
- Denver Water
- DSST Public Schools
- Rocky Mountain Section of American Water Works Association
- Water Education Colorado
8:30 – 9:00 am
Welcoming Remarks & Logistics
Water Workforce Overview

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

10:20 – 10:40 am
Coffee Break

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

12:00 – 1:20 pm
Buffet Lunch

1:20 – 3:00 pm
Breakout Rooms with Roundtable Discussions

3:00 – 3:20 pm
Coffee Break

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

4:40 – 5:00 pm
Synthesis & Closing Remarks

5:00 – 6:30 pm
Networking Reception
Water Workforce
2024 SUMMIT

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

Mission: Address the water resource information and knowledge needs of water users in Colorado, the intermountain west, and the nation through engagement, education, and research.

Organization: Organized under the Office of Engagement and Extension at Colorado State University; serves as the designated USGS Water Resources Research Institute for the State of Colorado.

Function: Work with Colorado educational institutions, scientific research organizations, water management agencies, and water user groups in addressing water management challenges facing Colorado.
Engagement at the Colorado Water Center

➢ **Listening** to needs of communities and stakeholders across the state on water issues

➢ **Convening** stakeholders with differing interests to come together on pressing water issues

➢ **Connecting** people to resources, contacts, expertise, and information

➢ **Including** diverse voices in water discussions, policy, and management
Water Workforce

➢ Designing, constructing, operating, and governing water infrastructure = 1.7 million workers nationwide (2016)

➢ 1-2% of total employment in both urban and rural areas

➢ “Water workforce” encompasses hundreds of occupations

➢ Utilities often serve as anchor institutions for communities across the nation

Brookings Institute, 2018
U.S. Hourly Wage Comparison: Water Occupations vs. All Occupations, 2016

Source: Brookings analysis of BLS Occupational Employment Statistics
The Water Workforce Crisis
The Need: A Younger, More Diverse Water Workforce

Age Range of Workers in Water Occupations vs. All Occupations, 2016

Racial Diversity in Water Occupations vs. All Occupations, 2016

Primarily construction jobs

Source: Brookings analysis of BLS Occupational Employment Statistics and CPS data
Breanna González, Panel Moderator
Environmental Justice & Outreach Unit Supervisor, Air Pollution Control Division, Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment
Diversifying Water Workforce

Panelists

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

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

Victor Sam
P.E., Stantec, Chair of
RMSAWWA Diversity,
Equity and Inclusion Committee

Jessica Thrasher
Water Equity Program Leader,
Colorado Water Center, Colorado State University
Jill Garber, MBA, Panel Moderator
Director, Colorado State University Center
at Sturm Collaboration Campus

Water Workforce 2024 SUMMIT
Pipeline Programs

Panelists

Mary Dawson
Sr. Environmental Education and 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
Water Workforce 2024 Summit

Dr. Gregg Cannady, DMA, Panel Moderator
Senior Manager of STEM and Student Experience, DSST Public Schools
Student Voices & Experiences

Panelists

Dream Lang
High School Student, Littleton Public Schools

Evani Gomez
Undergraduate Student, Colorado State University

T.R. Heydman
Graduate Student, Colorado State University

Mackenzie Chesak
P.E., Civil Engineer, Kimley-Horn, Young Professionals Committee Chair, RMSAWWA

Leah Dory
Undergraduate Student, Metropolitan State University of Denver, 2023–24 Water Fellow
Day 2: Water Career & Education Fair

Wednesday, April 3, 2024

7:30 – 8:45 Water Fair Exhibitor Set Up

9:00 – 12:00 Water Career & Education Fair Open

9:30 & 11:30 “Hydrant Hysteria” by Rocky Mountain Section AWWA

Hydrant hysteria is a measure of a team’s skill at assembling a hydrant quickly, totally, and accurately. Teams from Westminster and Denver Water will be competing during these demonstrations. Swing by the alleyway between the Shop and Hydro to witness the hydrant assembly showdowns at 9:30am and 11:30am!

10:00 – 11:00 Speed-dating networking session for water employers and students

11:00 – 12:00 Lunch & Refreshments Available

12:00 – 12:30 Water Fair Exhibitor Break Down
Thank you!