



Water Workforce 2024 SUMMIT

APRIL 2, 2024

Karen Schlatter, Associate Director, Colorado Water Center



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COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



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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





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Agenda



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



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



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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

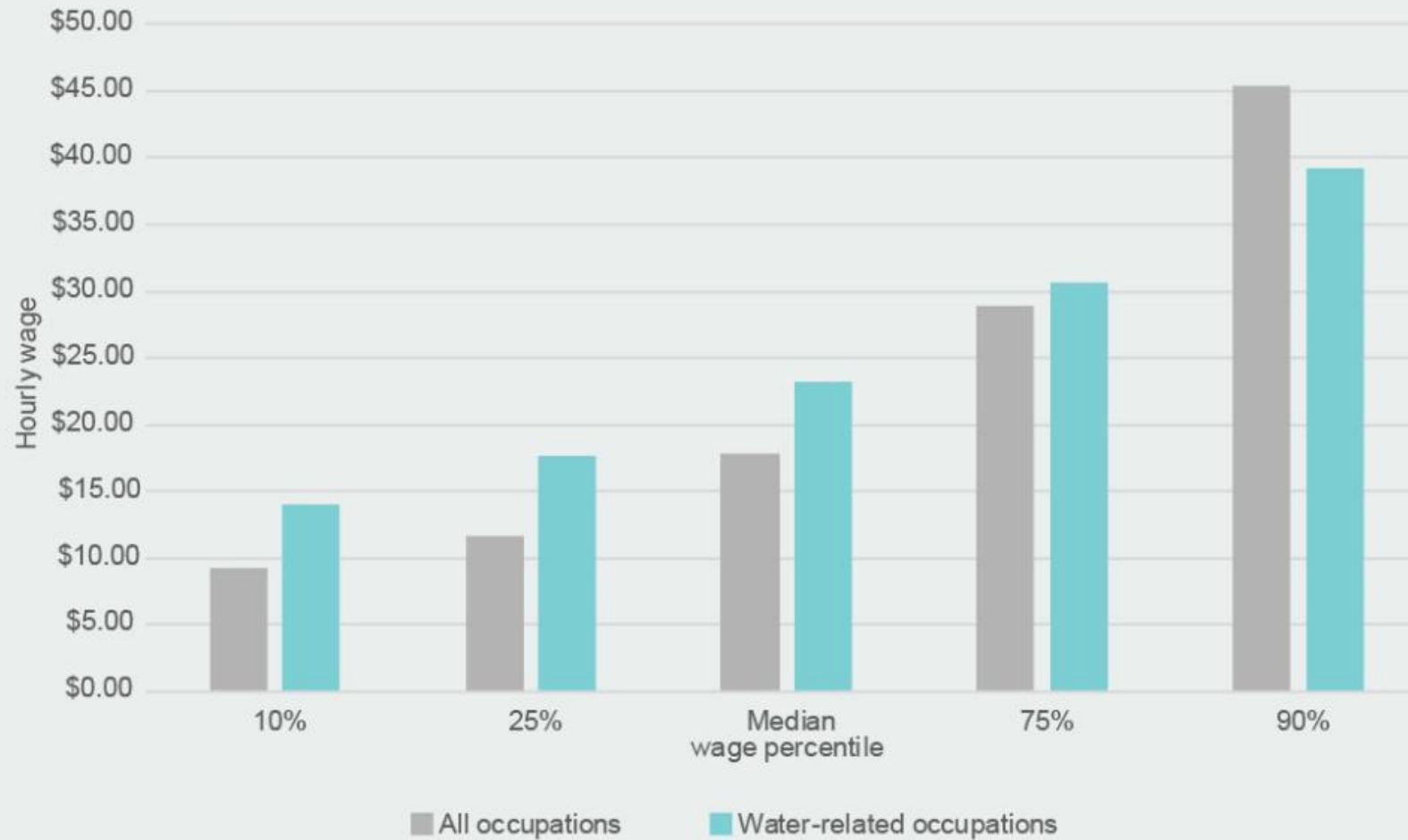
Water Workforce

- 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





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



Source: Brookings analysis of BLS Occupational Employment Statistics

The Water Workforce Crisis



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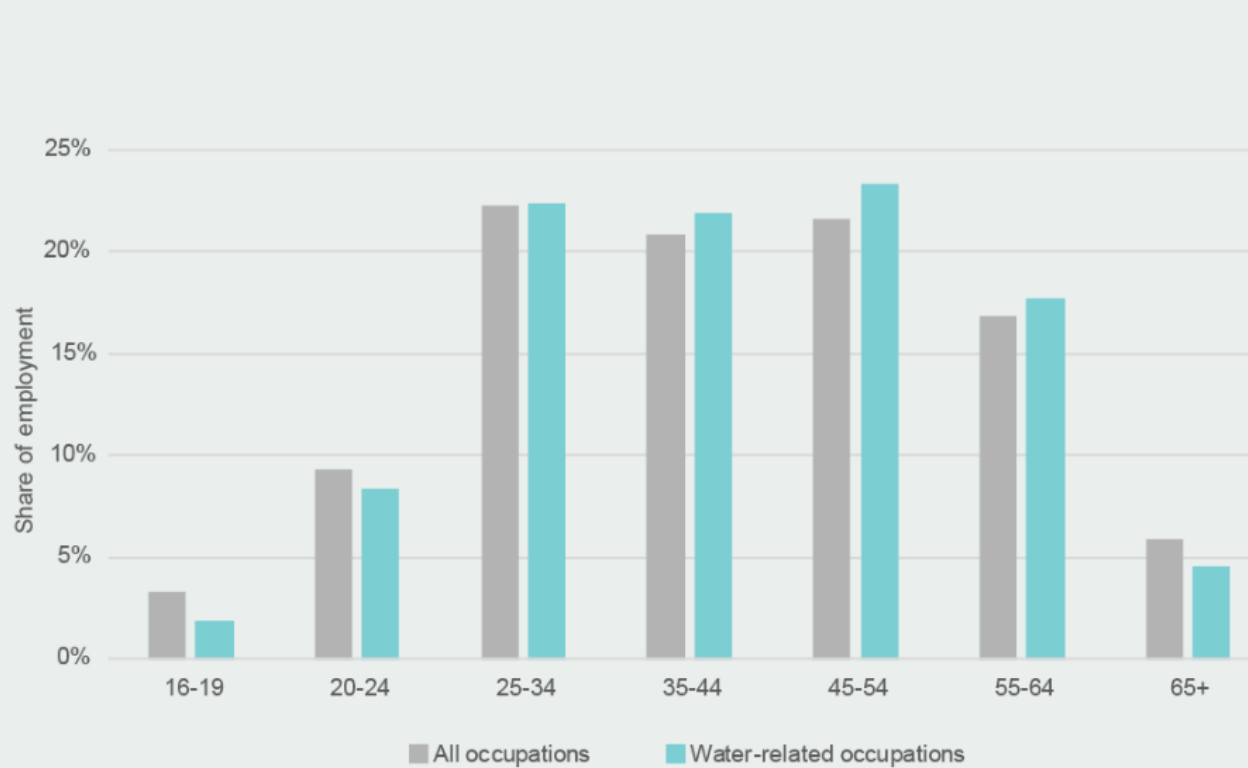


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The Need: A Younger, More Diverse Water Workforce

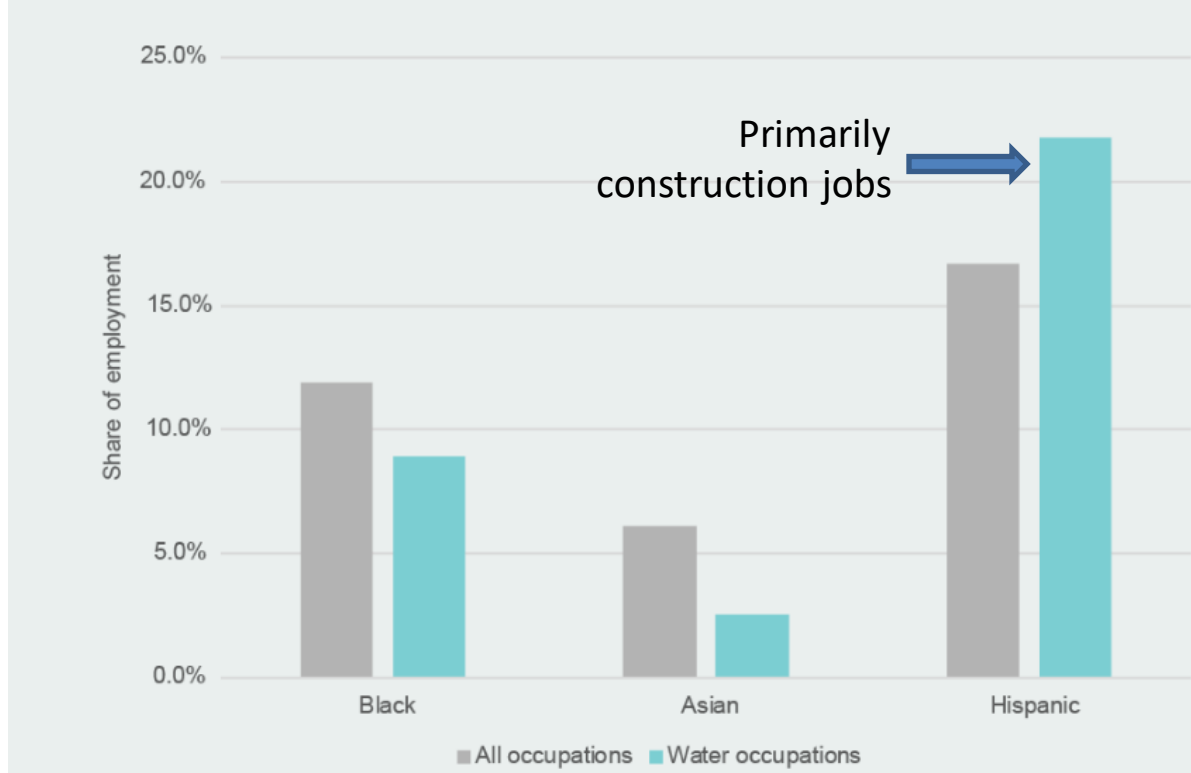


Age Range of Workers in Water Occupations vs. All Occupations, 2016



Source: Brookings analysis of BLS Occupational Employment Statistics and CPS data

Racial Diversity in Water Occupations vs. All Occupations, 2016



Source: Brookings analysis of BLS Occupational Employment Statistics and CPS data



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*Breanna González, Panel Moderator
Environmental Justice & Outreach Unit
Supervisor, Air Pollution Control Division,
Colorado Dept. of Public Health & Environment*



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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



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*Jill Garber, MBA, Panel Moderator
Director, Colorado State University Center
at Sturm Collaboration Campus*



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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



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



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Student Voices & Experiences

Panelists



Dream Lang

High School Student,
Littleton Public Schools



Evani Gomez

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



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

CSU Spur Hydro Building
4777 National Western Dr., Denver, CO 80216

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**



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Thank you!



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