



## Increasing Access to Tech Education and Careers Through a Partnership with Apple and Local Schools

CU Denver is partnering with Apple's Community Education Initiative to strengthen and diversify Colorado's tech talent pipeline by advancing digital literacy and access for aspiring teachers and diverse students in STEAM disciplines, with an eye towards the nation's and state's rapidly growing Hispanic population—a vast reservoir of untapped tech and creative talent. The partnership provides rich learning opportunities and engagement for teachers and students and will also support workforce needs across the Denver Metro Area and throughout the state by exposing them to Apple's Swift Coding and Everyone Can Create curriculum.

Under the leadership of CU Denver's School of Education and Human Development, we selected a class of inaugural schools to participate in three K-12 districts committed to innovation, equity, and educational access: St. Vrain Valley, Aurora Public Schools (Aurora West and Hinkley High Schools), and Adams 14. CU Denver selected schools to be inaugural partners of an innovation community that will develop a robust pipeline of diverse students exposed to STEAM from kindergarten through college.

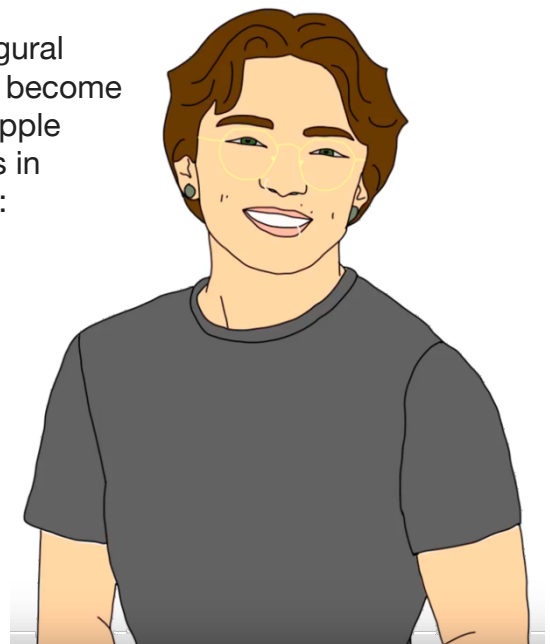
Through its Community Education Initiative, Apple has donated an expansive technology hardware package to the initiative and is supporting student scholarships, curriculum development, and teacher training through CU Denver's P-TEACH and Pathways2Teaching programs. Teachers and students are utilizing the donated technology, including MacBooks and iPads, in their courses.

In addition to the learning taking place in the three inaugural districts, 223 CU Denver students who are preparing to become teachers have also participated in two courses where Apple products were embedded in order to develop their skills in leveraging technology in their own courses in the future:

- INTE 2000—Digital Teaching and Learning
- STME 1000—Intro to STEM Teaching

*Pictured at right: A self portrait created by a St. Vrain student using digital technology skills learned through the program.*

**Additional examples of community engagement initiatives underway at CU Denver are included on the next page.**



## Additional Highlights: CU Denver's Engagement Across the Region and State

### College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The **CoorsTek Denver Metro Regional Science & Engineering Fair** empowers the next generation of STEM professionals by fostering an enthusiasm for science and inquiry. The annual event is held each February at CU Denver and offers middle and high school students from eight local districts an opportunity to engage with the Denver metro STEM community and to present their original research in an atmosphere of competition, creativity, education, and fun. **Recovering Auraria's Past**, a three-year collaborative project with faculty and community members, examines the lasting impact of displacement by collecting, organizing, and sharing materials, oral histories, and research on the history of the Auraria neighborhood in Denver. The **College-in-Prison Program** currently serves 50 students incarcerated in five Colorado prisons. Our prison curriculum emphasizes job-ready communication and business skills while also focusing on concepts of self-reflection, community awareness, and civic engagement.

### College of Engineering, Design and Computing

Since 1989, the Center for Inclusive Design and Engineering has worked hand-in-hand with community stakeholders to ensure people with disabilities and seniors thrive at home, school, work, and play. The Center leads a number of community engagement initiatives focused on improving the lives of people with disabilities of all ages, including the **Assistive Technology Program of Colorado**, which helps individuals with disabilities lead more independent lives, and the **Statewide Assistive Technology, Augmentative & Alternative Communication initiative** that provides devices and services to create equal access to the curriculum and active participation in the classroom for students in more than 60 participating school districts across the state.

### Business School

The **GenCyber Summer Camp** program provides free hands-on cybersecurity experiences for students at the K-12 level. The camp is funded by a grant from the NSF and specifically targets students from diverse backgrounds to encourage their interest in cybersecurity. The most recent Gencyber summer camp had high school participants that were 25% white, 25% Hispanic, 21% Asian, 11% African American, 4% Native American and 6% Multiple Ethnicities. 50% of the participants were female. Additionally, faculty and students in the **First-Generation and Multicultural (FaM) Business Program** engage in outreach and community service projects throughout the year to build relationships with community college and local high school students and counselors, as well as to give back to the community. In fall 2023, FaM faculty and students will offer workshops to residents in Warren Village, a non-profit serving unhoused and unstably housed single-parent families in Denver that provides space and resources for economic mobility.

### School of Education & Human Development

Innovative initiatives co-constructed with school districts, community colleges, and service organizations draw upon faculty members' strengths in education, human well-being, and equity-centered and community-focused research. Examples of partnerships include **ASPIRE to Teach** alternative teacher licensure program, multiple dual enrollment pathways including **P-Teach** and **Pathways2Teaching**, the Center for Practice Engaged Educational Research's partnered research with districts including the **Student-Centered Accountability Program (S-CAP)**, and the **Partnership for Rural Educator Preparation (T-PREP)** relationships with Otero College, Trinidad State, Northeastern Junior College, and Lamar Community College.

### College of Architecture and Planning

**Urban and Regional Planning Capstones:** For about 20 years, students in the program have completed capstone projects to research challenges in communities in Denver and across the state including water access in the San Luis Valley, homelessness, and transportation. Approximately 30 students complete a capstone project each year.