



University of Colorado  
Colorado Springs

## **FY25 NEAT Grant Report**

### **Creating Meaningful Partnerships with Colleges & Deans**

#### **Grant Purpose**

It was our hope through this grant to collaborate with our six colleges and launch events with college focus intentionality that connected students, alumni, faculty and the Dean.

Over the last few years, we have had several Deans retire. This was a great opportunity to formally introduce the new leaders to each of their individual alumni groups via an informal event and highlight faculty favorites in the program. This was also a great avenue to showcase several of the new spaces on campus by hosting the events at these locations.

The strategy wasn't to invite every alum from a college, but focusing in more on a specific major or program; company affiliation; donors & potential donors; geographic beyond COSP (Denver, southern CO); etc. We wanted to meet the college's needs in this moment.

The collaborative group included both internal (Alumni, Donor Relations, Development & Annual Giving; Deans and support staff; graduate school) and external (alumni and friends of the university from each college).

#### **Grant Timeline & Process**

July/August 2024

- Work with Development officers to target topics, themes, and current needs, within each college.

September/October 2024

- Meet with each Dean and their support staff to hone in on goals and strategy for each of the 6 events.
- Find consensus on branded swag and order.

November 2024 – May 2025

- Flow of event planning, execution and survey follow-up for the six college events.

June 2025

- Grant wrap-up and submission

## Outcomes Overview

We were able to host seven events over the course of FY25 with an eye to meeting the needs of each college and their relationship with pockets of their alumni.

### **January**

1/8/25      College of Education SAHE graduate program– two small events in Denver and Boulder CO

### **February**

2/5/25      College of Engineering – Alumni & Student Career Mentoring event  
2/11/25      College of Business – Alumni & Community Connections  
2/19/25      College of Liberal Arts and Science – Advisory Board Engagement

### **April**

4/18/25      College of Nursing and Health Sciences – Health Science alumni focus  
4/23/25      College of Education – Leadership Pikes Peak alumni event  
5/9/25      College of Public Service – Graduation & Alumni Celebration

## Highlights from each event

### **College of Education**

#### **Student Affairs in Higher Education (SAHE) Graduate Program**

The UCCS Alumni office co-sponsored two events (CU Boulder and downtown Denver) for UCCS SAHE graduates. Graduates from the program are the best at recruitment for future cohorts. Alums enjoyed networking and hearing about SAHE moving to hybrid format from the program's director.

Quote from SAHE Director “I just learned a little bit more information that makes this initiative even more important. We have recently surveyed our current students and recent alumni, and the majority of them found out about our program or were most encouraged to apply to our program because of an alum. So, I am hoping that we will be able to continue some of these initiatives annually through our own budget given the importance to enrollment.”



## College of Engineering and Applied Science

The Engineering and Applied Science Career Center and Alumni Relations partnered to host the Engineering and Computer Science Alumni-Student Networking Dinner, bringing accomplished alumni back to campus to share career insights with 22 students. The event provided a valuable space for students to explore different career paths within engineering and computer science, engage in meaningful conversations, and gain advice from professionals in the field. Students came prepared with thoughtful questions, making the discussions engaging and insightful.

Alumni appreciated the opportunity to reconnect with the college and support the next generation of engineers and computer scientists. Overall, the event was a success, fostering valuable connections and career exploration. Looking ahead, we plan to expand alumni participation to include an even broader range of industries and experiences.

Additional alumni expressed interest but were unable to attend that evening. We are matching these constituents to other volunteer opportunities within the college.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:**

# Inspire the Next Generation of Engineers and Computer Scientists

Wednesday, February 5th 5:00 pm -7:00 pm University Center

Share your professional journey and lessons learned to help current UCCS students.



## College of Business

Date: February 11 from 5:00 to 7:00

Population: Local alumni in the business sector

Goal: To introduce local alumni and their business partners to what the College of Business can offer them both through ongoing professional development and executive training, to additional opportunities to engage with current students through internships, etc.

**Event Summary:** Meet the COB was an event designed to grow current partnerships, build new relationships and educate the local community on what the COB can do for them as an individual or as an organization

**Number of guests:** 50 in attendance

**Other:** The event produced two Alumni that are excited to get involved with future COB Alumni events!



## College of Letters, Arts & Sciences

LAS Advisory Board Re-engagement | February 18

The interim dean of LAS wanted to utilize this partnership opportunity to host a small group of Advisory Board members (alumni & community members) and faculty. The focus was on re-engagement of this vital group. They also focused on college updates, upcoming dean search, the need for internships in the community, and the direction of the college moving into 2025. It was hosted at a unique campus space that many of the members had never visited - Heller Center.

## College of Nursing and Health Science

Health and Wellness Promotion Alumni Event

Friday, April 18 | Hybl Center

Timeline:

- 10-10:30: check in and networking
- 10:30-11:30: time with respective program and current students.
- 11:30-12:20: lunch

Alumni from each of these two programs came together at the Hybl Center (new'ish building on campus) for an opportunity to reengage in a way that allows the alumni to learn updates on the college/program since they graduated as well as provide feedback to the college/program on their experience in the program and what they feel set them up for success, what the industry needs are, etc. This event would consist of faculty, staff, current students and alumni.

What does success look like:

- Beneficial for faculty, students, alumni
- Faculty get feedback on curriculum
- Students learn from alumni
- Alumni get to share their experiences as student & professional, engage with current students, network with other alumni, engage with former professors

## College of Education / Leadership Pikes Peak Program

April 23 | UCCS Downtown Campus



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LEADERSHIP  
PIKES PEAK

The Leadership Pikes Peak (LPP) Alumni Event is a gathering of past program graduates. Designed to foster continued engagement, the event brings together changemakers, entrepreneurs, and civic leaders who have gone through LPP's transformational programs. Whether to network, share success stories, or collaborate on new initiatives, alumni return not just to reminisce but to reinvest in the future of Colorado Springs.

## **College of Public Service**

Spring 2025 Graduation and Alumni Celebration

Friday, May 9, 2025 | 4:30 – 6:30pm | Kettle Creek at Roaring Forks Dining Hall

### Event Overview:

Alumni and friends came together to celebrate graduates from the class of 2025 and welcome them into the alumni fold. Alumni caught up with former classmates, faculty, and staff over small bites. The event included a short program honoring Outstanding Students, welcoming alumni, and college updates.

We hope to create an environment that allows faculty, staff, and current grads to hear about alumni successes and provides opportunities for networking. Connecting a graduating student to alumni will hopefully establish an opportunity – this could result in a job referral, mentoring opportunity, or some other mutual benefit. Plus, a majority of our faculty and staff will be there to chat with alumni.

## **Conclusions and Impact on Future Alumni Programming**

A big thank you to the NEAT Grant committee for awarding UCCS this grant for FY25. With this funding we were able to connect with each of our 6 colleges and their deans to create unique and meaningful events for alumni within each college.

Events ranged from small graduate program and Advisory Board connections to large alumni & community focused events out in the Colorado Springs community. Bottom line, we were able to meet our college where they were at with engaging alumni and offer not only financial support for their events but also alumni list creation, e-communications, registration technology, event swag, alumni staffing at events, and best practice knowledge as they navigated how they wanted to collaborate.

Because of the success of this grant, we have decided to incorporate base funding for one event per college in the next FY!

## Project Budget

\$300.00	SAHE (College of Education graduate program)
\$984.89	Alumni Swag for the 6 events
\$823.00	College of Engineering Networking Night
\$1000.00	College of Business – Grant portion
\$1065.50	College of Education (LPP event on April 23)
\$603.85	College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Advisory Board Engagement
\$510.00	30 hours of student worker support (data base, list support, event support)
<u>\$2000.00</u>	<u>2 additional events coming up in April/May 2025</u>
\$7287.24	