

- COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH
- COMPUTER SCIENCE
- DANCE
- DRAMA & THEATRE ARTS
- FINANCIAL LITERACY
- MATHEMATICS
- MUSIC
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION
- READING, WRITING, AND COMMUNICATING
- SCIENCE
- SOCIAL STUDIES
- VISUAL ARTS
- WORLD LANGUAGES



TEACHING AND LEARNING

COLAB

2022 REVIEW



## 2022 Teaching and Learning CoLabs—A Look Back

The 2022 Teaching and Learning CoLabs were the realization of a vision of a new kind of professional learning event. CoLabs were:

- Locally hosted in different regions of Colorado,
- Inclusive of multiple content areas,
- Inclusive of all grade levels kindergarten through high school, and
- Focused on the professional learning needs of K-12 educators.

CoLabs also brought together stakeholders in a new kind of collaborative partnership:

- The participants themselves, who represented schools and districts from across the state,
- Institutions of higher education, who welcomed educators onto their campuses and lent the expertise of their faculty,
- Professional teaching organizations, who directed the content of the CoLabs programming,
- State and local experts, who represented stakeholder organizations that led CoLabs sessions, and
- The Colorado Department of Education, who developed and supported the CoLabs model.

# The 2022 Teaching and Learning CoLabs Experience

Thursday, June 2, 2022

Hosted by  
Colorado Mesa  
University

73 Participants  
8 Districts  
39 Sessions

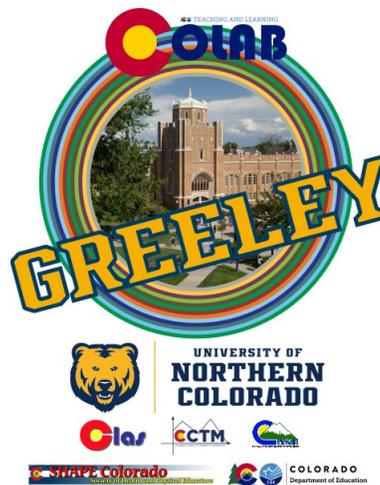


Participants at all three CoLab locations shared a similar experience: after being greeted at check-in, they received a welcome and opening charge from one or more of the university leaders and an orientation from CDE staff. From there, participants could choose from 12 to 15 different breakout sessions focused on English language arts, health, mathematics, physical education, science, or school leadership.

Sessions were designed to align to one or more of three themes:

- Supporting All Learners
- Standards-Aligned Classrooms
- Multiple Literacies and Integrated Learning Experiences

Sessions were delivered by a variety of presenters, including university faculty, CDE staff, and speakers arranged by Colorado's professional teaching organizations.



Wednesday, June 8, 2022

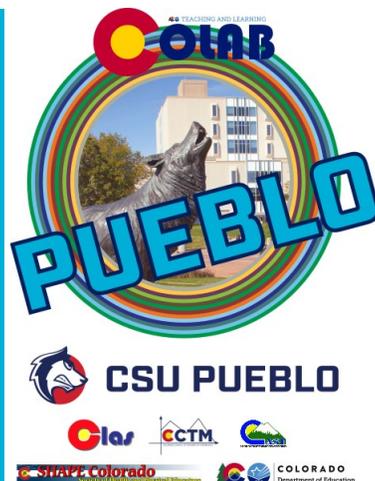
Hosted by the  
University of  
Northern Colorado

109 Participants  
18 Districts  
45 Sessions

Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Hosted by  
Colorado State University  
Pueblo

142 Participants  
21 Districts  
43 Sessions



After a lunch that included generous time to talk and collaborate with colleagues and presenters, participants had two more rounds of hour-long sessions to choose from in the afternoon. The day concluded with a whole-group session to celebrate, have discussions in content-based focus groups, and to summarize the learnings of the day in school- and/or district-based teams. Attendees received 8.0 certificate hours from CDE for their participation.

# Productive Partnerships

Every great professional learning opportunity is a combination of a welcoming venue, a rich program, and solid logistical support. The 2022 Teaching and Learning CoLabs could not have happened without the support of Colorado’s higher education institutions, our professional teaching and other stakeholder organizations, and the Colorado Department of Education.

## Higher Education Partners

Each of our three higher education partners—Colorado Mesa University, the University of Northern Colorado, and CSU Pueblo—provided a venue for the event, volunteers, outreach and promotion, and sessions led by their faculty. Colorado educators benefited from this generosity by having regional sites for professional learning. The universities benefited by making connections with local educators and playing a visible role in the ongoing professional learning of K-12 teachers and leaders.



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**JODY DIERS**  
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## Professional Teaching and Stakeholder Organizations



**MARY PITTMAN**  
President, Colorado  
Council of Teachers of  
Mathematics

Colorado’s professional teaching and other stakeholder organizations provided input on the design of the CoLabs program, recruited speakers and participants from their membership, and hosted resource tables to share information about their organizations. Colorado educators benefited from the experience these organizations have in delivering professional learning events, and the organizations benefited by getting exposure to more educators in more places. These organizations have long held annual conferences of their own, but with the disruption of the COVID-19 pandemic, and long-term declines in membership, CoLabs offered these organizations a lower-risk, lower-lift opportunity to serve Colorado’s K-12 educators.



**AMANDA NICHOLS**  
Director of Professional  
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**LINDA CUMMINGS**  
President, Colorado  
Association of Science  
Teachers

## Colorado Department of Education

The Colorado Department of Education developed the Teaching and Learning CoLabs model and supported the events by providing support for registration, branding and marketing, volunteer coordination, session speakers, funding, and site liaisons to coordinate with each of the host sites. In return, CDE cultivated relationships with partners and educators around the state as well as broadened perceptions about the services the department provides.

# Impacts and Key Takeaways

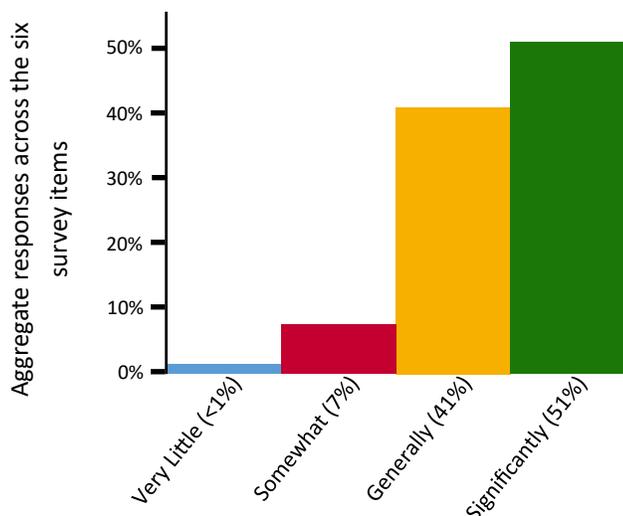
In total, about 300 people participated in one or more of the three CoLabs, representing over 40 Colorado school districts.

## Quality of Content

Participants were asked a variety of survey questions, including if they believed the content they experienced:

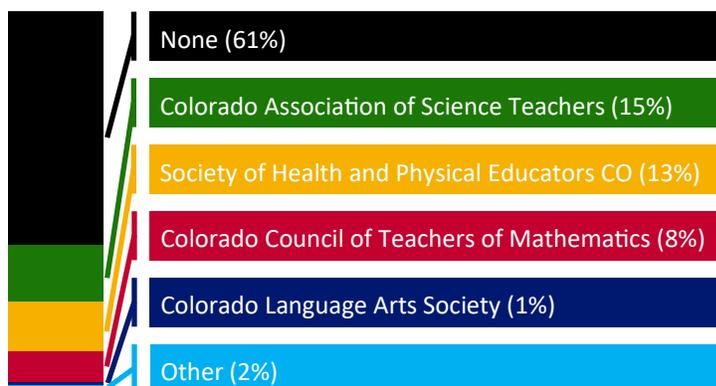
- Was USEFUL to them
- Was APPLICABLE to their work
- Had CHANGED their THINKING
- Had REINFORCED their thinking
- KEPT their interest
- Prompted them to take ACTION on what they learned

Generally, the pattern of responses all looked like the figure below, with participants overwhelmingly responding either “generally” or “significantly” to each of these six survey items:



## Participation in Teacher Organizations

Participants were asked if they were a member of any of the represented teacher organizations. More than 60% of respondents said they were not members of any, and anecdotally, some participants revealed that they did not know these groups existed. These data suggest that CoLabs could be a useful venue for outreach and new member recruitment.



## Challenges

Several challenges stand out from the 2022 CoLabs:

- Fragmented communication channels made it difficult to promote the events and be timely with information
- Attendance for some sessions was very low
- A narrow window exists in June between the end of the K-12 school year and the end of the CDE fiscal year, which strains capacity to manage multiple CoLabs
- Buy-in from districts and schools to attend as multidisciplinary teams with school leaders

# Looking Ahead

In 2023, the Teaching and Learning CoLabs are planned to return with the following goals:

- Strengthen existing partnerships,
- Increase participation and support
- Expand to include social studies and the arts
- Stay true to our focus on teaching and learning

Visit [www.cde.state.co.us/colab](http://www.cde.state.co.us/colab) for future locations and dates, registration details, and ways to contact the CoLabs planning team.



# Giving Thanks

More people than can be listed here deserve a word of thanks for helping make the 2022 Teaching and Learning CoLabs a reality. In particular, we want to recognize:

- The higher education institution representatives who gave so much time and effort, including Blake Bickham (CMU), Rachel Ehnert (UNC), and Rick Farrar (CSU Pueblo), and all of the faculty and other volunteers they helped recruit;
- The leadership of Colorado’s professional teaching organizations, including the Colorado Association of Science Teachers (CAST), the Colorado Council of Teachers of Mathematics (CCTM), the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE Colorado), and the Colorado Language Arts Society (CLAS);
- Presenters and exhibitors from Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Denver Museum of Nature & Science, RMC Health, TNTP, STEM is My Future, eleSTEMary, PALS, CSEN, and the Air Force Academy;
- The wonderful and knowledgeable speakers, of which there are too many to name;
- And all of the CDE organizers, volunteers, and presenters who represented the work of many offices and units across the department.



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