



News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## CH2M grants \$50,000 to Colorado State University for sustainability research and STEM education

DENVER (October 25, 2017) — The CH2M Foundation is proud to announce a new grant to CSU with a client-centric, sustainability and career-focused approach that is sure to make an impact for years to come.

Through a grant of \$50,000 to the CSU National Western Center Sustainability Team and the CSU Water Fellows Program, the CH2M Foundation is investing in STEM education, while continuing the company’s long-time commitment to sustainability. CH2M is also reinforcing the work of many of its clients: the [National Western Center](#), City and County of Denver, CSU and the Western Stock Show Association and Denver Water.

“The CH2M Foundation continues to partner with charitable initiatives that demonstrate our shared values with our key clients,” said Ellen Sandberg, executive director of the CH2M Foundation.



*CSU Water Fellows and Interns, Summer 2017*

### Investing in sustainability research and collaboration

The first part of the grant, \$37,500, will go to CSU’s National Western Center Sustainability Team. This team is helping develop a district-scale, net zero campus that addresses innovations in water, energy, food systems, health and recreation, and improves the natural environment. The work is occurring in two phases over three years.

During Phase I, the team focused on energy, waste and water system analysis and recommendations. Phase 2, beginning in fall 2017, centers on urban ecology, river restoration, air quality, community health, education and integrated design and organizational behavior. [The Gates Family Foundation](#) provided a matching grant of \$75,000 for the second phase, so CH2M’s \$37,500 grant will be matched.

### Providing STEM opportunities for diverse and underrepresented students

The second part of the grant, \$12,500, supports the [CSU Water Fellows program](#). First-generation CSU students from diverse and often underrepresented backgrounds team with high school students from neighborhoods



around the National Western Center to spend the summer working on water issues. Gaining leadership and organization skills, the water fellows do outreach to the neighborhoods about water issues.

CSU's presence at the National Western Center is growing, anchored by its [Water Resources Center](#). As one of the first buildings to be constructed at the National Western Center, the Water Resources Center will host multidisciplinary, year-round programs such as these, which will draw tourists, K-12 students, water professionals and researchers, water conferences and community members. CSU and the National Western Center are [working closely with Denver Water](#) to create collaboration around water quality, conservation, reuse/recycling and treatment at the NWC site.

"Colorado State University is grateful for this generous grant from the CH2M Foundation, which will further CSU's work in delivering cutting-edge research and outcomes in sustainability and water," said Amy Parsons, executive vice chancellor of the CSU System. "Through its support of the CSU Water Fellows program, the grant also highlights the importance of sharing knowledge and empowering the next generation. Our university is appreciative of the support and looks forward to collaborating with our partners at the National Western Center to execute these initiatives."

"This foundation grant leverages local funding, making the value of our charitable donation grow to \$87,500 and thereby ensuring even greater success of the program," according to Patrick O'Keefe, CH2M's program manager for the National Western Center's construction and buildout.

The National Western Center program is off to a fast start, with a kickoff event for physical work on November 1, 2017. This will begin a rapid period of removing old structures and replacing them with a multiuse community assets that will serve as focal points for agriculture, entertainment and educational programs.

## About CH2M

*CH2M leads the professional services industry delivering sustainable solutions benefiting societal, environmental and economic outcomes with the development of infrastructure and industry. In this way, CH2Mers make a positive difference providing consulting, design, engineering and management services for clients in [water](#); [environment](#) and [nuclear](#); [transportation](#); [energy](#) and [industrial](#) markets, from iconic infrastructure to global programs like the Olympic Games. Ranked among the World's Most Ethical Companies and top firms in environmental consulting and program management, CH2M in 2016 became the first professional services firm honored with the World Environment Center Gold Medal Award for efforts advancing sustainable development. Connect with CH2M at [www.ch2m.com](http://www.ch2m.com); [LinkedIn](#); [Twitter](#); and [Facebook](#).*

## About Colorado State University

*Founded in 1870 as the Colorado Agricultural College, Colorado State University is now among the nation's leading research universities, with annual research expenditures above \$300 million. Located in Fort Collins, CSU currently enrolls about 33,000 total students, including 4,000 graduate students and 580 Professional Veterinary Medicine students, and has more than 1,800 faculty members working in eight colleges. More information is available at [www.colostate.edu](http://www.colostate.edu).*