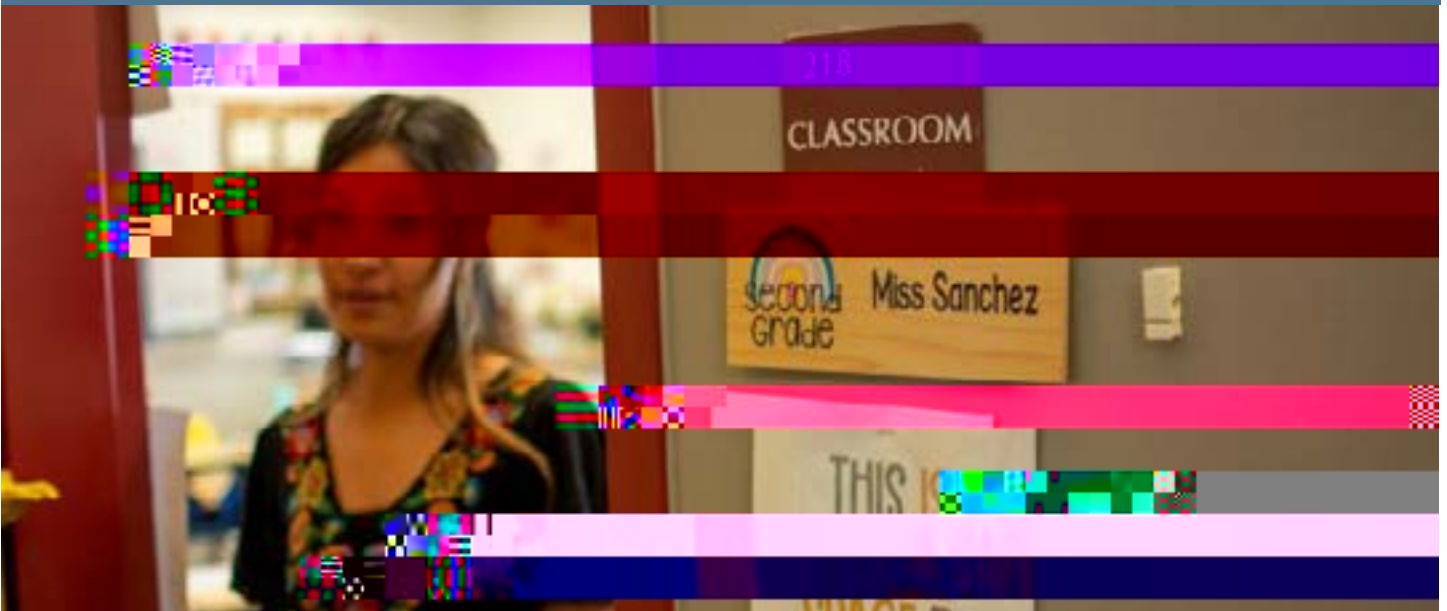




Rural Centered
October 2024

A Monthly Newsletter from the
Colorado Center for Rural Education



Miss Sanchez is a graduate of the Teacher Leadership degree program at CU Boulder

Stackable Certificates Lead to Master's Degree in Teacher Leadership

CU Boulder's online [Teacher Leadership](#) program was originally the brainchild of Brett Miles, a former director of the Northeast BOCES, and Kathy Schultz, Professor and Dean Emerita, School of Education at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Miles and Schultz recognized that the needs of rural schools and teachers were not being met by the state's universities and that there was a real need for professional learning opportunities that would support increased teacher retention in rural school districts.

When Emily Gleason, Faculty Director and Teaching Professor, joined the team in 2018, she dedicated time to learning from rural educators about the kind of professional learning that would work best for them. She spent two years listening to what rural teachers said they needed to be the best teachers they could be. "It turns out what they need isn't all that different from what urban teachers need—peer support, high-quality professional development that relates to their everyday lives, and access to affordable education," said Gleason.

The program costs approximately \$15,000 for in-state students, which is a very affordable price for a MA degree. A \$6,000 [Rural Inservice Educator Stipend](#) awarded by the Colorado Center for Rural Education makes the cost even more affordable.

Capstone Project

All participants must design a capstone project for their classroom, school, or community. “We often see rural teachers thinking about what they can do for the community as a whole,” said Gleason. One participant designed a bilingual after-school program to help ESL learners. She brought high school students in as mentors for the elementary school kids, which immediately created a positive ripple effect.

“Our vision is to allow teachers to find greater joy, cultivate competencies, and be more connected so they feel more compelled to stay in the classroom,” said Gleason. In that way, the program acts as a retention tool.

Next Steps

Gleason invites you to email her at teacherleadership@colorado.edu to schedule a call to discuss your interest in the program and how their staff can help you find professional development money to assist with the cost of the program. They are also willing to partner with school districts and BOCES to build communities where teachers support each other.

Upcoming Application Timelines

Colorado Rural Student Teaching Stipend applications for spring 2025 accepted:
July 1, 2024, through October 31, 2024

Visit TEACH Colorado's [Financial Aid and Scholarship Information](#) for additional scholarships.

For financial aid available to in-service and aspiring educators, download the _____
