



Rural Centered  
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A Monthly Newsletter from the  
Colorado Center for Rural Education

## CCRE Stipends Help Rural School Districts Attract Teachers

The [Colorado Center for Rural Education](#) and the [Colorado Department of Higher Education](#) work together to help alleviate the teacher shortage in rural Colorado school districts. To that end, we award [stipends](#) of up to \$6,000 to qualifying rural inservice educators who want to:

- Teach concurrent enrollment courses;
- Add an additional endorsement; or
- Fulfill a local faculty need.

The stipend offsets the cost to attend a qualifying program at one of Colorado's institutions of higher education. We asked three of the recipients to comment on how the stipend will help them achieve their academic and career goals.

### Shannon Wilde



*Shannon Wilde, a teacher in Ft. Morgan, CO*

Shannon Wilde teaches English dual language immersion to second grade students at Columbine Elementary in the Morgan County Public School District in Ft. Morgan, Colorado.

"The CCRE stipend helped me further my own education and professional memberships, which allow me to continue to grow and thrive as an educator. My goal always has been and always will be to be a lifelong learner, and this stipend allows me to 'practice what I preach' to my students and anyone that will listen. Thank you, CCRE!"

## Kevin Cronin



*Kevin Cronin, a teacher in Aspen, CO, holding his acceptance letter to graduate school at the University of Northern Colorado*

Kevin Cronin teaches science and social studies at Aspen Middle School in Aspen School District 1. He said the award has given him the opportunity to further develop his science education career by attending graduate school at the University of Northern Colorado.

"It is hard work teaching and attending graduate school at the same time, but I love learning new things and applying them in my classroom. I can't thank the Colorado Center for Rural Education enough for opening this door for me. I wouldn't have been able to attend graduate school without the stipend.

We also award [stipends](#) to encourage teacher candidates to student teach in Colorado rural school districts and eventually become a teacher in a Colorado rural school district. The value of the stipend is up to \$4,000 for the semester of student teaching. Stipend recipients are expected to complete student teaching in a Colorado rural school district and then apply to and work in a rural school district.

We asked some recipients to comment on how the stipend will help them achieve their academic and career goals.

# Heidy Cardenas



*Heidy Cardenas, a teacher candidate in Basalt, CO*

Heidy Cardenas teaches all subjects to third grade students at Basalt Elementary School in the Roaring Fork School District in Basalt, Colorado.

"I am deeply grateful for the invaluable support CCRE has provided with this stipend. Thank you for empowering me in my journey to become an educator."

# Hannah Hohenstein



*Hannah Hohenstein, a teacher candidate in Cedaredge, CO*

Hannah Hohenstein teaches all subjects to third grade students at Cedaredge Elementary School in Delta County School District 50J in Cedaredge, Colorado.

"Cedaredge Elementary School is the school I attended for most of my elementary school years. The stipend for the rural Colorado student teachers was a great blessing, as it allowed me to student teach in a small community and not worry so much about the financial aspect of it. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and for the help that stipends like this provide."

## Upcoming Application Timelines

**National Board Certified Teacher Stipend** applications for 2024 accepted: January 1, 2024, through June 15, 2024, or until 50 applications are received

**Rural Inservice Educator Stipend** applications for fall 2024 accepted: May 1, 2024, through August 31, 2024

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

**Colorado Substitute Stipend** applications accepted: The program will end prior to the 2024-2025 school year. Applications accepted until funding has been expanded.

Visit TEACH Colorado's **Financial Aid and Scholarship Information** page for information about additional scholarships.

For financial aid available to in-service and aspiring educators, download the **Colorado Department of Education's Educator Recruitment and District Supports flyer**.

## Featured Partners

Learn more about our [featured partners](#) and how they are helping to solve the teacher shortage in rural Colorado.



Western Colorado University offers a 100% [online teacher preparation program](#) that allows adults to complete their degree and obtain a teaching license. The program is structured so that individuals can maintain their existing employment while attending classes.

Robert Fulton, PhD | Director

