

## CSU Extension Internship Program Application

### **Mentor Committee:**

Sherie Shaffer – CSU Extension Agent, Horticulture; Pueblo, CO  
Josh Sbicca – Associate Professor, Sociology; Fort Collins, CO

### **Location, Housing, and Travel:**

This internship will be based in Pueblo, Colorado and the intern will work throughout Pueblo County. We will assist the student in finding housing in Pueblo, if necessary. The student will need to have a valid driver's license and reliable, personal transportation for occasional visits to local farms, organizations, and community events.

### **Background:**

UpRoot Colorado (UpRoot) measurably reduces surplus protective foods in Colorado, supports the economic stability of farmers and increases the nutritional security of our state's residents. We envision a mindful, humane and equitable Colorado foodshed where farmers are valued for who they are: a cornerstone of our society.

### **Internship Experience:**

We are seeking a student intern with a passion for food justice and food-systems change who will facilitate independent research, community outreach, and engage in leadership opportunities. We expect the student to create a program template that will be shared with the UpRoot team working on both sides of the Divide as well as with like-minded organizations nationwide.

They will be responsible for two primary projects: (1) Developing a Volunteer Harvest-Leader program where core volunteers will be trained to independently lead gleans. This process will include researching similar initiatives, drafting a training program, and creating deliverables for organizational reference; and (2) Creating and implementing an outreach strategy in Pueblo County. They will engage with stakeholders including volunteers, prospective farm partners, and hunger-relief and social-service agencies to share UpRoot's mission and foster partnerships. These projects will be completed by leveraging critical-thinking skills and community engagement both on and off farm fields. We encourage the intern to implement principles of design thinking—such as inviting current volunteers to participate in the design process—to generate ideas.

The intern should have strong communication skills, both written and orally. Most importantly, the intern should have a passion for community food-systems work and increasing food equity in Colorado. Ideally, they will have experience in outreach to stakeholders such as volunteers, farmers, customers, community groups, and elected officials; proficiency in Spanish is a plus.

This internship offers a unique opportunity to build partnerships and apply research in Pueblo County. The intern will gain on-the-ground life experiences and knowledge of rural communities and lifestyles, agriculture, and community food systems while networking with food-systems professionals. They will build transferable skills in leadership, critical thinking, community outreach and organizing, public speaking, volunteer management, and strategic planning.