

# CSU Extension Internship Program

## 2022 Annual Report



COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

The CSU Extension Internship Program was started in 2018 following a request from Extension leadership to find opportunities to facilitate enhanced connections between campus and field, as well as students and Extension. In addition, there was a call to ensure that campus-based faculty were aware of emerging research needs of Colorado stakeholders, and that research conducted by faculty was communicated to Extension and applied to community issues.

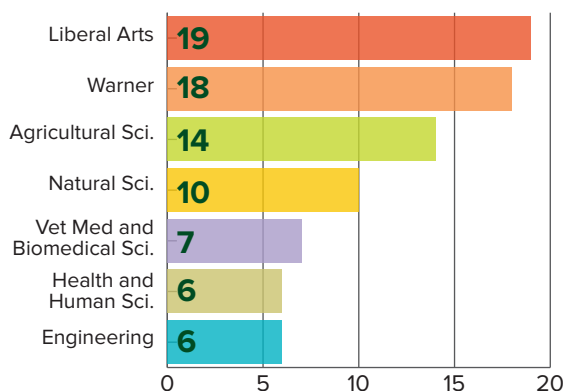
The CSU Extension Internship Program is different from other internship programs at CSU in that internships are based in Colorado, include applied research, and support stakeholder engagement with regional or county-based Extension agents, including significant time in the field. Interns, who can emanate from across all colleges at CSU, glean an understanding of the complexities of working across state, county and university constructs and how to marry varying perspectives toward a common goal in addition to specific internship goals. Extension mentors benefit from the program through enhanced connections to campus, including facilitating better relationships with faculty on issues important to Coloradoans.

## By the Numbers:

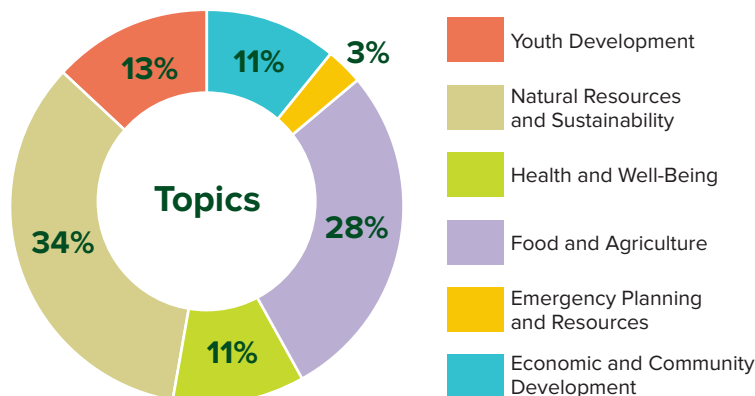
Since its inception in 2018, there has been growth in interest for the Extension Internship program by faculty/staff, Extension agents/specialists, and students, which can be seen in the year to year growth in participation outlined below:



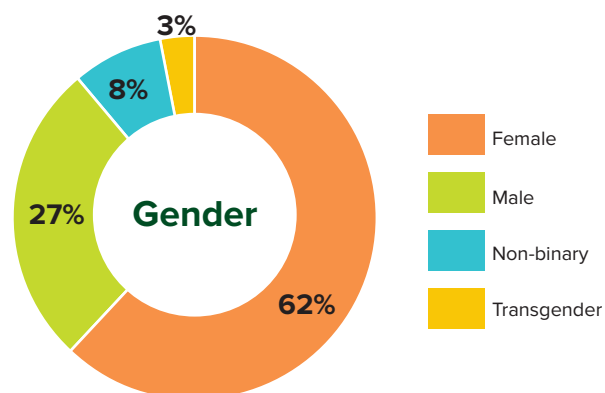
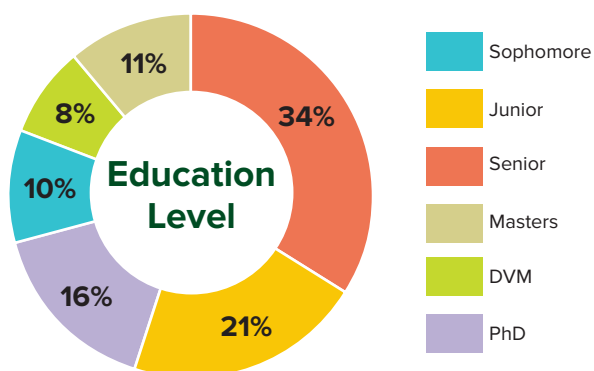
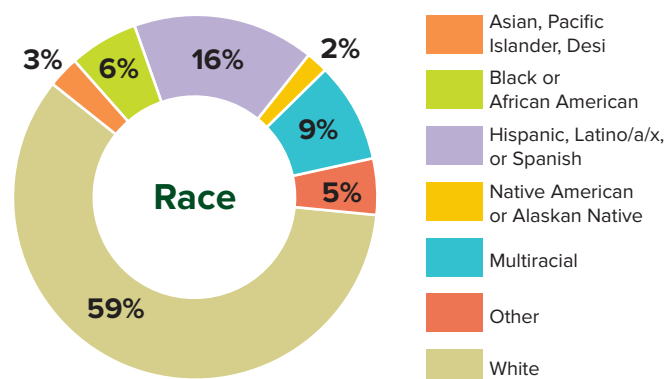
## Intern Home Colleges



## Internship Topic Areas



## Intern Demographics



### Intern Familiarity with Extension Prior to Internship

**45%** Not Familiar at All

**25%** Slightly Familiar

**6%** Moderately Familiar

**14%** Very Familiar

**8%** Extremely Familiar

## Annual Evaluation Highlights

Takeaways from our post-internship evaluation of both interns and their mentors:

### Interns:

**97%** of interns reported that they would recommend this internship to a friend.

**63%** of interns reported that they are now more likely to consider a career in Extension or recommend a career in Extension to a friend.

**88%** of interns reported that they now have a better understanding of how community needs can be used to formulate a research question.

**81%** of interns reported that they now have a better understanding of how research can be applied in communities.

**91%** of interns reported that they now have a better understanding of how to engage stakeholders in research.

### Mentors (Extension):

**87%** of Extension Mentors reported that they increasingly see value in engaging stakeholders in research.

**80%** of Extension Mentors reported that they feel more connected to campus and to other agents in the field.

**94%** of Extension Mentors reported that they recommend participating in the CSU Summer Extension Internship program to other faculty members and Extension personnel.

**89%** of Extension Mentors reported that they are likely to participate in the CSU Summer Extension Internship program again.

### Mentors (Faculty):

**88%** of Faculty Mentors reported that they increasingly see value in engaging stakeholders in research.

**100%** of Faculty Mentors reported that they now better understand how research can be applied in communities.

**100%** of Faculty Mentors reported that they feel more connected to agents in the field.

**100%** of Faculty Mentors reported that they recommend participating in the CSU Summer Extension Internship program to other faculty members and Extension personnel.

**100%** of Faculty Mentors reported that they are likely to participate in the CSU Summer Extension Internship program again.

## Selected Intern Activities and Accomplishments

- 72 interns created professional posters for the internship poster session at CSU Extension Forum.
- Office of Engagement and Extension Source Spotlight: [“2022 CSU Extension Summer Interns Heading Across Colorado”](#) with Extension Interns Meredith Moore and Cari Whittenberg.
- Intern Rianna Slyter wrote and published a Lebanese cookbook highlighting stories and history from her culture.
- Interns Mia Campbell and Riley Lynch led teams to [install Raingardens in residential areas](#) across the state.
- Interns Aracely Diaz and Mary Graham received real-world experience [working with poultry and avian health](#).



## What are participants saying?

“It was a wonderful program and I learned so much. Thank you for the opportunity!”

- 2022 Summer Intern

“Great experience and great people. I am fortunate enough to have availed this opportunity twice in my grad school.”

- 2022 Summer Intern

“THANK YOU for making this happen. It is such an awesome program that provides tremendous opportunity to CSU students and connects campus, Extension, and communities across the state. I see this as one of the most effective programs at CSU.”

- 2022 CSU Faculty member mentor

“A good program overall. Great service to the students, and to the practitioners who host the interns. Thank you!”

- 2022 CSU Faculty member

“We were thrilled with our intern and would love to participate again next year!”

- 2022 Extension mentor member

“The internship program is one of the best ways to foster relationships with Extension and faculty on campus that would not otherwise have been made. Keeping the internship program alive is a win-win for Extension and campus, and for the students!”

- 2022 Extension Mentor

“I had a great time :)”

- 2022 Summer Intern

## The Internship program was funded by:

- College of Agricultural Sciences
- Walter Scott, Jr. College of Engineering
- College of Health and Human Sciences
- College of Liberal Arts
- College of Natural Sciences
- College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
- Warner College of Natural Resources
- Office of Engagement and Extension
- Office of the Vice President for Research
- Office of the Provost
- Internship Mentors

