

FALL 2026

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SAHE NEWSLETTER

WELCOME FROM DR. ELISA.

Welcome to the Fall 2026 semester SAHE students, Alumni, and Friends!

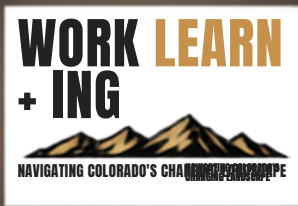
Ten second year students are continuing their studies, and we welcomed 10 first year students in July. In addition to offering a hybrid format, the first-year cohort now features a hyflex option where students can attend class sessions online synchronously. We are excited to offer this option for students who live more than 100 miles from campus. We hope this option will be especially attractive to student affairs professionals serving in rural parts of Colorado. If you have colleagues who fit that criteria, please encourage them to reach out to me or the COE SRO (st-coe08@uccs.edu) for more information. Our first hyflex student is from Alamosa and works at Adams State College (see more in the student section of the newsletter).

Please note that this year's Friends of SAHE event will occur as part of the UCCS College of Education Partnership Breakfast and those invited will have received an invitation with more information and the link to RSVP. In addition to an engaging keynote speaker, there will be a SAHE-specific breakout session where a "State of SAHE" presentation will be provided as well as time for networking and catching up with old friends or perhaps making some new ones. As always, I welcome queries, comments, and suggestions as we embark upon a new academic year. And I sincerely thank you for your continued support of the SAHE program.



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WORKING + LEARNING: NAVIGATING COLORADO'S CHANGING LANDSCAPE

For many years, the Friends of SAHE Lunch has provided a meaningful opportunity and space for SAHE Alumni to connect, strengthen relationships, and celebrate the important role our department plays for us as individuals and, more importantly, for the students we serve in our respective roles in higher education. This fall, we are excited to announce that we will participate in the Fall 2026 UCCS College of Education Partnership Breakfast.

All three departments from across the College of Education will come together for a shared morning of conversation, connection, and collaboration while still providing dedicated time to engage with the department and program you know best.

The morning will consist of two parts:

Part One: College-Wide Partnership Breakfast

We will begin together as a College of Education community, bringing partners, faculty, staff, and colleagues from across our programs into one space. Centered around the theme Working + Learning: Navigating Colorado's Changing Landscape, the breakfast will provide an opportunity to explore shared challenges, opportunities, and the important role our partnerships play in preparing and supporting our students, educators, and communities. A keynote speaker will also be part of the program.

Part Two: Department Breakout Sessions

Following the college-wide breakfast, guests will transition into breakout sessions with their respective departments and programs. These smaller gatherings will provide dedicated time to reconnect with colleagues, discuss program-specific priorities and opportunities, and continue the conversations and relationships that have made gatherings such as the Friends of SAHE Lunch so valuable over the years.



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Leya Schnitter

Program Advisor for Business, Technology, and Public Service



How did the SAHE program help you prepare for your new role?

The SAHE program was a huge help in becoming an Academic Advisor at PPSC! The courses in leadership theory and student development theory were my foundation for understanding college students today, and in establishing my advising approaches. The practicum gave me real-world experiences that helped me feel prepared. I also made a ton of great connections from SAHE and UCCS that helped the transition to PPSC easy - there are friendly faces everywhere!

Do you have any tips to share with first-year students new to the program?

You get out what you put in - if you apply yourself and connect with your peers, your faculty, and partners across campus, you'll see so much in return.

What advice do you have for prospective students looking into the SAHE program?

There is a really good community among SAHE students and graduates. If you're looking for a program that provides professional development and connection, SAHE is the one for you. The classes I took were immediately applicable to my work in the field, and gave me the confidence to pursue my goals. Every opportunity I said yes to was worth it!

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FIRST YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

We are excited to introduce you to our newest cohort that consists of ten students!

SAHE'S 2028 COHORT



MARISSA CALDWELL

Career Goals: I really enjoy working with students and helping them explore career paths that excite them. I also enjoy working with departments and faculty across campus to make career resources more accessible to all students. I hope to work in the future with the student employees in the career center, helping them to grow professionally and develop skills for their future careers.

Quote: "Sometimes the best way to solve your own problems is to help someone else." Uncle Iroh



JESSICA HARPER

Career Goals: To continue supporting students as they work toward their educational goals and to help them navigate the opportunities and challenges they encounter throughout their higher education journey. I don't have one specific area of student affairs in mind, as there are many ways to support student success. I hope to continue exploring opportunities and find where I can make the biggest difference.

Quote: "Little things are big." – Yogi Berra



KAT CONTE

Career Goals: I plan to use my MA in Leadership SAHE to understand the contexts of leadership and power structures within higher education and eventually work on policy and compliance within the field. I'd like to contribute to the science and practice of human research as a whole, and I hope that is through multiple avenues; which ones, I can't say yet!

Quote: "In my travels all over the world, I have come to realize that what distinguishes one child from another is not ability, but access; access to education, access to opportunity, access to love."- Lauryn Hill



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FIRST YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Cont.

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DOROTHY JOHNSON

Career Goals:
To successfully complete my
master's degree by 2028.

Quote:
"Broken crayons still color."-
Unknown



KENDRA LEIGH

Career Goals: My goal is to cultivate a
fully inclusive college experience,
ensuring every student feels a sense of
belonging and is empowered with the
resources they need to thrive

Quote: "All our dreams can come true, if
we have the courage to pursue them."
-Walt Disney



**ANGELINA (ANGIE)
RODRIGUEZ**

Career Goals: I aspire to grow into a leadership position within
higher education after completing the SAHE degree. I am
passionate about making a meaningful difference in my
community, particularly by supporting non-traditional college
students and expanding access to educational opportunities. I
also hope to conduct research within prison higher education
programs and contribute to developing more effective approaches
to rehabilitation through education. Ultimately, my goal is to use
my work in student affairs to help create a more equitable and
compassionate society that recognizes education as a powerful
tool for personal growth, rehabilitation, and positive change..

Quote: "Faith is taking the first step, even when you don't see the
whole staircase." - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



HAYDEN NICKLES

Career goals: I want to work in a
position that expands access to
quality higher education, particularly
as the head of a scholarship
foundation or leading a scholarship
department and an institution of
higher education.

Quote: "Waste no more time arguing
what a good man should be. Be
one." -Marcus Aurelius



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FIRST YEAR STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Cont.

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JOSE VILLAGOMEZ

Career Goals:

My long-term goal is to become a Vice President of Student Affairs, and eventually a university president, so I can keep building the kind of institutions that supported me. As a first-generation college graduate who came up through Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and CAMP, I know firsthand what it means when a program believes in a student before that student believes in themselves. I want to spend my career making sure more students get that same chance, not just to get to college, but to lead once they're there.

Quote:

"I didn't get here alone, and I don't plan to lead alone either, every door that opened for me is one I'm working to hold open for someone else." - Jose Villagomez



COLBY WHITMORE

Career goals:

To support student personal and professional growth through a holistic education experience.

Quote:

"Never half-a** two things, whole-a** one thing." - Ron Swanson



DAVID RUIZ

Career goals:

As a first-generation college student myself, I understand how meaningful support and a sense of belonging can be. I hope to build a career in student affairs where I can support first-generation students, help them navigate college, and make their experience feel a little less overwhelming.

Quote:

"You must be disciplined, in life and in training. There are no shortcuts in life, do the work wholeheartedly.

Only then can you succeed."

-Eliud Kipchoge

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FACULTY SPOTLIGHT



DR. INGER BULL

Bringing a Global Perspective to the College of Education

The UCCS College of Education is pleased to highlight Dr. Inger Bull (she/her/hers), whose extensive background in international and higher education brings a valuable global perspective to our students and community.

Dr. Bull brings more than two decades of experience in global and international education. Before joining the College of Education at UCCS, she served for eight years as Director of Global Education at Colorado College and for 13 years as Director of International Education at Nebraska Wesleyan University. Throughout her career, her work has spanned international student and scholar services, education abroad, intercultural learning, and supporting students as they navigate cultural exchange and adaptation. Her commitment to global learning extends well beyond the classroom. In 2013, Dr. Bull was selected for an international educators' Fulbright grant to India, and she continues to volunteer with the Fulbright organization. She has also led student groups to Australia, Mexico, Scandinavia, Spain, and Swaziland, providing students with opportunities to experience intercultural learning firsthand. Most recently, she spent the fall of 2022 living in Malmö, Sweden, while on sabbatical with her husband, a professor at Colorado College.

At UCCS, Dr. Bull teaches LEAD 5110: Culturally Responsive Practices in Higher Education, where her professional and international experiences help students explore what it means to work effectively and thoughtfully cross-culturally. Her previous teaching experience includes courses focused on comparing cultures, preparing for education abroad, processing international experiences, and experiential learning in Spain.

Education: Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration (University of Nebraska), MBA (University of Nebraska-Kearney), and B.S. in Mathematics Comprehensive (Kearney State College).

Beyond UCCS: Dr. Bull also teaches Pilates at the downtown YMCA and Sun Pilates Studio.

We're excited to have Dr. Bull as part of the UCCS College of Education community!

FAVORITE QUOTE: ONE'S MIND, ONCE STRETCHED BY A NEW IDEA, NEVER REGAINS ITS ORIGINAL DIMENSIONS.

**OLIVER WENDELL HOMES, SR.
FROM "THE AUTOCRAT OF THE BREAKFAST-TABLE"**



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FIRST HYFLEX STUDENT IN THE PROGRAM



JOSÉ VILLAGOMEZ: SAHE'S FIRST HYFLEX STUDENT

Meet José Villagomez: SAHE's First HyFlex Student

The SAHE program is proud to welcome José Villagomez as its first HyFlex student!

- Serves as the Coordinator of Co-Curricular Recreation and Engagement at Adams State University
- Supports the Grizzly Activity Board, CoRE Center, and Associated Students and Faculty (AS&F)
- First-generation college graduate
- Former president of AS&F
- Recipient of the CoCEAL Student Impact Practice Award
(This award celebrates intentional practices that advance academic and social success for Latinx students in Colorado higher education)
- Brings extensive experience in student leadership, campus involvement, and student engagement

We are excited to welcome José to the SAHE community and look forward to celebrating his continued growth and success!



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FIRST AND SECOND YEAR COHORT LUNCH



GROWING THE SAHE PROGRAM... ONE SLICE AT A TIME



First- and second-year students in the Student Affairs in Higher Education (SAHE) program recently gathered for a cohort pizza lunch. The event was a welcoming opportunity for students to connect across cohorts, strengthen relationships, and share their experiences in the program. Alumni and professors also joined in on the fun!

In addition to enjoying lunch and networking, students discussed the possibility of attending the upcoming NASPA Conference. The conference would offer students an exciting opportunity to expand their professional knowledge, connect with student affairs professionals from across the country, and proudly represent the UCCS SAHE program.

The gathering reflected SAHE's strong sense of community and the value of creating meaningful connections both inside and outside the classroom.

SAHE ALUMNI ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT UPDATES, ACCOMPLISHMENTS, AND UPCOMING EVENTS THAT WE CAN HIGHLIGHT AND CELEBRATE IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS. WE WOULD LOVE TO FEATURE YOU! EMAIL OUR GRADUATE ASSISTANT, MARIO RUIZ
ST-COE05@UCCS.EDU



MEETING ☒



NETWORKING ☒



PLANNING ☒



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