



THE
COLORADO
EDUCATION
INITIATIVE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, July 13, 2015

WHAT: AP for All Summer Institute (APSI) supports Advanced Placement (AP) teachers for student success

WHEN: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 14-Friday, July 17

WHERE: Metropolitan State University of Denver Science Building, 1201 5th St., Denver, CO 80204

AP summer institute lends teachers support, training for increased student success

College Board-certified program focuses on providing equitable access to all students

Denver, Colo. – More than half of U.S. high school students who show potential to succeed in rigorous Advanced Placement (AP) coursework never enroll. Yet, research shows that high school students who take AP classes are far more likely to go to and graduate from college.

That's why the one-of-a-kind College Board-certified [AP for All Summer Institute](#) (APSI) provides AP teachers with the tools, strategies, and resources to ensure *all* students succeed — even those who aren't top achievers, who are learning English, or who are living in poverty.

The training draws hundreds of educators from around the nation, along with teachers from 11 different countries including Canada, China, Mexico, and Switzerland.

[The Colorado Education Initiative](#) (CEI), in partnership with the [National Math and Science Initiative](#) (NMSI), hosts this year's annual APSI at Metropolitan State University of Denver.

“College success begins with high school success and an early introduction to the rigorous coursework students will encounter in college. Students who have the advantage of AP classes are more likely to go to college and graduate from college,” said **CEI's Colorado Legacy Schools (CLS) Director Greg Hesse**. “Our CLS program is helping to make AP a reality for *all* students. It works to dramatically increase the number and diversity of high school students succeeding in AP math, science, and English courses. It also encourages them to pursue majors and careers in the rapidly-growing STEM fields (science, technology, engineering, and math).”

Institute presenters work with teachers to develop deeper content knowledge in their AP subjects and identify strategies to effectively reach diverse student populations — students who might not otherwise consider enrolling in AP classes.

Students like 2015 Arvada High School graduate Alejandra Terrazas, a successful graduate of the CLS program. She didn't think colleges or universities were interested in students like her. “My parents were immigrants who chose to move our family to the United States in search of a better life and medical care for my ailing mom,” said Terrazas. “I lived in fear of deportation and everything seemed to be against me. I thought I didn't have what it took to succeed.”

She now knows otherwise. “If others could take AP classes and succeed, why couldn’t I?” said Terrazas.

She not only succeeded, but excelled and received a 2015 Gates Millennium Scholarship that earned her a full-ride scholarship to a university of her choice. Without the support and encouragement of her teachers, Terrazas said she’s not sure if she would have found success. “I challenge teachers to put students first, to break out of the comfort zone, and change the life of a student.”

The summer institute is aimed at helping teachers develop AP programs that support the success of all interested students, regardless of race, gender, zip code, or socioeconomic status. “This is a great opportunity for educators, especially for AP teachers in rural, small school districts because it’s relevant instruction they can take back and use in their classrooms this fall,” said Hessee.

Twenty sessions are available in AP content areas ranging from AP chemistry to English, with sessions for both new and experienced AP instructors.

“AP teachers get to explore how this important work is changing the culture of learning environments and share tactics to ensure that every student has the opportunity to receive the support he or she needs to succeed in AP coursework,” said Hessee.

This professional learning opportunity for AP teachers is part of CEI’s Colorado Legacy Schools — a local replication of NMSI’s proven College Readiness Program, which has success in closing achievement gaps and increasing college readiness in participating schools. CLS supports students in both geographically and demographically diverse schools to increase equitable success in rigorous AP math, science, and English courses.

CLS provides funding for extensive teacher training, student exam fees, classroom equipment and supplies, awards for those who excel, and extra time on task for students during Saturday study sessions. Learn more about CEI’s [Colorado Legacy Schools](#) program.

Follow the **#APSI2015** event hashtag on Twitter and follow **@edinitiativeco** to interact and engage during the institute.

About The Colorado Education Initiative

The Colorado Education Initiative is an independent nonprofit working in partnership with the Colorado Department of Education, educators, schools, districts, and other public education stakeholders to unlock the unique potential of every student by incubating innovation, shining a spotlight on success, and investing in sustainable change that improves outcomes for all students. CEI envisions that every student in Colorado is prepared and unafraid to succeed in school, work, and life, and ready to take on the challenges of today, tomorrow, and beyond.

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