



Center for Access & Campus Engagement (CACE)

December Newsletter

Staff and Resource Highlight

Originally from Macon, Georgia, Neecee has called Colorado home since 2015. With over 20 years of experience in teaching and academic support, she is a dedicated advocate for student success and believes every student deserves the opportunity to thrive. In her role as Director of the Learning Resources Center, Neecee ensures that students, faculty, and staff have access to a wide range of academic resources. She feels honored to work alongside a passionate team committed to empowering students. Outside of work, Neecee enjoys spending time with family and friends, exploring the outdoors, roller skating, karaoke, traveling, and gaming.

What she loves about CU Denver:

“There are so many opportunities to collaborate with colleagues to truly serve students. My greatest joy is seeing the impact of what happens when we work together.”

Message to Students:

“Even if it feels scary, please don’t hesitate to reach out to the LRC. We are here to help, and we love doing exactly that.”

Neecee Matthews-Bradshaw, PhD

Director of Learning Resources and Writing Center



Learning Resource Center Services

- Peer Tutoring
- Supplemental Learning Sessions
- Coaching
- Workshops
- Professional development and flexible scheduling for student workers and other team members

Writing Center Resources

- **Free** Workshops
- In Person and Online Consultation:
 - academic and scholarship essays of all type
- Prepare writers to:
 - generate and organize ideas
 - summarize and paraphrase and document sources
 - effectively recognize and revise issues with grammar and syntax

Wishing you a joyful, restful holiday season. Enjoy the break, recharge, and travel safely wherever you go!

from CACE staff

Our Mission:

CACE Mission is to create a learning environment that actively engage and empower students by offering support and resources that enhance their educational experience at CU Denver.



Follow us on CACE IG

Student Highlight



Dylan Phoutthavong is a Computer Science major with minor in computer engineering and business fundamentals. His leadership, resilience, and commitment to community and involvement with CACE, make him an exceptional CU Denver senior that we want to highlight!

Dylan began his CACE journey as a participant in the Academic Success & Leadership Program (ASLP), later advancing to a Peer Advocate Leader, and former co-captain of the CU Denver Dragon Boat Team. He is now serving as an Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) Mentor, where he supports students with guidance, encouragement, and building community. He currently works multiple jobs, including roles in the AANAPISI Office and the College of Engineering Design and Computing while maintaining a strong academic record and preparing to graduate in May.

As Co-president of the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE), Dylan has been instrumental in building one of CU Denver's strongest student STEM communities. Under his leadership, SASE has expanded engagement, strengthened belonging among students, and successfully supported its members in attending the SASE National Conference, a major milestone for professional development and visibility on a national stage.

A proud graduate of Martin Luther King Jr. Early College, Dylan has continuously created opportunities for himself through determination and independence. He has completed competitive internships at Denver Water and Lumen Technologies, developing skills in analytics, automation, and network engineering while supporting himself financially. He earned certificates in Google Cloud Data Analytics and NVIDIA Generative AI with Diffusion Models to prepare for a career in computer science.

Dylan hopes to spend his final semester studying abroad at Yonsei University in South Korea, a goal driven by his passion for global learning, cultural exchange, and expanding his perspective before graduation.



Abigale Yilma is a Human Development and Family Relations major from Aurora whose leadership and community-building efforts have made a meaningful impact on CU Denver. Abigale has served as a Resident Assistant, CACE student staff member, and student leader in both the African Student Union and the Ethiopian & Eritrean Student Association, where she worked to create spaces of belonging and cultural celebration.

One of the most defining moments of her CU Denver journey came during A Night in Africa: Culture Night, where she helped plan and organize the event with more than 300 students coming together to celebrate culture, connection, and identity. Having spent months planning the event, she described it as a powerful reminder of the importance of creating spaces where students feel seen and valued and being a part of a community.

Abigale's path has also been shaped by hands-on experiences that deepened her passion for community-centered, identity-affirming work. Through the McNair Scholars Program, she conducted research with Dr. Dèsa Daniel on identity, motivation, and academic success, which strengthened her understanding of student development. Her internships with the African Community Center and the Ethiopian Community Center further expanded her commitment to serving communities through culturally responsive support, trauma-informed care, and public health programming.

At CU Denver, Abigale balances academics, leadership, and personal well-being by staying connected to her purpose: building community and uplifting others. She credits CACE with helping her grow as a communicator, mentor, and advocate for student success, noting how meaningful it was to work in a space where students feel supported and encouraged.

Looking ahead, Abigale plans to pursue a master's degree in social work to continue supporting individuals and families through culturally grounded, healing-centered practice. Her dream is to create empowering spaces where community members feel seen, supported, and connected.

SHPE, the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, is dedicated to empowering Hispanics in the STEM field. The society provides many opportunities for students, including tours, networking with professionals, and a community of like-minded people. In its essence, it is designed to help students succeed. Membership provides a safe space for questions, networking with upper-classmen, tips on navigating college life, and a sense of belonging. Reflection of the Convention

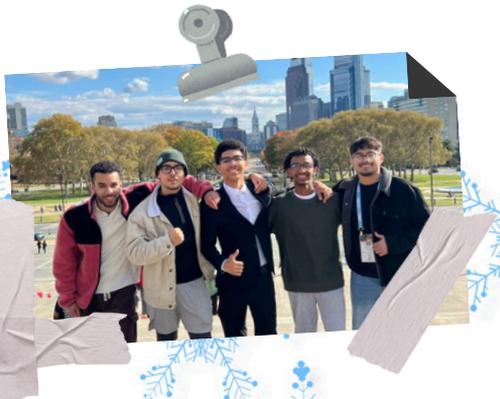


SHPE Convention

The SHPE national convention was held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania this year. Our chapter was fortunate enough to stay directly at the host hotel where the convention took place. This year marked a strong milestone for SHPE CU Denver. As a group, we secured more than 15 interviews and received three on-site internship offers, reflecting both the preparedness and determination of our members.

For many of our members, it was their first convention. It was an opportunity to learn the structure of the event, explore professional spaces and gain exposure to industry expectations. Leading up to the convention, members were encouraged to prepare thoroughly and make the most of every workshop, networking session, and career fair interaction.

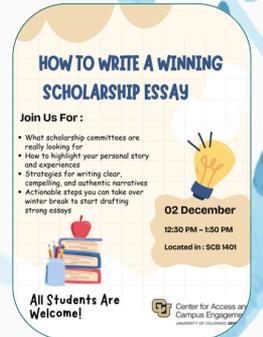
Upon returning, our chapter carries a greater drive to achieve results. It is essential to maintain this momentum, encourage each other and continue to build an environment where growth, opportunity and ambition flourish.



How to Write a Winning Essay

Join the CU Denver Writing Center and CACE for a practical, student-focused workshop on crafting competitive scholarship application. We'll finish with actionable steps you can use over winter break to begin drafting your essays. All students are welcome! Free snacks will be provided.

Tuesday, Dec 2, 2025 at 12:30-1:30 pm
Student Commons Room 1401



CACE Finals Destress Event

This is our last event of the semester, where we provide students with activities to de-stress before their finals week. Mental Health is just as important as physical Health. So come join us to de-stress before your finals

Wednesday, Dec 3, 2025 at 2:00-4:00 pm
Student Commons CACE Computer Lab 2107



CACE End of Semester Celebration

All are welcome to celebrate the end of the semester as we honor December graduates and student leaders in finishing the semester and contributing to the campus community. Free dinner and live entertainment will be provided. You can nominate an outstanding student leader in the RSVP link. All are invited.

Monday, Dec 8, 2025 at 5:30-7:00 pm
St. Cajetan's @ Auraria Campus - RSVP required

<https://tinyurl.com/CACECelebrationFall25>



KNOW someone or a program doing great work! **Nominate** a student, faculty, staff member, student club, or campus program to be featured! Submit using the QR code.

CACE events, programs, and services are open to all CU Denver Community members. All are invited and encouraged to participate and live our inclusive values.

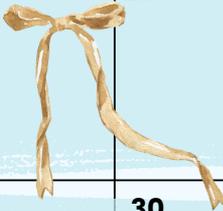
CACE MyLynx Events Page <https://ucdenver.campuslabs.com/engage/>
CACE Website Page <https://www.ucdenver.edu/cace>



Check out campus events on the CU Denver Calendar Events Page



December Event Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2 Write Your Way to Success: Strategies for winning scholarship Essay 12-1pm @SCB 1401	3 De-Stress Using Art 2-4pm @CACE Computer Lab SCB 2107 Winter Wonderland LSA 5-7pm @SCB 2500	4	5
8 CACE End of the year Celebration 5:30-7:30pm @St. Catejan's	9 Coffee, Tea and Snacks at CACE All Day T, W, TH @ SCB 2105			12
F I N A L S W E E K				
15	16	17	18 Final Grades Available on UCDAccess	19
22 	23	24	25	26 
W I N T E R				
29	30	31	B R E A K	

IMPORTANT DATES

- Dec 3rd - Last day to withdraw from Fall Classes
- Dec 8- 12th: Finals Week
- Dec 13th - Graduation
- Dec 25th- Jan. 1st - Winter Break
- Jan 20th - First Day of Classes

Academic Calendar



Having trouble signing up for your spring courses?

Check out our step-by-step guide to make the registration process simple and quick. The link walks you through everything you need to know so you can get your classes on time.



Instructions



Scholarships

Latina First Foundation

Opens December 1st

American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC): Colorado Scholarship & Education Foundation – Leonard Rice Memorial:

Deadline: 01/16/2026

Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick LTD: Undergraduate Scholarship

Open Date: 01/01/2025

Deadline: 12/31/2025

Scholarship for Hispanic Serving Institutions

Deadline: 01/31/2026

SCAN QR FOR MORE INFO



Databases to Search for Additional Scholarships

[UCDenver Scholarship Universe](#)
[Fastweb National Scholarship Directory](#)
[Sallie Mae Scholarship Search](#)
[Chegg Scholarships](#)
[Niche Scholarships](#)
[Peterson's Scholarship Search](#)
[Scholarships.com](#)
[CareerOneStop](#)

Internships

U.S. Department of State – Student Internship Program

Focus: International affairs, diplomacy, policy
 Eligibility: Many programs require U.S. citizenship
<https://careers.state.gov/interns-fellows/>

National Institutes of Health (NIH) – Summer Internship Program (SIP)

Focus: Biomedical, behavioral, and social science research
 Eligibility: U.S. citizen or permanent resident
<https://www.training.nih.gov/research-training/pb/sip/>

Accenture – Student Internship Program

Focus: Technology, consulting, analytics, business
 Eligibility: Varies
<https://www.accenture.com/us-en/careers/life-at-accenture/internships-students>

National Geographic Society – Internship Program

Focus: Storytelling, environment, media, non-profit
 Eligibility: Varies
 Link:
<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/society/internships/>

U.S. Chamber of Commerce – Internship Program

Focus: Policy, communications, business research
 Eligibility: Varies
<https://www.uschamber.com/internship-program>

FOOD ASSISTANCE RESOURCES

If you need food assistance, CU Denver and local community resources offer free or low-cost options throughout the month. Check out the list or resources compiled by LSA student org.

SCAN QR Code



Did You Know

- Scholarship Universe continually searches for relevant funding sources for you, saving you time, energy, and money. Check your Scholarship Universe dashboard
- If you have an unpaid internship, the CU Denver Internship Office may offer support or scholarship opportunities—reach out to explore your options.
- Visit CU Denver Handshake to find internships and on-campus or off-campus job opportunities. **Check out the [LynxConnect Website](#)**
<https://www.ucdenver.edu/lynxconnect>

FREE EVENTS
Around Denver



CHERRY CREEK HOLIDAY MARKET

November 20, 2025 - December 24, 2025
[@Fillmore Plaza](#)



CHERRY CREEK NORTH SMALL BUSINESS WEEKEND

November 29, 2025 - December 1, 2025
[@Cherry Creek North](#)



CHERRY CREEK NORTH WINTER WANDERLAND

November 20, 2025 - December 24, 2025
[@Cherry Creek North](#)



DENVER CHRISTKINDL MARKET

November 21, 2025 - December 23, 2025
[@ Tivoli Quad at Auraria Campus](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

***NOT FREE EVENTS**
Around denver



BLOSSOM OF LIGHTS

November 21, 2025 - January 11, 2026
[@1007 York Street Denver, CO 80206](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION | BLOSSOM OF LIGHTS](#)



TRAIL OF LIGHTS

November 21, 2025 - January 11, 2026
[@1007 York Street Denver, CO 80206](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION | TRAIL OF LIGHTS](#)