



Rural Centered
January 2024

A Monthly Newsletter from the
Colorado Center for Rural Education



Students study bacteria during an interactive exercise at the 2023 Rural Public Health Summit

Workforce Pathways, Networking, and Scholarship Push Rural Services Forward

The Rural Public Health, Education, and Healthcare Initiative (RPHEHI) began as a partnership between the [Colorado School of Public Health](#) at the University of Northern Colorado and the [Colorado Center for Rural Education](#). The Colorado School of Public Health is an accredited, collaborative school of public health representing three Colorado public educational and research institutions: the University of Colorado, Colorado State University, and the University of Northern Colorado.

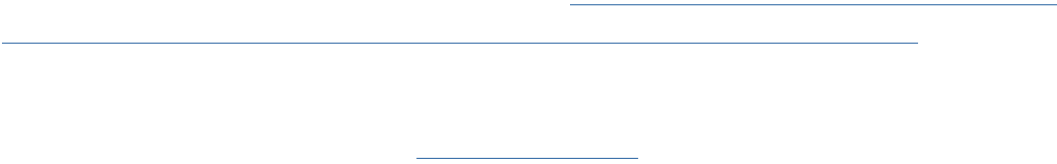
RPHEHI has grown into a group of professionals that facilitates and develops collaborations and partnerships to meet the health and education needs of Colorado's rural communities. RPHEHI's vision is that dedicated and expert public health, education, and healthcare professionals serve every Colorado rural community.

Building and Sharing Models

“Our group members identify common needs,” said Bob Daugherty, co-founder of the RPHEHI and retired Dean of the Nevada University School of Medicine, “and then start to figure out how we can work together to meet those needs.” One such example is the urgent need for behavioral health professionals across the education system, public health, and the healthcare system. If the RPHEHI can build a model that works for cost-sharing across agencies, rural communities could fund a behavioral health position that would otherwise not exist.

The RPHEHI also finds ways to share knowledge with multiple agencies. A student earning a master’s degree in public health at UNC collaborated with rural farmers and ranchers while completing his practicum. He worked with the local [Area Health Education Center](#) to expand a peer-assisted network for adults to help prevent suicide among this very at-risk group. After that, he realized that the young people were at risk as well. So, he developed a curriculum for a peer-assisted youth group, which is now available to all Area Health Education Centers and other agencies.

Writing Grants



Moving Forward

The RPHEHI is soliciting input from all rural Colorado communities:

- What are your greatest needs?
- Do you have ideas for cost-sharing models to meet those needs, or do you have a model in place that is working?
-

Robert Fulton, PhD | Director

