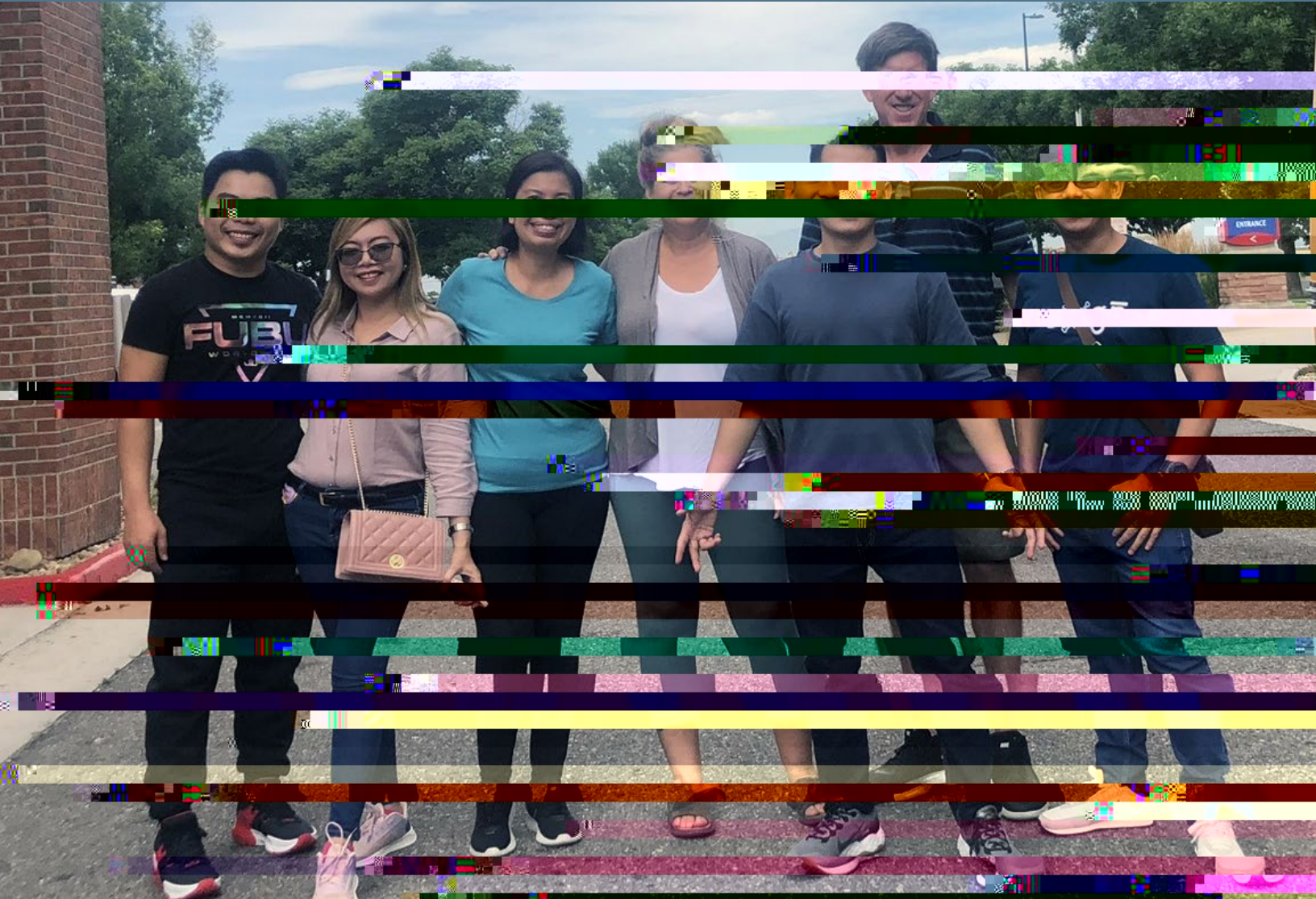




## Rural Centered



*Colorado Learning director Steve Johnston (rear, on right) with principal Kimba Rael (left of Johnston) and several teachers he recruited from the Philippines in the Centennial School District in San Luis, Colorado*

# Rural Schools: Draw from an International Candidate Pool!

# Highlights from This Article

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*A J-1 visa holder from the Phillipines who teaches in the Centennial School District in San Luis, Colorado*

# Inviting Newcomers to Colorful Colorado

There is a limit to the number of people willing to live in Colorado's rural areas, though. "It gets

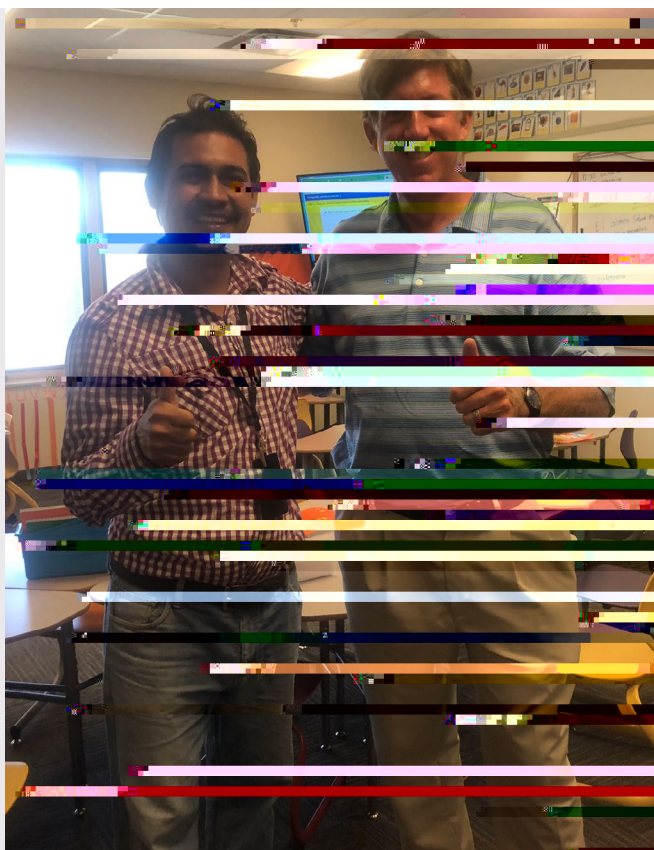
## How the J-1 Exchange Program Works

\_\_\_\_\_ is for individuals approved to participate in exchange visitor programs. Those who are teachers are allowed to work in a U.S. school for up to three years. It is possible to extend that term by one or two years, and the schools usually request extensions. "The process is easy, and the sponsoring organization always approves the extension," said Johnston.

In return for a fee, Colorado Teaching matches the teacher to a job, helps them complete the extensive J-1 paperwork, and ensures they have sufficient monetary resources. He also helps them navigate the logistics of moving to the U.S., such as finding a place to live and arranging transportation.

This last academic year, Colorado Learning placed 30 teachers in our rural schools! The J-1 teachers Johnston places immediately start referring other people from their home country to the program. He said he gets 10 or more highly qualified referrals for every person placed.

Once they're settled in Colorado, the J-1 teachers create their own community, according to Johnston. "And they also integrate well with the larger community," he added. Principal Kimba [Centennial School District](#) in San Luis, Colorado, said, "These teachers are doing a fantastic job inside the classroom and out. They are building friendships, are involved in several key committees, provide expertise while learning from others' expertise, and have been an incredible asset to our school community."



*Colorado Learning director Steve Johnston (on right) with a J-1 visa holder from Mexico who teaches at a school near Greeley, Colorado*

## Steps Rural Schools Should Take

Bigger districts and schools have the budget to hire for positions and post the jobs as anticipated openings very early in the hiring cycle. Rural schools don't have that flexibility due to budget limitations and restrictions on the intent-to-return process. Many rural schools have limited budgets.

# Upcoming Application Timelines

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