

UNIVERSITY TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2016

ANNUAL REPORT



COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND PLANNING
Colorado Center for Community Development
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER



COLORADO
Department of Local Affairs

DOLA

& *the* **UNIVERSITY** *of*
COLORADO DENVER



Colorado's Helping Hand

The University Technical Assistance (UTA) program is a unique partnership between CCCD and DOLA that provides technical assistance to rural communities that may not have access to resources needed for public improvement projects. UTA offers students primarily in graduate programs in architecture, landscape architecture and planning with opportunities to transform knowledge into know-how by working with clients on real projects. Communities see projects move forward from ideas to concepts that can raise local support and funding. An estimated 75% of UTA projects are eventually implemented.



DOLA

The Division of Local Government within the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) was created in part, to provide technical assistance and information to local governments on available federal and state programs and act as a liaison with other state agencies concerned with local governments. With eight regional managers around the state, local government needs are identified and resources channeled to help meet those needs.

CCCD

The Colorado Center for Community Development (CCCD) is a clinical teaching practice within the College of Architecture and Planning at the University of Colorado Denver. Our mission is to provide students with real world experience in architecture, landscape architecture, planning and other disciplines as they provide communities with technical assistance that moves public improvement projects forward. Communities benefit through assistance that is continuously being improved through research and innovation. Together, we become partners in the assistance process, thus expanding our individual and mutual capacities to further envision projects of significant public impact.



EVERY DAY
STUDENTS & STAFF
THROUGH UTA
HELP COMMUNITIES
ALL AROUND COLORADO
REALIZE THEIR POTENTIAL

&

CREATE
SOLUTIONS
T H A T
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE



An architectural rendering of a modern, multi-story building with a courtyard. The building features a mix of brick and large glass windows. In the courtyard, there are people walking, a bicycle, and a dog. The scene is set against a backdrop of mountains and a cloudy sky.

DESIGN CONCEPTS

An architectural rendering of a modern building with a prominent glass facade. The building is surrounded by trees and a paved area. People are seen walking and standing near the building. The scene is set against a backdrop of mountains and a cloudy sky.

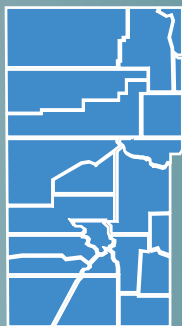
RESEARCH

A photograph of a community engagement meeting. A man and a woman are standing in front of a presentation screen. The screen displays the text "MAIN STREET DESIGN CONCEPT" and "PLATEVILLE COLORADO" along with a list of names and titles. The man is wearing glasses and a polo shirt, and the woman is wearing a patterned top.

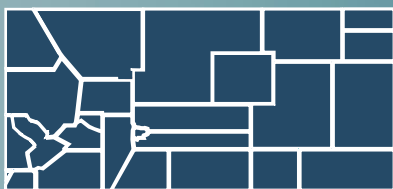
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

PROJECT MAP

38 projects were completed in 2016, with the majority of them being design and planning projects. The state is served by three UTA field supervisors who work in partnership with DOLA regional managers in their regions, as shown on the map. Since the re-energizing of UTA in 2014, a total of **95** projects have now been completed. At minimum, five of these projects have received funding and have now been implemented. Since the inception of UTA in the late 1970's, it is estimated that over **2000 projects** have been completed in every county throughout Colorado.



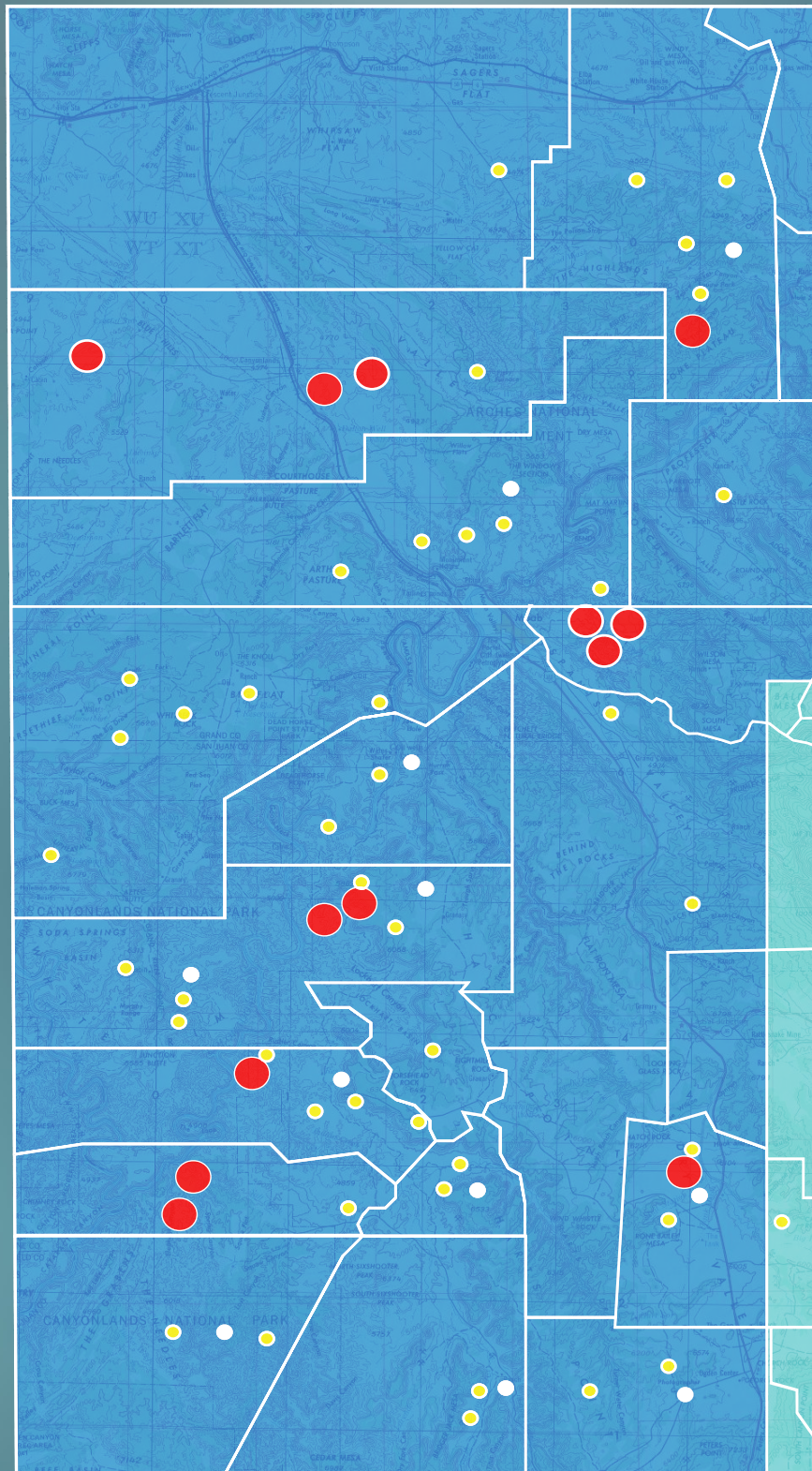
WESTERN SLOPE REGION
Chris Endreson



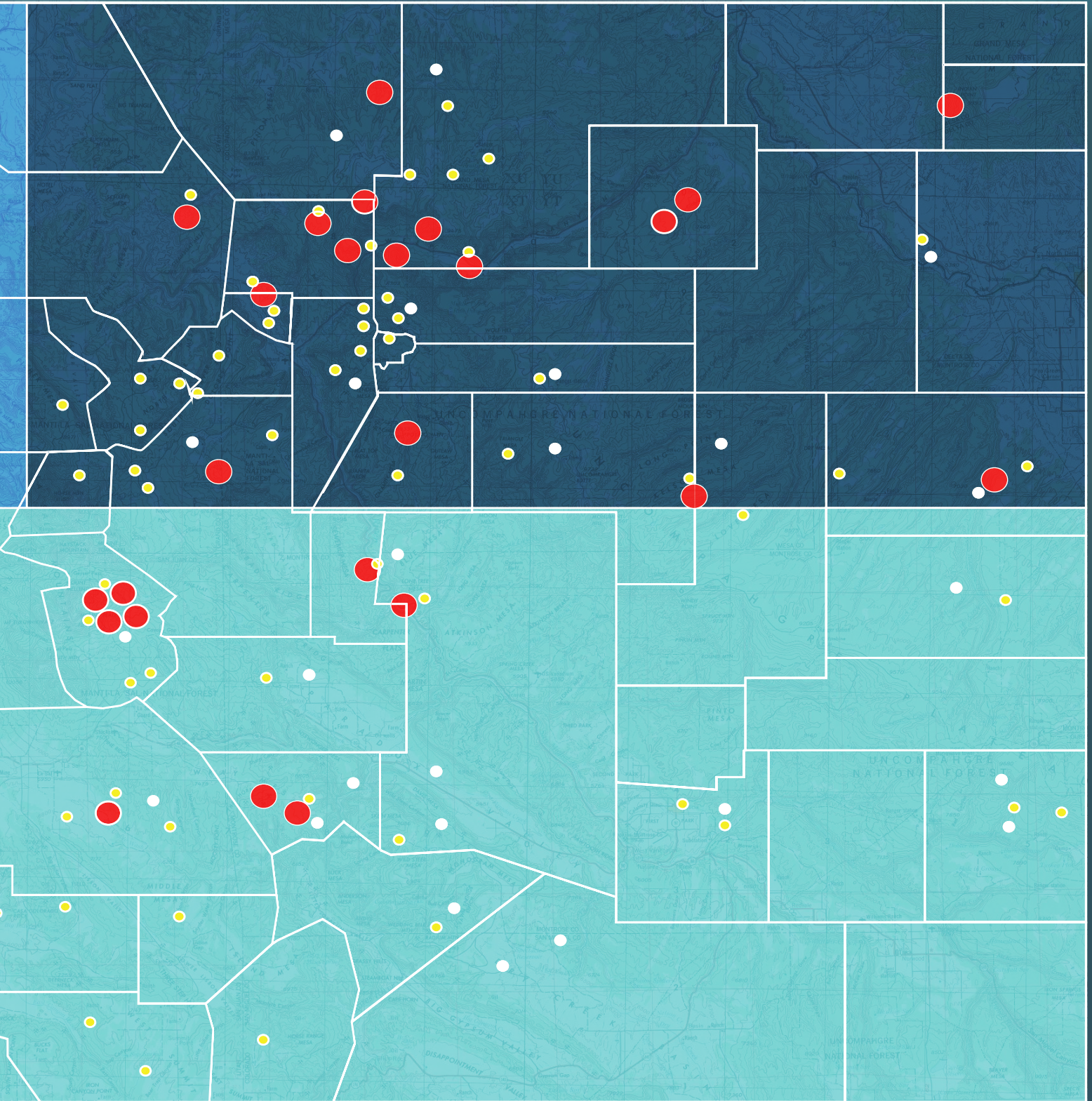
NORTHEASTERN REGION
Mike Tupa



SOUTHEASTERN REGION
Jeffrey Wood



COLORADO



2016 PROJECTS

2015 PROJECTS

2014 PROJECTS



LIST OF COMPLETED PROJECTS

PROJECT NAME

LOCATION

REGIONAL MANAGER

UTA COORDINATOR

BUDGET

DOLA MATCH

LOCAL MATCH

Beach Street Landscape Concepts	Hudson, CO	Don Sandoval	Mike Tupa	\$1,400	50%	50%
Bethune Playground Improvement Concept	Bethune, CO	Greg Etl	Mike Tupa	\$1,000	50%	50%
Berthoud Community Center	Berthoud, CO	Don Sandoval	Mike Tupa	\$4,500	50%	50%
Buena Vista Gateway Plaza	Buena Vista, CO	Christy Culp	Jeffrey Wood	\$551	50%	50%
Buena Vista River Front Park	Buena Vista, CO	Christy Culp	Jeffrey Wood	\$551	50%	50%
Buena Vista Town Hall	Buena Vista, CO	Christy Culp	Jeffrey Wood	\$551	50%	50%
Buena Vista Welcome Signage	Buena Vista, CO	Christy Culp	Jeffrey Wood	\$551	50%	50%
Carbon Valley Rec District Facility Study	Frederick, CO	Don Sandoval	Mike Tupa	\$10,200	40%	60%
Castle Pines Blvd. Landscape, Signage & Rec Center	Castle Pines, CO	Clay Brown	Mike Tupa	\$6,800	25%	75%
Centennial Park Master Plan	Wellington, CO	Don Sandoval	Mike Tupa	\$6,400	50%	50%
Columbine Park Master Plan	Rangely, CO	Elyse Ackerman	Chris Endreson	\$8,424	50%	50%
Dolores County Senior Center	Dolores County, CO	Ken Charles	Chris Endreson	\$9,392	50%	50%
Dolores County New Public Service Center Facility	Dolores County, CO	Ken Charles	Chris Endreson	\$9,392	50%	50%
Downtown Pocket Park	Olathe, CO	Ken Charles	Chris Endreson	\$1,575	50%	50%
Lions Park Downtown Gateway	Olathe, CO	Ken Charles	Chris Endreson	\$1,575	50%	50%
Firestone Town Facilities Location Study	Firestone, CO	Don Sandoval	Mike Tupa	\$6,500	50%	50%
Fort Morgan Town Hall and Facility Master Plans	Fort Morgan, CO	Greg Etl	Mike Tupa	\$6,200	50%	50%
Fruita Gateway Design Public Input	Fruita, CO	Elyse Ackerman	Chris Endreson	\$6,650	50%	50%
Gateway and Wayfinding Signage	Yampa, CO	Greg Winkler	Chris Endreson	\$4,900	50%	50%
Grand Lake Center	Grand Lake, CO	Greg Winkler	Jeffrey Wood	\$11,500	50%	50%
Haxtun Health Center	Haxtun, CO	Greg Etl	Mike Tupa	\$4,500	50%	50%
Limon Day Care Facility	Limon, CO	Greg Etl	Mike Tupa	\$3,100	50%	50%
Lone Cone Public Library	Norwood, CO	Ken Charles	Chris Endreson	\$9,200	50%	50%
Lyons Design Concepts	Lyons, CO	Don Sandoval	Mike Tupa	\$6,200	50%	50%
Manitou Springs Fire Training Facility	Manitou Springs, CO	Clay Brown	Jeffrey Wood	\$4,348	50%	50%
Meeker Heritage cultural Center	Meeker, CO	Elyse Ackerman	Chris Endreson	\$4,800	50%	50%
Mineral County Search and Rescue Facility	Creede, CO	Christy Culp	Jeffrey Wood	\$8,651	50%	50%
Morgan R3 School Building Repurpose Study	Fort Morgan, CO	Greg Etl	Mike Tupa	\$15,000	0%	100%
Nederland Signage and Design	Nederland, CO	Don Sandoval	Mike Tupa	\$4,200	50%	50%
Platteville Downtown Streetscape Master Plan	Platteville, CO	Don Sandoval	Mike Tupa	\$5,200	50%	50%
Rio Blanco County Fairgrounds Master	Meeker, CO	Elyse Ackerman	Chris Endreson	\$9,314	50%	50%
Saguache County Courthouse Annex	Saguache, CO	Christy Culp	Jeffrey Wood	\$3,420	75%	25%
South Park Recreation Center	Fairplay, CO	Greg Winkler	Mike Tupa	\$5,500	50%	50%
Silver Cliff and Westcliffe Welcome Signage	Silver Cliff & Westcliffe, CO	Christy Culp	Jeffrey Wood	\$1,600	50%	50%
Third Street Affordable Housing Concepts	Carbondale, CO	Elyse Ackerman	Chris Endreson	\$1,843	50%	50%
Third Street Center Site Master Plan Update	Carbondale, CO	Elyse Ackerman	Chris Endreson	\$1,843	50%	50%
Third Street Streetscape Improvements	Carbondale, CO	Elyse Ackerman	Chris Endreson	\$1,843	50%	50%
Woodland Park Walkability Study	Woodland Park, CO	Clay Brown	Mike Tupa	\$5,500	50%	50%

TOTAL: \$181,174

Lyons had a devastating flood in September 2013. The St. Vrain Creek rose ten times above the normal level and the town was without water, power and other basic services. The natural disaster destroyed 200 homes, forcing a citywide evacuation for months.

There was also flooding and damage to the Lyons Town Hall. The property was outside of the floodplain, but was damaged by debris after the flood. During the summer of 2014, the UTA team, including Aynslee Joyce and Sara Morse, MLA students supervised by Mike Tupa, UTA field supervisor, learned of the importance of the place when visiting. The town hall was not only where town council meetings were held; it was a primary place in the community where residents connected with each other. The UTA team envisioned an open space plaza that residents could enjoy under the tall cottonwood trees.

The final design included a defined walkway connecting doors and access points and a planted island with retaining walls to define the edges of the plaza. The terrace provided a seat wall and plantings that separated the plaza and the adjacent traffic. The design also addressed the need for a flexible outdoor center; places to sit and relax, or host local cultural events and performances.

COMPLETED LYONS TOWN HALL PLAZA



SARA MORSE AND AYNLEE JOYSE

After the designs were approved, town council members decided that implementing the project would give a much needed boost to the collective spirit of the residents. On November 8, 2014, dozens of residents, local volunteers, CU Denver students, local masons and contractors came together to construct the design. In one day, the plaza's, walking paths, retaining walls, planters and large boulders were installed, transforming the badly damaged site into a refined plaza.

During 2015 and 2016, plantings were added to the plaza landscaping, completing the vision that UTA students had proposed to the town. When Sara Morse thought about a location for her wedding, she decided to be married in Lyons. "I feel this very special connection to the people of Lyons because of working together on the plaza."

Their experience working in Lyons also had an impact on the career path of both Sara and Aynslee, who decided that they wanted their career in landscape architecture to focus on public design. They both now work for Design Concepts in Lafayette, Colorado.

While the Town of Lyons still has a ways to go to fully recover from the damage caused by the floods, the completed town hall plaza has instilled hope in residents and left the UTA team feeling that they played a role in the town's recovery. UTA continues to work with Lyons on projects that rebuild both their community and their hope for the future.





attendees in style. Enter the UTA Program. With only six weeks in which to work, UTA students Matthew Breen, Serena McClintick, Ross Williams, Kate Lucas and Katie Benz were asked to design and install a series of elements intended to transform the harshly lit gymnasium into a room that workshop guests would be spending a week in, working on exercises to help their businesses provide unexcelled customer service. Along with the transformation of the room itself, this was also the chance to roll out the vision for the future design of the building.

Working efficiently, UTA students designed banners, lighting amendments as well as conceptual plans for the building's future and installed the work in a way that would leave visitors inspired by the changes. A series of banners for each city in Grand County was designed based on the community's unique character. In addition, travelogue banners were created to entice visitors to spend their free time exploring the area further. Finally, a series of banners in support of the actual event, "The Disney Way" were created based on the simple premise of the instruction: "Dream, Dare, Believe, Do...".

To enhance the space itself, the students fabricated cloth shrouds spanning the width of the room to soften the glaring light of the fluorescent fixtures that hung from the ceiling. The space was indeed transformed and the event deemed a big success.

The folks from "The Disney Way" were convinced to hold their workshops in the facility over the next five years. Plans are now being made for more permanent space in the center that can be used for conventions, concerts and yes, a community gathering space for residents.

DISNEY WAY PARTICIPANTS IN GRAND LAKE CENTER



Among the losses a rural community can experience is the closing of an elementary school. When a school closes, it loses opportunities for gathering. Social bonds weaken, and an important aspect of small town living is lost. Grand Lake faced such a loss and decided to do something about it.

Grand Lake Elementary School was closed five years ago and sat empty until the chance arose for the town to purchase the school and re-purpose it. Spearheaded by the vision of town manager Jim White and buoyed by the energy of Grand County Economic Development director DiAnn Butler, the facility was re-imagined as "The Grand Lake Center". A series of community meetings revealed many needs residents felt could be provided...from childcare, to continuing education, with the overall goal of providing activities to re-establish the social network lost when the school closed.

The "Center" also provided a chance to address the most pervasive problem faced by the community: a short tourist season that limited economic growth in the area. Extending the season would go a long way to creating a more robust economic climate for the area. A series of workshops, focused on better customer service as practiced by the Disney Corporation, was willing to make Grand Lake their home base if a quality facility could be provided. But the community had to work fast. The "Disney Way" as taught by Bill Capodagli was ready to commit, and a trial run scheduled for the fall of 2015 was on the books. The challenge: transform the unused elementary school into a facility suitable for hosting 100



Yampa is a quaint, western town that is often overlooked, as it lies in the shadow of Steamboat Springs. Like many small towns, things haven't changed much. But when a local gem, the Royal Hotel, burned down, one storeowner took it upon himself to paint his building facade to make the downtown look better. This started a chain reaction that led to other storeowners doing the same. In short order, the downtown had a fresh look.

The burst in energy to paint the facades led to the creation of a downtown improvement committee. Called the Yampa Gateway Committee, members knew that signage was needed to draw travelers going to Steamboat Springs into their downtown. They contacted UTA field coordinator Chris Endreson after discussing their idea with DOLA regional manager Greg Winkler.

Graduate students in landscape architecture, Daniel Gomez, Keath Flint, and Jill Troiani, worked with the town to identify key design elements so that design options would reflect the character of Yampa. Next, they got to work mapping the town, identifying important routes, and most importantly, assembling sign designs that would speak to the character of Yampa and catch the eye of travelers.

Residents got excited when students presented their design ideas. Through a series of refinements, a final wayfinding sign family was accepted. The UTA team summarized the final design concepts in a report geared towards the town's use to apply for grants so that they could implement the ideas.

The experience of working on this project had an enormous impact on both residents and students. This project also attracted other residents to get involved in making improvements to Yampa. The town has identified additional projects that they will pursue utilizing the UTA program. The next project on the list? Downtown beautification.

Once new gateway signs are established on highway 131, Yampa should see increased traffic downtown and an uptick in economic activity. Local leaders hope that the charm of their western town will attract young families who will find Yampa as charming as they do. An influx of younger people can build on the positive momentum that now exists for community betterment.

A shift is happening to rediscover what Yampa can be and how it moves into the future and UTA played an important role.

JILL TROIANI AND KEATH FLINT



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MIKE TUPA



PHOTO BY JESSE KUROIWA

“ I want to thank Mike for his dedication and service to the Colorado local governments he has helped over his many years working with DOLA's University Technical Assistance (UTA) Program. Mike has been on staff for DOLA's partnership with both Colorado State University and CU Denver. His work with the UTA Program has helped hundreds of students gain real world experience that they can add to their portfolios and land jobs in their fields. The students' work which he supervised, provided local governments with conceptual designs and projected budget information that helped to determine if projects should move forward. This allowed local governments to do millions of dollars worth of projects for the betterment of their communities. Besides his good work, I thank him for his friendship. Thanks, Mike and good luck. ”

Don Sandoval
DOLA Regional Manager

Thank you to all of our students who have traveled thousands of miles across the state to work in partnership with rural communities on projects that improve life for all.

FIELD SUPERVISORS

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WESTERN SLOPE REGION

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LETTER from the DIRECTOR



The Colorado Center for Community Development of CU Denver has been of service to the state for 49 years, and in the course of those years, the most rewarding of times are those when we have partners like the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) who share our vision and commitment in helping local communities. This annual report is the third of the current University Technical Assistance (UTA) partnership between the University of Colorado Denver and DOLA. In the course of preparing the previous two reports we thought it was challenging to condense all of our activity into a few pages. This year the challenge is even greater. Yes, we began more projects, but now we also want to share some of the tangible successes of our partner communities across Colorado. Building physical and social infrastructure is a time consuming process and it is exciting to see on the ground evidence of our collective efforts.

There is also a particular aspect of this partnership that is especially personally rewarding. My principal appointment in the College of Architecture and Planning is as a member of the teaching faculty. Hence, it is a joy to engage in a program like the UTA, that gives students the opportunity to gain confidence in their growing professional competence. In much of the classroom teaching that my colleagues and I do, we rely on reporting and analyzing past results or theorizing future trends. Here, at the Center, the experience is challenging, rich and immediately real. The communities with whom we partner are inevitably gracious in welcoming the ideas of our design and planning students, but they also are municipalities and other agencies accountable to their citizens. Our students understand the responsibility and every year I see our graduates becoming better prepared professional practitioners who are also more sensitive to the diverse needs and challenges of the towns and regions of Colorado.

In past reports I have acknowledged “everyone at CU Denver, DOLA and in communities across the state that have made this possible.” To all of them I remain appreciative, but this year, I want to specifically acknowledge three transitions in leadership. While continuing as a Regional Manager at DOLA Don Sandoval has passed on the daily management of the UTA grant. The successes of the UTA, not just of the current grant, but over the last couple of decades, all bear the imprint of Don’s leadership. Also, DOLA Assistant Director Charlie Unseld retired this past year. It was Charlie who tirelessly read all our reports and helped us see how we could even better serve our client communities. Finally, I want to thank Mike Tupa who joined CCCD 3 years ago as part of the UTA grant, but has a much longer relationship to serving the communities of Colorado. While Mike has decided it is time to leave us at the Center he remains a staunch advocate for making the towns of Colorado better places to live. I am grateful for all he has taught me in his time here.

Chris Koziol, Ph.D., AIA
Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Now in its third full year of re-establishment, 38 UTA projects were completed in 2016, which exceeds the 35 projects completed last year. With the three UTA field supervisors having completed their third year of the reinvigorated UTA program at CU Denver, they have not only become efficient with program operations, but they have developed contacts with many of the communities in their service areas. However, the program will be seeing Mike Tupa, UTA field supervisor for the northeast region of Colorado, retiring at the end of October. A job search is underway to fill the position.

The majority of projects that communities requested in 2016 were in the area of design and planning. This continues the trend from the previous two years. Several economic development organizations inquired about market studies, however, lacking local government approval, these projects did not move forward. Efforts will continue to be made to educate local government of the wide variety of local needs that the UTA program can address, and that students from any higher education institution in Colorado can be hired to work on local projects. In addition, DOLA regional managers and UTA field supervisors will be doing more outreach in the future to higher education institutions to identify programs and faculty that can engage with communities on projects.

Students gain real world experience working at UTA, which adds tremendous value to their education. Students hired this year were from programs in architecture, landscape architecture, graphic design, communications, and planning. The pay they receive from their work helps offset the cost of their education. The total number of student hours provided to UTA from 9/30/15 – 9/30/16 was 18,298. This equals \$237,877 in student wages.

The technical assistance that UTA staff and students provide to rural communities creates agreement and excitement for community improvement projects and helps move them forward to implementation. At least three communities were successful this year in securing funds from both local and state sources, and their stories of their completed projects are included in this report. While DOLA and CU Denver are partners in providing technical assistance to rural communities throughout Colorado, it is also a partnership with the people who work tirelessly to make their communities more vibrant and attractive. **They are the dreamers. We enable them to turn their dreams into reality.**

Vickie Berkley, MS
Assistant Director for Civic Engagement



PROGRAM FUNDING

2016 Program Funding (1/1/2016-12/31/2016):

Salaries & Benefits- \$350,133

Travel & Operating- \$70,000

Student Salaries- \$230,000

TOTAL- \$650,133




2016 Program Funding Spent (1/1/2016-9/30/2016):

Salaries & Benefits- \$269,520.54

Travel & Operating- \$42,545.61

Student Salaries- \$200,879.66

TOTAL- \$512,945.81



Estimated CU Denver College of Architecture and Planning contribution to the program through direct support and waived administrative overhead (10/1/2015-9/30/2016)

\$279,555

A photograph showing several students gathered around a table under a large white canopy tent. They appear to be engaged in a discussion or activity. The background shows a grassy area and other tents.

Estimated Total number of student hours worked
(10/1/2015-9/30/2016)

18,298

A photograph of two young women standing outdoors, smiling at the camera. They are positioned in front of a stone wall and some trees. In the background, there are buildings and a stop sign.

Total payroll for students
(10/1/2015-9/30/2016)

\$237,877

A photograph of five students walking away from the camera on a paved campus area. In the background, there are several buildings, one of which is labeled 'HOME EC BLDG.' and another 'CENTENNIAL CENTENNIAL BITION BLD'. There are also trees and a white tent.

Students hired to work for UTA program
(10/1/2015-9/30/2016):

76

OUR 2016 STUDENTS

Aalok Bhattarai **MArch**
Alex Martin **MArch**
Allison Smith **MArch**
Ally Hawk **MArch**
Anderson Marques **BArch**
Aynslee Joyce **MLA**
Brandon Cahill **BFA**
Carrie Cardona **MArch**
Catharine McCord **MLA**
Caroline Scott **MLA**
Dan Sugar **MLA**
Daniel Navarro-Gomez **MURP**
Diana Souders **MArch**
Elena Yablong **MArch**
Erin Wooden **MLA**
Greg Davidson **MLA**
Guan Wang **MLA**
Haipeng Zhang **MLA**
Haixu Li **MLA**
Heather Murphy **MURP**
Heidi Liu **MLA**
Isaac Rivera **Geography**
Jason Geving **MArch**
Jill Troiani **MLA**
Jonathan Wright **MArch**
Josh Spinner **MLA**
Kate Lucas **MArch**
Katie Benz **MLA**
Keath Flint **MLA**
Kelsey Blaho **MURP**
Leigh Bryant **MArch**
Lisa Hanano **MLA**
Lorin Crandall **MURP**
Lyris Sanchez **MArch**
Madison Meyer **BArch**
Matthew Breen **MArch**
Matt Ross **MLA**
Max LaRue **BFA**
Meenon Kastoori **MLA**
Michelle Burdis **BFA**
Molly Somes **MLA**
Morgan Daly **MArch**
Natacha Denis **MArch**
Nikhila Ramineedi **MLA**
Patrycja Humienik **CLAS**
Ross Williams **MArch**
Ryan Wresch **MArch**
Sara Morse **MLA**
Serena McClintick **MArch**
Stacy Ester **MLA**
Taylor Mineau **MArch**
Tim Camarillo **MURP**
Travis Roubideaux **MArch**
Troy Britt **MLA**
Tyler Dallison **MArch**
Vrushali Lele **MArch**
Wesley Kay **MArch**

TO LEARN MORE AND TO SUPPORT OUR WORK, VISIT:

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