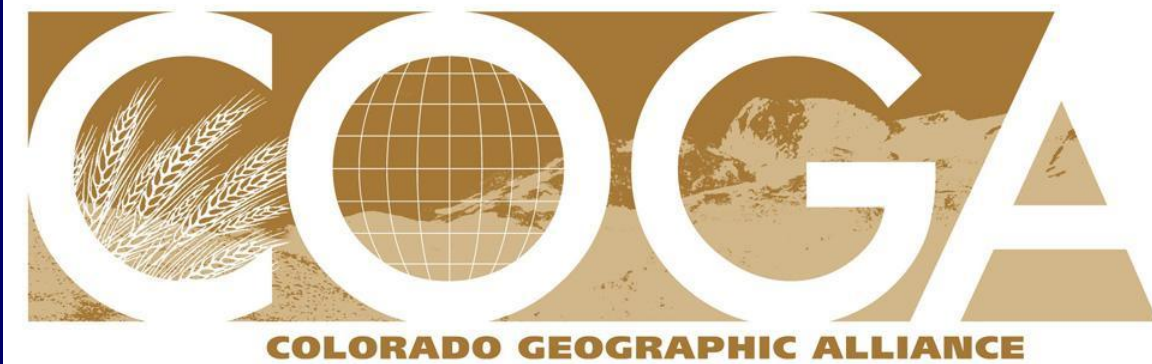


Welcome to those of you who are new to the [Colorado Geographic Alliance](#). We are glad to have you as part of COGA, a statewide organization of educators working with the social studies, science, environmental, and technology communities to support geography in every corner of the state. Please forward to colleagues who might find the material of interest. The COGA Newsletter is distributed three times a year, with additional communications to selected groups as needed.



## Winter 2017

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Colorado Academic Standards Feedback

Coloradans are invited to

### Giant Map of Colorado

Teachers and students across the state, from Ignacio to Julesburg, have explored Colorado using National Geographic's 14 by 21 foot vinyl floor map. They have learned about Colorado migration history and the multiple watersheds in our state, as well as to hone their geographic skills in understanding direction, measurement, and scale. To see how schools have been using the Giant Map, visit the Colorado Geographic Alliance [Giant Map website](#) and check out a sample of teacher and school reviews:

[Akron Elementary School](#) (January 25)

[Bricker Elementary School, Colorado Springs](#) (September 23, 2016)

[Manitou Springs Elementary School](#) (October 24, 2016)

[University Schools, Greeley](#) (October 19, 2016)

National Geographic has indicated that state maps may be available for purchase later in the year. Several school districts, some BOCES, and a few nonprofit organizations have indicated interest in purchasing maps that could be used in a smaller geographic area. The Colorado Geographic Alliance will continue to support development of lessons and materials for the Giant Map of Colorado; having additional maps would ensure that they can reach more students throughout the state. Please visit the National Geographic [Giant Traveling State Map website](#), scroll down to the bottom of the page, and submit your contact details. National Geographic will reply to you directly.

Interested in borrowing the map for the 2017-2018 school year? The online schedule request calendar will open on May 1. Priority will be given to schools that have not yet hosted the Giant Map.

provide feedback on all ten content areas of the Colorado Academic Standards!

The feedback will be used to inform the department's plan for the upcoming [standards review and review process](#) and will be provided to content area committees that will be providing revision recommendations to the Colorado State Board of Education. Geography is included in standards in science and social studies, as well as in technology.

Visit this [website](#) to share your perspectives by April.

If you are interested in serving on one of the content committees, plan to participate in a [webinar](#) on Tuesday, February 7 at 3:30 pm.

## STEM Institute

[STEM Summer Institute](#) at the University of Denver, June 12th to 16th

Join a week-long immersion in STEM education where you will gain access to the [STEMinspired](#) network.

Registration includes 40 hours of professional development. Space is limited to 150 participants.

For more information and online registration, please visit the [University of Denver](#).

## Joining NCGE?

Remember that your membership in COGA allows you to become a member of the National Council for Geographic Education at a reduced rate. Visit the [NCGE website](#) for details.

## Digital Badges

### Online Exhibits & Digital Badges

[Online exhibits](#) make Colorado history come alive through creative

## ArcGIS Online Mapping Competition for Middle and High School Students

High school and middle school students have an opportunity to win \$100 and to compete for a chance to attend the Esri Education Conference in San Diego, California. Esri challenges students to create and share maps about something in their home states.



Schools will be able to submit up to five projects to the Colorado Geographic Alliance (COGA) judging panel; one project each at high school and middle school will be tagged for a final level of competition. Esri will award ten prizes of \$100 each in each participating states.

To sign your students up and to submit maps for the competition, visit the Events page on the Colorado Geographic Alliance [website](#).

## Denver Broncos Tackle STEM Coach of the Month

Congratulations to [Heidi Ragsdale](#) for winning one of this year's Denver Broncos Tackle Stem Coach of the Month Award!

Heidi is an eighth grade science teacher in Grand Junction. She was nominated by the STEMworks program, Colorado Geographic Alliance's "Moving GIS into the Classroom" and was selected by judging committee composed of team members from the Colorado Technology Association, Universal Mind, Denver Broncos Football Club, Colorado Education Initiative, and Arrow Electronics. Read more about the Tackle STEM program [here](#).

## Apply for a Travel Award to Attend National Conference on Geography Education

Connect with education leaders from across the country at the [National Conference on Geography Education!](#)

Whether you are a classroom teacher, university professor, administrator, pre-service educator, geography expert or novice, the National Conference on Geography Education has something for you. Build your own professional learning experience and take part in a range of workshops, technology labs, field trips and social events while discovering the latest ideas, resources and research in geography education.

The conference will be held in Albuquerque from July 27 to 30. Since the meeting is so close we hope many Coloradans will be in attendance. The Colorado Geographic Alliance is offering five \$500 awards for educators from Colorado to attend this meeting. Priority will be given to participants who are first-time attendees and making a presentation. Visit the [NCGE](#)

presentation of authentic artifacts, historical images, and audio-visual materials. Interactive and social media components provide forums for conversation relating past themes and issues to contemporary life.

Encourage students to complete a series of online activities to earn [Digital Badges](#).

Like us on Facebook



Follow us on Twitter



Check out our blog



**Colorado Geographic Alliance**  
Department of Geography and Environmental Studies  
1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway  
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80918

[website](#) for more information.

To apply for the stipend, please complete information requested (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/28JX93N>) by Monday, April 10. A committee of the Leadership Council will evaluate award requests. Recipients will be notified by May 1. Funds will be distributed after travel to the meeting is complete.

Questions? Email [coga@uccs.edu](mailto:coga@uccs.edu).

## Earth Educators' Rendezvous

New Mexico is the center of the study of the earth this summer, as the Earth Educators' Rendezvous will take place July 17 to 21 in Albuquerque.

Meeting registration is open and topics for morning workshops and afternoon events are finalized. For more information, visit the National Association of Geoscience Teachers' conference [website](#).

## Explore Geospatial Technology

### ConnectED and GeoInquiries

Looking for ways to obtain access to online mapping support? Sign up for [Esri's ConnectED](#) initiative. Explore lessons and professional development opportunities - free to all schools in the United States.



Investigate [GeoInquiries](#) on topics such as the Dustbowl, North American Landforms, Ocean Features, and USA Demographics.

## National Council for Geographic Education Awards

The National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) is dedicated to recognizing educators and advocates who have made outstanding contributions to geography education. Awards are given for teaching, research, and service.

Submit materials by February 1 to the NCGE Central Office. Winners are announced in early summer and recipients are recognized at a special ceremony during NCGE's annual conference. Learn more about application and nomination requirements [here](#).



## Opportunities in Geography Education

### Bioblitz Kit Give Away

Have you participated in a BioBlitz or gone out into the field to investigate ecosystems with your students? COGA is offering twenty teachers in Colorado a BioBlitz kit that contains tools that you can use in the field with students. The kits will contain things like hand lenses and nets to facilitate capturing insects or aquatic creatures.

Please fill out the survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WCLJP3J> by February 27. Those teachers who have completed a BioBlitz at their schools will be given first priority. For teachers who have not undertaken a BioBlitz we will make a random drawing on March 6, to identify the remainder of the teachers who will receive the kits. The kits will be distributed by March 15, just in time for class spring excursions.

### Colorado Geographic Bee

National Geographic Society is proud to present the Colorado Geo Bee! The Colorado Geography Bee will be held at The University of Denver on Friday, March 31. Come and cheer on our students in the final round at 12:00 noon with Denver 9news/NBC's Amelia Earhart as the final round moderator. If you are interested in volunteering for the event or attending as an educator, please contact [Rebecca DiMaio](#), the National Geographic Bee Coordinator for Colorado. Her phone number is 720-290-0798.

## National Geographic Educator Certification

The National Geographic Educator Certification program seeks to inspire educators to teach students about the world in innovative and interdisciplinary ways. The experience will provide you with professional recognition and development; connections and community with like-minded educators; and relationships, resources, and perks with National Geographic. Click [here](#) to learn more about the program and program requirements.



## Undergraduate Climate Change Research Experience



Dr. Jimmy Dunn is leading a 230 mile river trip down the Coppermine River, ending at the Arctic Ocean near the community of Kugluktuk. Three students from the University of Northern Colorado will join the expedition, undertake climate change research, observe animals and plants, and meet Inuit living on the coast. These students are hoping to visit Colorado classrooms during the 2017-18 school year - ideally, in the vicinity of Greeley, Fort Collins, Loveland, and Longmont. Please email [James.Dunn@unco.edu](mailto:James.Dunn@unco.edu) if you are interested in arranging a free talk with incredible photos!

## National Science Foundation Research Experience



## Research Experience in Belize and Orlando Focused on Community GIS and Citizen Science

The University of Central Florida will host the [National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates program](#), "Preparing the Next Generation of Scholars through Community GIS and Citizen Science". The program is open to all U.S. students and runs June 19 to August 4. Check out the website, or contact [Timothy Hawthorne](#), Assistant Professor of Geographic Information Systems at University of Central Florida.

## What Geographers Do



Tom Huber is a geography professor at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs. His most recent publication,

[Hayden's Landscapes Revisited](#), offers a historical time-lapse of space over time, comparing Colorado's past to Colorado's present. Huber searched out locations where artists sketched landscapes in 1873 for the Hayden Geological Survey. His photos and drawings are placed side by side with current photos, all easily accessible online. Huber says some of the

landscapes have changed quite a bit and others hardly at all. The Hayden Survey, along with others, eventually became part of the United States Geological Survey. Many locations in Colorado are named for Ferdinand Vandiveer Hayden.

[Huber](#) received his PhD in geography at the University of Colorado Boulder in 1980. His areas of interest include Colorado geography, mountain geomorphology, soils, and remote sensing for resource management. In 2012, Huber received the University of Colorado Thomas Jefferson faculty award. He is a board member of the Rocky Mountain Field Institute and the Catamount Center for the Geography of the Southern Rockies.

Visit the [What Geographers Do Archive](#) to learn about other geographers.

## Geography Awareness Week "The Power of Parks"



In honor of Geography Awareness Week, the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS) held its Fifth Annual GeoQuiz Night on Thursday, November 17, 2016. Many students and faculty, including family members, tested their geography knowledge against friends, colleagues, and classmates. Questions were based on the 2016 theme, "The

Power of Parks". Everyone enjoyed food and drinks while the victors took home prizes.

The event was hosted and sponsored by the UCCS Geography Club, Global Intercultural Research Center (GLINT), Colorado Geographic Alliance (COGA), National Geographic, the Global Engagement Office, Student Government Association (SGA), Students for Environmental Awareness and Sustainability (SEAS) and UCCS Parking Services.

## Esri Extends ConnectED Support through 2019

Esri [announced last fall](#) that it has extended support of the ConnectED initiative for three years. Esri will continue to expand curricula that integrates map-based concepts into primary and secondary school learning.



President Obama established the ConnectED initiative in 2013 to promote donated technology contributions to equip U.S. schoolchildren with tools to succeed in the digital future. In 2014, Esri president Jack Dangermond offered ArcGIS Online to every public, private, and home school in the United States. Since then, Esri has donated more than \$40 million in software, curriculum solutions, training, and support for K-12 institutions.

"Students learn best by engaging with content," said Charlie Fitzpatrick,

Esri schools program manager. "Esri offers an interactive experience that helps students scaffold the background knowledge and skills needed to engage in even more powerful project-based learning."

The Colorado Geographic Alliance partners with Esri, using its materials and programs to support teachers across the state.

## Letter from the American Association of Geographers

November 16, 2016

Dear AAG Members,



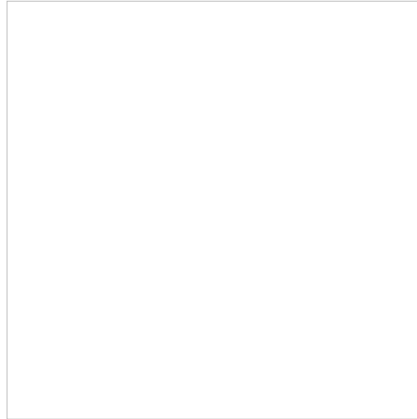
As our nation continues to digest the outcome of this year's contentious election campaign and the upheaval we have seen in many communities as a result, we wanted to reach out to you in a spirit of shared concern.

As geographers, we believe wholeheartedly in the values of free, thoughtful expression and mutual respect.

...

To read the entire letter, visit the [AAG website](#).

## COGA on Facebook, Twitter, and Blog



### Follow us on Facebook

Our [Facebook page](#) posts upcoming events that are open to the public. You can also find interesting links to photo galleries and articles on geography.

### Follow us on Twitter

Looking for a place to upload those great photos from the visit of the Giant Map of Colorado? COGA now has a [Twitter account](#). Share your perspectives with [#ColoradoGiantMap](#).

### Check out our Blog

[COGA's blog](#) shares workshop opportunities and professional development sessions for educators as well as geography education resources.

## Colorado Geographic Alliance

### VISION:

Changing our understanding and experience of the world

### MISSION:

To instill and nurture spatial awareness and geographic literacy

### VALUES:

Inspiring passion for Earth and its inhabitants  
Connecting people with geography  
Honoring inclusivity and diversity  
Exploring physical and human environments  
Developing spatial perspective

Ideas for upcoming newsletters? Great topics, links, or upcoming events you'd like COGA to share with geography educators? Let us

know! We're here to connect.

[coga@uccs.edu](mailto:coga@uccs.edu)

This project is funded in part by a grant from the  
National Geographic Society Education Foundation.