

COLORADO GEOGRAPHIC ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

Welcome - the Colorado Geographic Alliance works with social studies, science, environmental, and technology communities to support geography in every corner of the state. There is a great deal of information in this edition. Take a few minutes to review the topics in the table of contents, and please forward to colleagues who might find the material of interest.

Winter 2018

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Opportunity for Pairs of Middle School Teachers to Learn about Geo-Inquiry and Power of Data

The Colorado Geographic Alliance is conducting a Geo-Inquiry Institute from June 10 to 15 in Steamboat Springs, sponsored by the National Geographic Society and the Power of Data project. The Geo-Inquiry process builds on student questions that reflect their interest in local community issues. Teachers in grades six to eight must sign up in pairs - one teacher must be a middle school science or social studies teacher and the other must be a technology teacher or specialist. There are only a few openings remaining for this program; please submit an interest form through Survey Monkey (<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R5KCDTW>) by **Friday, February 2, 2018**. Team members will receive a stipend as well as lodging, meals, and some reimbursement for mileage.



ArcGIS Online Competition for Colorado Middle and High School Students



esri

[Esri](#) invites students to explore a situation in their state and share the results in a Story Map. Guidelines for the Colorado competition are available through Colorado College. The ten best projects submitted to each state (five middle school and five high school) will receive \$100 from Esri. The deadline for final entries to the Colorado contest is Monday, May 14, 2018, at 5:00 pm Mountain Time. Explore your world!

[Advanced Placement Human Geography Workshop](#)

[National Geographic Educator Community](#)

Request for Ideas: Future of Colorado Geography Educator Community?

As you may be aware, the Colorado Geographic Alliance will no longer receive resources from the National Geographic Society. (For details about the change, please see the COGA [Fall Newsletter](#).) We would like to find out how to maintain the links that have been forged in Colorado among elementary and secondary educators, higher education professors, nonprofit organizations, professional geographers, and friends of geography over the thirty years of the National Geographic Alliance Network. Please complete a [short survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TCYF7J9) with your ideas. Thank you in advance for contributing your thoughts.

Mapping Colorado's Past

To explore the Mapping Colorado's Past (MapCO) Project go to the [home page](#) of UNC's William E. Hewitt Institute for History and Social Science Education. Scroll to bottom of page (K-12 Teacher Resources) for a link to Colorado's Geography: Mapping Our Past. Prior to exploring the MapCO website, download and read the "Getting Started with MapCO" document.

Looking for STEM Teachers

A new free, online platform, [docacademy](#), aims to educate a generation of savvy and critical media consumers by using documentary film in classrooms. The platform is being piloted in 25 classrooms across the U.S. this spring. Doc Academy is seeking three STEM teachers to add to its pilot cohort, particularly in Colorado. Teachers are asked to teach one lesson of their choice and complete an evaluation; a \$100 Amazon card will be provided as a thank you. They also seek a STEM teacher to hire as a teacher-advisor to vet films and write the set of lessons, paying \$1000 per lesson. Contact [Fran Sterling](#) with questions.

Promote Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Have you read a very good, recently published paper that helped you reflect on your own approaches to teaching? Did the paper give you

Looking for ideas about how to share information about Colorado in a map?

Check out the [Colorado Digital Atlas](#). This resource created by former COGA Coordinator Steve Jennings provides a great start to exploring our state, and is an excellent example of what can be done using the Esri Story Map program.

Teaching Geography Using Primary Sources Workshop, Aspen, April 20 and 21, 2018

This **free** workshop will be hosted by the Aspen Country Day School on Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Teaching with Primary Sources and the Colorado Geographic Alliance offer an opportunity to apply an inquiry-based learning model by exploring Library of Congress primary sources through the lens of geographic thinking. Field trips, resources, and breakfast and lunch each day will be provided. Register through [Teaching with Primary Sources](#).



Wanted: Teachers to Review Interactive Mapping Activities about Colorado

Does your social studies curriculum include a study of Colorado's history and geography? Professors Phil Klein and David Diggs at the University of Northern Colorado seek upper elementary or middle school teachers to serve as consultants, reviewing student activities and updating teacher-support materials for the project entitled Colorado's Geography: Mapping Our Past (MapCO). For each activity, teacher-consultants will review the existing activities, rewrite where needed, create new questions using grade-level appropriate math skills with the maps, link these activities to other web resources about Colorado, and identify the activity's appropriate social studies standards. Teacher-consultants will be paid \$400 per activity completed. For additional information, contact Dr. Phil Klein phil.klein@unco.edu.

new ideas to help improve your students learning? Did it provide an innovative way of addressing a concern or issue that is relevant to geography in higher education? Or perhaps the paper tackled broader analysis of the institutional contexts which frame pedagogic approaches? If you have been inspired, please consider [nominating a paper](#) by March 1, 2018, for the 'Journal of Geography in Higher Education' Prize for Promoting Excellence in Teaching and Learning.

Avalanche Awareness and Outdoor Safety in Wintertime

Still hoping for more snow? Join Rocky Mountain Conservancy and the Colorado Mountain School on January 12th for an afternoon of establishing an understanding of and practicing identifying avalanche risk. Information on this and other classes can be found on the Rocky Mountain Conservancy and Field Institute [website](#).

Best of Luck!

Thanks to Jenny Satre, who recently completed her work as Administrator for the Colorado Geographic Alliance. We also take this time to salute all the geography students at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs who have served the Colorado Geographic Alliance and supported geography education across the state. They include Rebecca Gronewold, Joshua Hendrickson, Carmen Lyons, Sara Santa Cruz, and Alex Sinchak.

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Giant Traveling Map News

Kudos to all the borrowers of the Giant Map of Colorado this past fall! All of the materials were carefully counted and none of the materials went missing. The two maps managed by the Colorado Geographic Alliance are again ready to visit schools across the state.

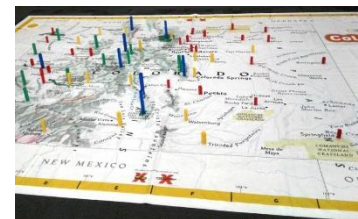
Interested in borrowing a National Geographic Giant Map of North America?

As part of its transition process, the National Geographic Society donated used continental maps to Geographic



Alliances around the country. The Colorado Geographic Alliance received a North America map AND a full trunk of lessons and materials. Contact coga@uccs.edu if you would like to discuss the logistics of borrowing the resource this spring.

Giant Maps of Colorado will be available to thousands of students over the coming years, thanks to universities, districts, and schools across the state.



Teachers will be able to plan curriculum using this resource, and will have the opportunity to develop new lessons building skills and content across multiple disciplines. Academy (25,591), Boulder Valley (31,189), Colorado Springs (27,911), Douglas County (67,470), Eagle County (6,901), Jefferson County (86,347), Lewis-Palmer (6,577), Mesa County (22,105), and Saint Vrain (32,171) among other organizations each have a Giant Map of Colorado for teachers to borrow. This means that ONE-THIRD of the state's 905,000 elementary and secondary students have access to a map in their area. If your school, district, BOCES, university, or educational organization is interested in purchasing a map from National Geographic, please visit the National Geographic Giant Map website. We want to make sure that every child in the state can benefit from this teaching tool.

My Giant Map of Colorado arrived, but there was no trunk with stuff!

So, now that you have a Giant Map of Colorado, you have to purchase and manage the materials required to support the



lessons for the map. Start by reviewing the materials and lesson lists on the Colorado Geographic Alliance Giant Map website. Then contact coga@uccs.edu for more information about resources.

Student Awards for Best Use of Geography at Colorado State Science Fair and at History Day in Colorado Contests

The Colorado Geographic Alliance will provide one senior and one junior award each to students who demonstrate the best application of geography in a history day or science fair project. Gather details at the National History Day in Colorado and the Colorado Science and Engineering Fair websites and pass the information on to your students.

Resources for Teaching about Climate Change

Colorado is home to strong networks of scientists and researchers. If you are looking for an expert to visit your classes and discuss signs of climate change in your region, explore universities, research laboratories, and local government offices. For example, here is a story about how Rising Temperatures Impact Colorado River Resources from the USGS.

American Association of Geographers (AAG)

National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

National Geographic Society (NGS)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

United States Geological Survey (USGS)

University of Colorado Breaking Science



Congratulations to Colorado Geographers

Tom Veblen of Boulder has been named a Distinguished Professor at the University of Colorado.

Christina Classen's geography class at Doherty High School in Colorado Springs is featured in Next Generation Learning Challenges.

Joseph Kerski of Esri will take the stage at the February 10th TEDxVail Conference at Vail Mountain School.

Alex Oberle, a native of Monument and Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Northern Iowa, and Stephanie Harvey, a consultant in Denver, join three other individuals recognized by National Geographic as Education Fellows.

National Geographic Bee 2018

The Nat Geo Bee is an annual geography competition for students at the school, state, and national levels. Students in grades 4-8 compete for a chance to win up to \$50,000 in college scholarships. As students study for the Bee, they learn about the world, its people, and important historical events.



Register your school by January 26th, and check out the Kahoot! quizzes to get your class excited for the challenge. For questions about the Colorado Geographic Bee, contact Bee Coordinator Rebecca DiMaio at rardimaio@gmail.com.

Colorado Council for the Social Studies Conference, April 13, 2018 at History Colorado in Denver "Bridging the Divides: Civil Discourse in the 21st Century"

In our democracy, institutions and social organizations are dependent upon differing perspectives coming together in pursuit of a common goal. Economic progress, social movements, historical points of view, and environmental considerations often create fractures among groups. Explore the role that social studies has in creating communities where competing ideas can be held and progress continues.

National Conference on Geography Education in Québec City



This year, the National Council for Geographic Education has partnered with the International Geographical Union and Canadian Association of Geographers to host its annual conference August 6 through 10, 2018 in Québec City. The

submission and registration processes are different this year compared to past years. With a purchase of a conference registration, you will have access to all sessions, plenary talks and luminary talks, lunches and coffee breaks, ice breaker, closing ceremony and delegate bag. For details, and to register, visit the NCGE Conference website.

Teaching East Asia - National Consortium for Teaching about Asia Summer Institute, July 8-14, 2018

"Uneasy Neighbors: Legacies and Challenges in 21st-Century East Asia"

This institute at the University of Colorado Boulder will examine the recent past, present, and future of East Asian regional relations, considering China, Japan, Taiwan, and the Koreas. The program will lay the groundwork for current issues by deconstructing the region's "history problem" - the enduring legacies and hotly-contested national narratives of 20th-century conflict. Participants will then have the opportunity to focus on current topics including national grand strategies and their regional impact, territorial disputes, economic cooperation and rivalries, the environment, and demographics as well as prospects for the East Asian regional order of the future. For details, visit the TEA website.

Wyoming Geographic Alliance offers Advanced Placement Human Geography Workshop

Join Professor Alexander Murphy of the University of Oregon, specialist in political and cultural geography, in focusing on the ways in which core geographic concepts set forth in the AP Human Geography course outline - region, pattern, place, space, and scale - provide insight into fundamental developments unfolding around the world. While this workshop is primarily for teachers in Wyoming, there may be some space available. Contact the Wyoming Geographic Alliance.

National Geographic Educator Community

To keep in touch with National Geographic, become a National Geographic Certified Educator, apply for an education grant, and be sure and bookmark <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/education/>.



COGA on Facebook, Twitter, and Blog



Our Facebook page posts upcoming events open to the public. Find links to photo galleries and articles. Looking for a place to upload those great photos from the visit of the Giant Map of Colorado? Share on

[#ColoradoGiantMap](#). 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



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