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Robert Franklin – Youth Development Agent

Successful Strategies in Engaging Vulnerable Youth and Families:
Field Lessons

How many are operating with a diversity and/or inclusivity director, board or committee to forward engagement of underserved audiences?



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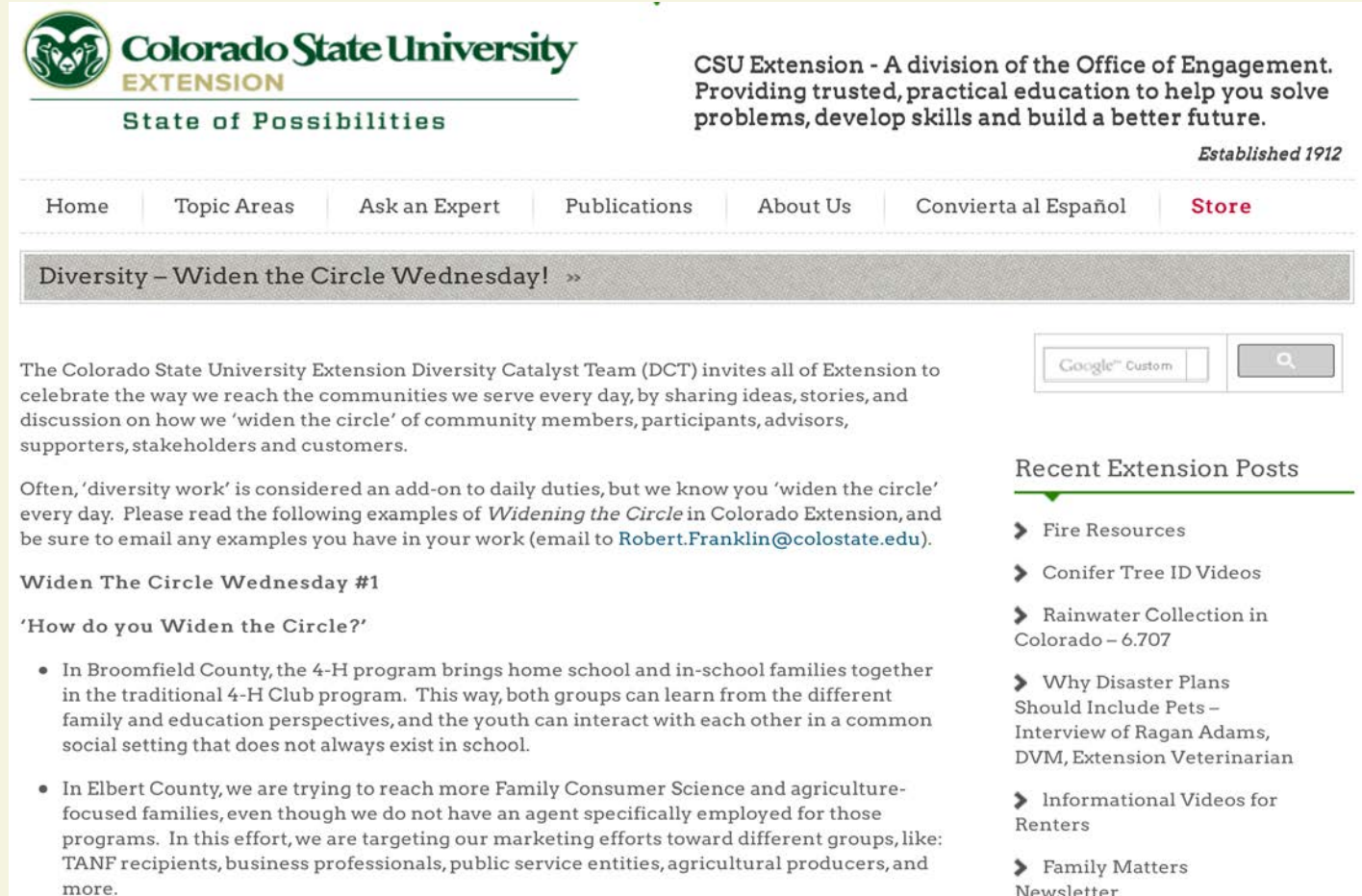
Widening the Circle


This is what Denver 4-H Youth Development looks like.



Widening the Circle

Developed campaign for documenting and dispensing stories around the state of inclusion and diversity work, each week to entire Extension System.



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State of Possibilities

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Diversity – Widen the Circle Wednesday! >>

The Colorado State University Extension Diversity Catalyst Team (DCT) invites all of Extension to celebrate the way we reach the communities we serve every day, by sharing ideas, stories, and discussion on how we ‘widen the circle’ of community members, participants, advisors, supporters, stakeholders and customers.

Often, ‘diversity work’ is considered an add-on to daily duties, but we know you ‘widen the circle’ every day. Please read the following examples of *Widening the Circle* in Colorado Extension, and be sure to email any examples you have in your work (email to Robert.Franklin@colostate.edu).

Widen The Circle Wednesday #1

‘How do you Widen the Circle?’

- In Broomfield County, the 4-H program brings home school and in-school families together in the traditional 4-H Club program. This way, both groups can learn from the different family and education perspectives, and the youth can interact with each other in a common social setting that does not always exist in school.
- In Elbert County, we are trying to reach more Family Consumer Science and agriculture-focused families, even though we do not have an agent specifically employed for those programs. In this effort, we are targeting our marketing efforts toward different groups, like: TANF recipients, business professionals, public service entities, agricultural producers, and more.

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Recent Extension Posts

- Fire Resources
- Conifer Tree ID Videos
- Rainwater Collection in Colorado – 6.707
- Why Disaster Plans Should Include Pets – Interview of Ragan Adams, DVM, Extension Veterinarian
- Informational Videos for Renters
- Family Matters Newsletter



*After the Widening the Circle: Moving Beyond Tolerance training, I am willing to talk with others about **inclusion** and mostly to be aware of my own circle(s) and how to **open** it (them) to others.*

– CSU Financial Aid Counselor



Spanish language programming



In 2014, approximately 35% of Denver students are classified as English Language Learners (speaks language other than English at home).



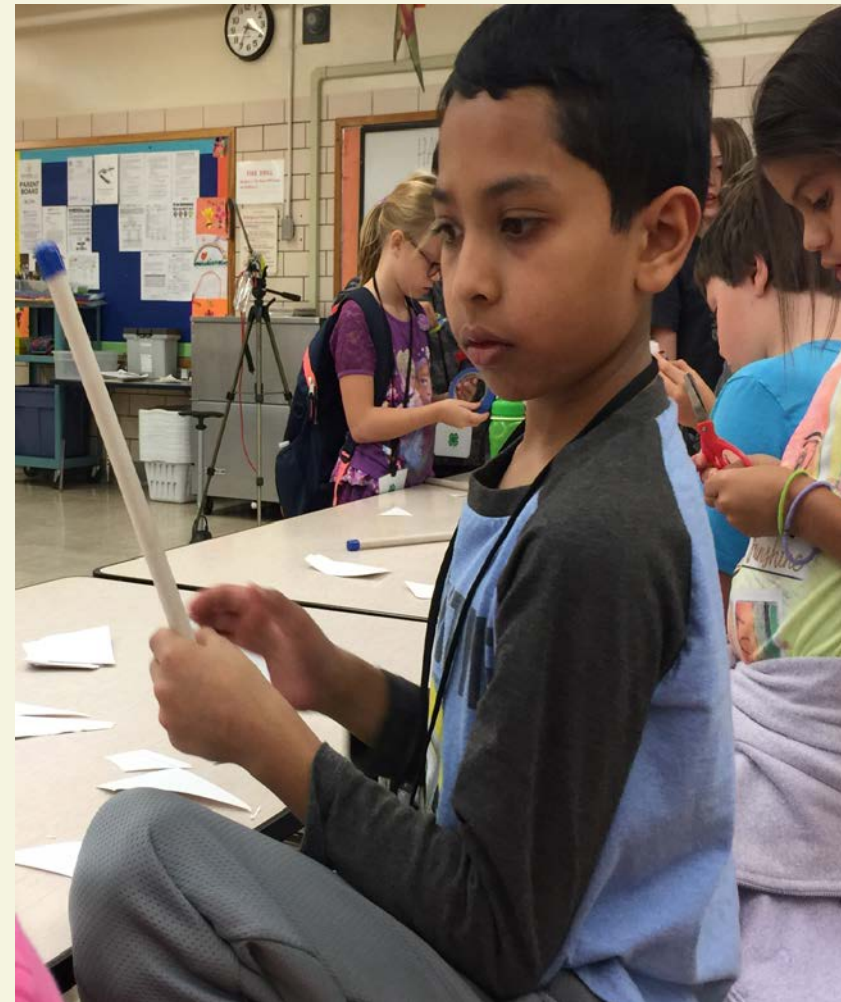
Spanish language programming

Two programs have been translated and delivered for Spanish speaking student populations.
National Western Stock Show (school visits)
Embryology #1 and #2



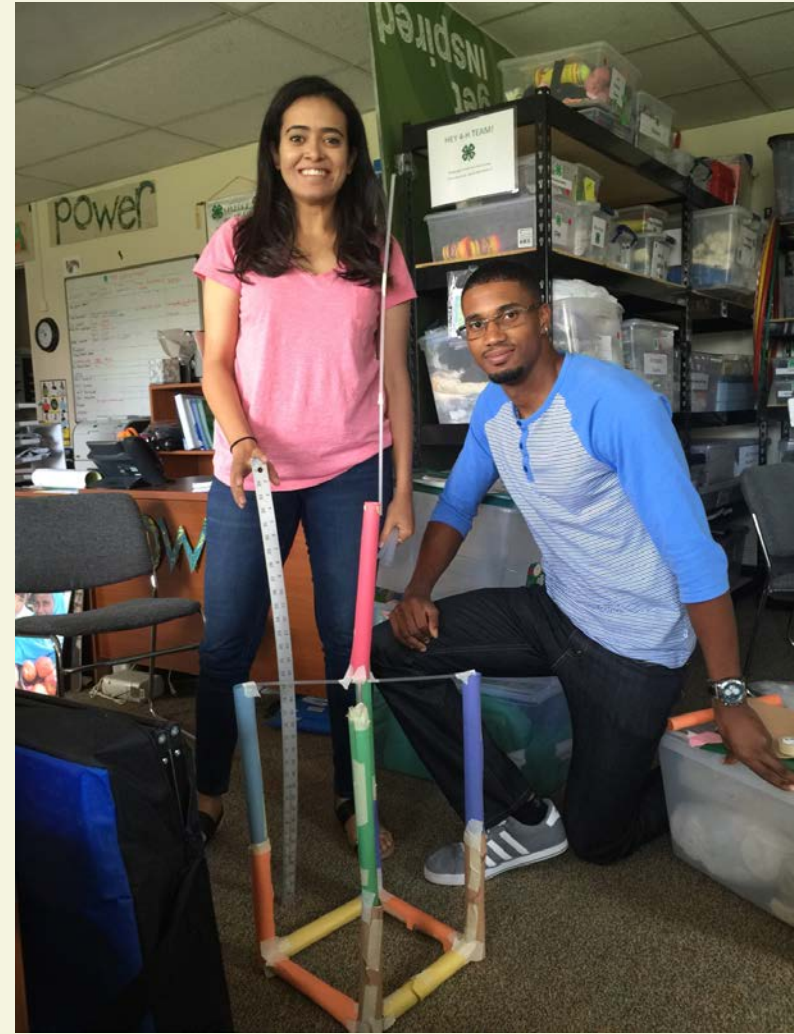
Youth community leaders

16% of Denver's population was not born in the United States. Younger family and community members are communicating and advocating for others.



Recruiting community leaders

Intentional recruiting of community members who have experience with vulnerable communities and come meet participants where they are.





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The recipe for success is not a
secret...

Take stock of who is present and represented.

Celebrate successes in inclusion work.

Build a relationship with subject matter and community experts.

Do your research, study and try.

Create (culturally responsible) relationships, bridges, and incentives.

Repeat.



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Thank You!

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Sources:

- Denver Office of Community Support
- [Factfinder.census.org](https://factfinder.census.org)