RECCS Connects

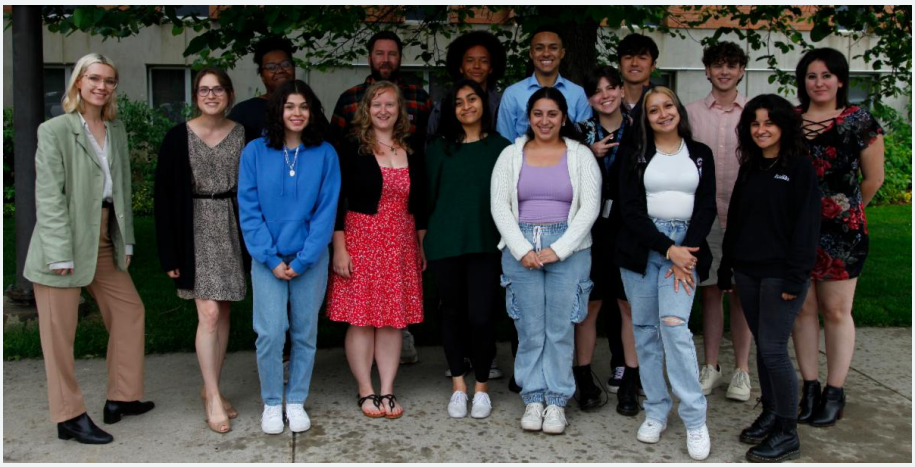
Research Experiences for Community College Students

June 2022

RECCS is a summer student research program for Colorado community college students funded by the National Science Foundation and coordinated by CIRES Education Outreach, Niwot Ridge LTER and INSTAAR.

Welcome to the new monthly RECCS newsletter where you will find helpful academic and career tips, and a selection of current internships, entry-level job openings, and graduate positions. ***This month's topic is a kickoff for the 2022 RECCS Summer Program! We will be sharing student projects throughout the summer in each issue.***

Welcome 2022 RECCS Cohort!

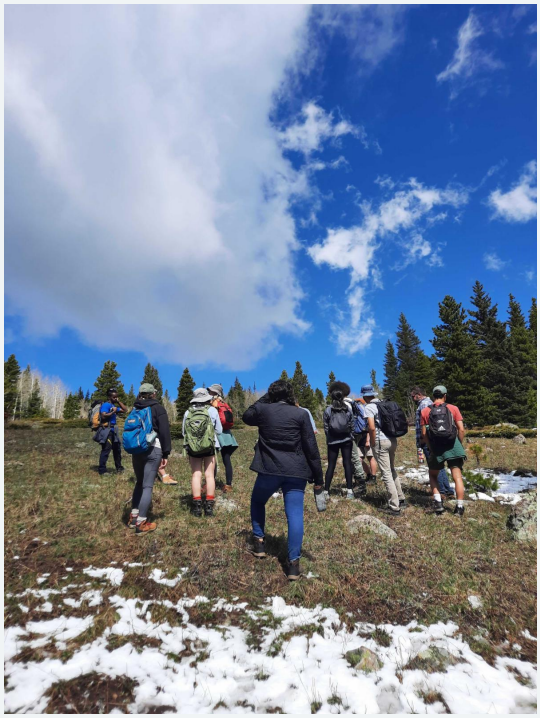


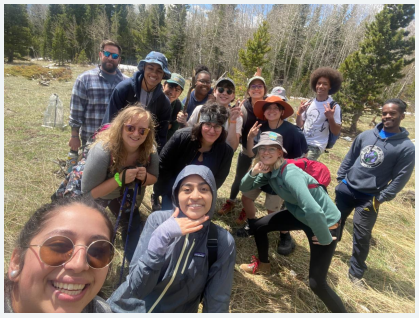
From left to right: Bee Alcorn, Brian Hertvik, Adam Thomas, Xavier Cotton, Rylee Baca, Liam Milton, Carson Cucarola, Julissa Rubio, Lex Emond, Jes DeGroot, Victoria Macias, Holly McCrory, Adeena Chughtai, Dominique Garcia, Karla Lemus, Dana Stamo. **Photo**: Katie Weeman, RECCS 2022.

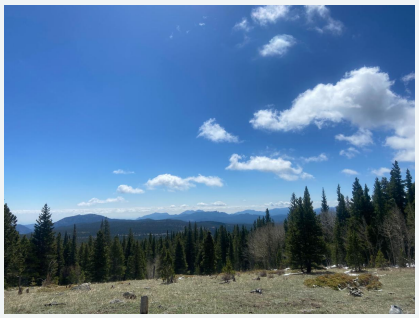
"I haven't experienced the opportunity to participate in any research projects and thus I am very excited to be participating in the RECCS program. I can't wait to not only learn from my mentors but to dive into the full experience of scientific research." - Julissa R.

Kicking off the Summer

The students head up to the Mountain Research Station for an overnight retreat to start the program. They participated in team-building activities, fieldwork, and various workshops.







Photos by Holly McCrory and Dominique Garcia, RECCS 2022.

Student Project Highlights

Student: Holly McCrory

Mentors: Richard Saltus, Anna Liao, Manoj Nair

Project: Geology - Explore the use of CrowdMag, a citizen science app for collecting magnetic field data from your smartphone, for mapping the spatial and temporal variations of the Earth's dynamic magnetic field. Th

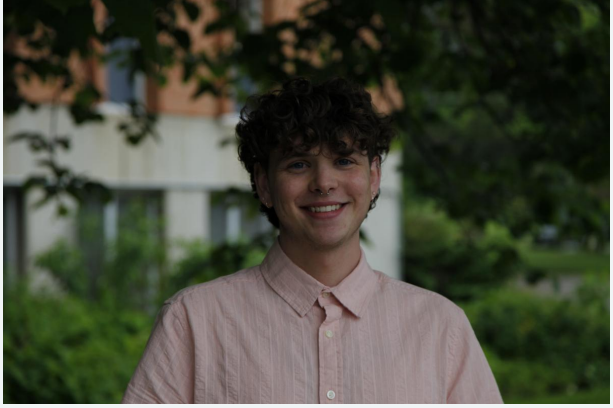
Bio: Holly McCrory is going to be a junior at CSU in the fall of 2022. She is studying Geology and Watershed Science and has a deep passion for research. It is Holly's dream to help other passionate and talented scientists find ways to combat climate change and find solutions to the water crisis in the west.

Student: Carson Cucarola

Mentors: Stefan Tulich & Pragaliva Barpanda

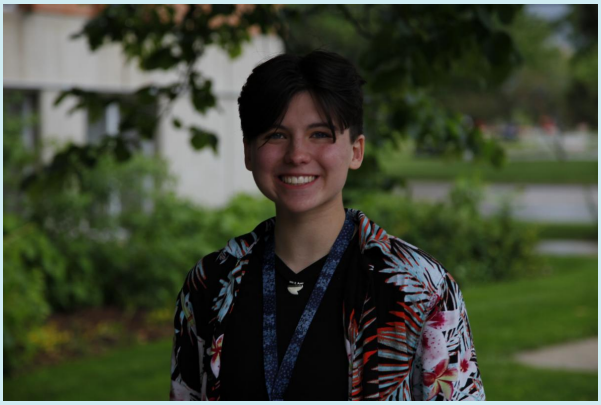
Project: Atmospheric - Entails the use of gridded global observational data to look at how conditions in the atmosphere affect an

important type of tropical weather over the pacific



Bio: Carson Cucarola is wrapping up his Associate of Science at Front Range Community College (FRCC) over the Summer of 2022. After completing his degree, he will be transitioning to the University of Colorado (CU) at Boulder to major in Biochemistry as well as Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences. He dreams of attending CU Boulder for graduate school to study Astrobiology. Currently, Carson works in the Science Stockroom at FRCC ensuring the students and instructors have the necessary materials to efficiently run labs.

Student: Rylee Baca

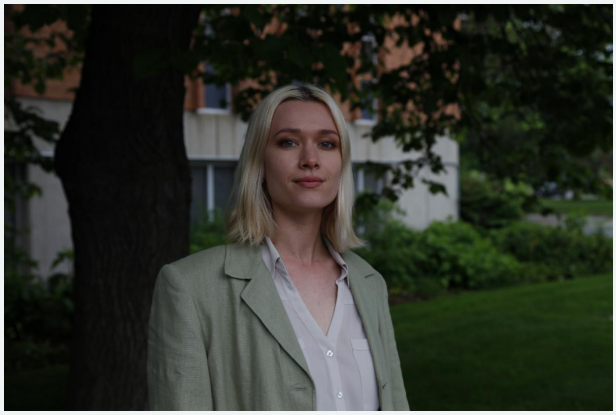


Mentors: Thomas Merchant, Katie Suding

Project: Ecology & Climate – This project will utilize a drought manipulation experiment to explore how changes in precipitation correspond to soil moisture dynamics and the connection to rangeland plant communities. Understanding these connections is critical to linking the expected changes in precipitation due to climate change.

Bio: Rylee is a Southern Colorado resident, an early high school graduate, and valedictorian from Hope Online Learning Academy. He has been dual enrolled in local community college classes since junior year and is transferring to Southern Oregon University for a master's degree in biology with an emphasis on environmental science. He is interested in pursuing some sort of conservation work with lots of time in the field. He is very excited to be joining RECCS, as it is exactly the type of experience he has been craving to get.

Student: Lex Emond



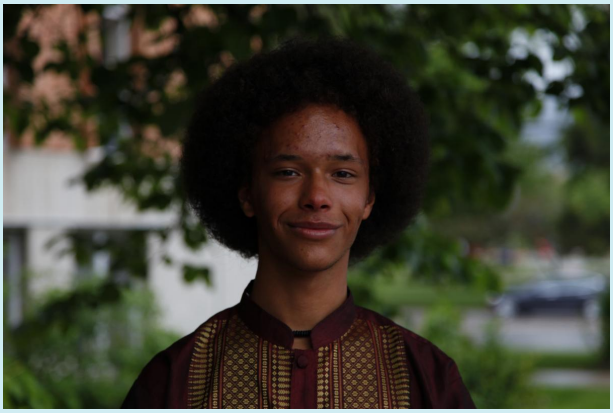
Mentors: Katya Jay & Jonathan Henn

Project: Alpine Plant Ecology– The REU project centers around the increasing shrub abundance on Niwot Ridge. The project is interested in why shrubs are invading and how they would affect the ecosystem. We hypothesize that increasing shrub presence will have a significant impact on the tundra habitat and its suitability for the plants that currently grow there.

Bio: Lex is a student at Front Range Community College with aspirations of transferring to a 4-year neuroscience degree and pursuing a career in research. She was born and raised in Colorado but has since lived in Chicago, Grand Teton National Park, and Big Sur as a seasonal worker. After spending her early 20s in art school, film school, and a variety of jobs, Lex began questioning her reasons for turning away from science. Her curiosity and passion for it had only intensified since childhood, and she soon became determined to turn back around and pursue her dream.

Student: Adam Thomas

Mentors: Adam Mahood & Max Cook



Project: Ecology – We will be doing field surveys in aspen forests, which will then be combined with broader-scale data to inform remote sensing-based models of aspen cover.

Bio: Adam grew up in Colorado, graduated from Summit High, and went to Colorado Mountain College for his first year of college. Adam has worked at a few Youth Corps. that are outdoor conservation-focused, specifically on public lands. In the future he may transfer to Oregon State University with a DPP program this coming fall, studying mechanical engineering. Adam is very interested in studying mycelium, ecology restoration, and robotics. He also likes to tinker and explore the bush.

Current Job Openings

- Interns - Environmental Science, Engineering **Denver, CO**
- AZA Conservation Intern- Paid **Silver Spring, Maryland (Closes June 17, 2022)**
- Fall Environmental Education Intern **Boulder, CO (Closes July 3, 2022)**
- GIS Specialist Intern **Denver, CO**
- CIRES/ NOAA PSL Research Scientist in Hydroclimatic Predictions, Predictability and Projections **Boulder, CO**
- CIRES/ NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory, Programmer/ Electronics Associate Scientist **Boulder, CO**
- CIRES/ NOAA Global Monitoring Laboratory, Measurement Systems Engineer (Associate Scientist) **Boulder, CO**
- Climate Corps Fellowship **San Rafael, CA**
- Field-based STEM Education Postdoctoral Researcher **Santa Cruz, CA (Closes July 1, 2022)**
- UNIDATA Data Engineer II **Boulder, CO (Closes July 2, 2022)**
- Hydrologist **Flagstaff, AZ (Closes June 17, 2022)**
- Research Ecologist / Research Rangeland Management Specialist **Fort Collins, CO (Closes March 21, 2023)**
- Physical Scientist (Land Surveyor) **Concord, MA (Closes Oct 18, 2022)**
- Research Scientist **Boulder, CO**
- Field Biologist **Denver, CO**
- Environmental Professional (Geophysics) **Denver, CO**
- Assistant Biologist - Environmental Services (Denver) **Denver, CO**
- Science Data Analyst for MAVEN/IUVS **Boulder, CO**
- General Physical Scientist **Anchorage, AK (Closes Dec 30, 2022)**
- Field Biologist **Denver, CO**

Join RECCS on Linkedin!

1. Create or update your Linkedin profile (**view the how-to video**)
2. Connect with us on **Linkedin**!

We post job listings or other opportunities on our page weekly.

What is going on with RECCS?

The 2022 RECCS 15-student cohort is kicking off this year's program and getting started on their research projects with their mentors!

RECCS Team

Alicia Christensen, Bec Batchelor, Christine Okochi, Anne Gold (RECCS PI), and Karla Pineda-Velez




Contact us at reccs@colorado.edu or visit our program page at cires.colorado.edu/outreach/reccs

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