



**COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES**



**STUDENT LIFE DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT**

**2024-2025**



# WELCOME to Student Life at Mines!

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**2024-2025**

Student Life  
at Colorado School of Mines

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## A Message from the Vice President

It's been another incredible year for the Division of Student Life at the Colorado School of Mines. While higher education continues to be a hot topic across the nation, and schools contend with significant policy and budgetary implications at the state and national level, I've been so impressed by my colleagues who have remained steadfastly devoted to our mission and found ways to be creative in serving our students despite uncertainty and change. Our most important focus, and our unifying pillar, is making sure that our students feel connected and supported, receive a high-quality education, and have fun during this pivotal time in their lives. I am thrilled to share more details about the work that we have done during the past year in this report.

Looking forward, we will continue to evolve our services, focusing on assessing our impact and understanding the needs of our students. Whether it's Artificial Intelligence making its way further into the classroom (more on that later!) or

new ideas about how to incorporate co-curricular learning into the student experience, it's our priority to adapt to changes, both anticipated and unexpected, so that our students are equipped with the skills and experiences needed to excel in their careers and lives. Change can be difficult, but it's also an opportunity to be creative. I'm excited to see where the next year takes us, and grateful for my colleagues and the students who will join me on the journey.

Braelin Pantel  
Vice President of Student Life



## Who is Student Life?

## Student Life Departments



**Center for Academic Services and Advising (CASA)**

**Athletics**

**Auxiliary Services**

**Career Center**

**Office of Community Standards**

**Counseling Center**

**Disability Support Services (DSS)**

**Global Education**

**Multicultural Engineering**

**Program (MEP)**

**Professional and Scholar**

**Communities Applied Learning (PASCAL) Center**

**Recreational Sports**

**Residence Life**

**ROTC**

**Student Activities, Involvement, & Leadership (SAIL)**

**Sexual Harassment and Assault**

**Advocacy, Prevention and**

**Education (SHAPE)**

**Student Health Center**

**Student Outreach and Support (SOS)**

**Student Wellness Promotion and Education**

**Vice President & Senior Student Life Team**

## Welcoming Global Education!

As of July 1, 2025, Global Education has joined the Division of Student Life! We are thrilled to welcome this office, which offers study abroad opportunities and supports international students pursuing their education at Mines. Check out their website to learn more:  
<https://www.mines.edu/global/>



## Academic & Professional Development

At Mines, preparing our students to succeed in and beyond the classroom is paramount, and Student Life strives to enhance students' academic success and career readiness in a variety of ways on campus.

The **Center for Academic Services and Advising (CASA)** provided substantial support, recording **8,387** total advising, coaching, and drop-in appointments for undergraduate students navigating challenging course schedules. Students overwhelmingly expressed satisfaction with their advising experience, with **98.14%** agreeing that their CASA advisor listened to them and respected them as an individual. CASA also provided opportunities for students to engage with professors and peers through the Faculty-in-CASA and tutoring programs.



The **Career Center** reported that **78%** of currently enrolled bachelor's students utilized their services in multiple ways, averaging three services per student.

The team facilitated **1,438** advising sessions and reached **1,057** students through workshops and resume reviews, providing students with a chance to practice critical skills in a low-stakes environment.

Students put those skills into use during the Fall 2024 Career Days event, which set a record with **4,816** attendees, a **16%** increase from the previous year. The

Spring 2025 event drew **3,073** participants.

**Professional and Scholar Communities Applied Learning (PASCAL)** Center's Vallejo Irvine Program for Professional Development served an estimated **1,725** unique students in programs including workshops, panels, and special guest speakers. Additionally, the PASCAL Center saw a **46%** increase in students served from 2023–24 to 2024–25, serving **421** undergraduate and **29** graduate students.

### Student Workers BY THE NUMBERS:

- 130** Peer Mentors supporting CSM 101: First Year Success Seminar
- 79** Teaching Assistants for CSM 202: Intro to Student Well-Being
- 63** Resident Assistants and Mentor Resident Advisors
- 26** Peer Educators (Betsy's Friends)

Many students also hone their skills while working directly alongside Student Life staff as student workers. Students serve as Resident Advisors, Peer Mentors, Peer Educators, office support staff, and many other roles across the Division. Students are asked to lead in event planning and project management, and are encouraged to bring ideas to life that can elevate the student experience. Students in these roles are held to high standards, expected to responsibly fulfill their duties and contribute as a valued member of the team. These experiences help prepare students for internships and future professional roles.

## Supporting Civic Engagement

At Mines, we support students in finding their voices, impacting their community, and feeling empowered to take action on issues that matter to them. The Civic Engagement Working Group, a team of staff working in partnership with Undergraduate Student Government and others, successfully led several voter registration and engagement events leading up to the 2024 election. They also shared information about critical issues at the local, state, and national level, and helped students who were ineligible to vote find other ways to be civically engaged. The efforts of this group will realize benefits for years to come, as the scene has been set to encourage all Orediggers to continue to participate in local and state elections, and consider other ways that they may impact their community, both on campus and beyond.

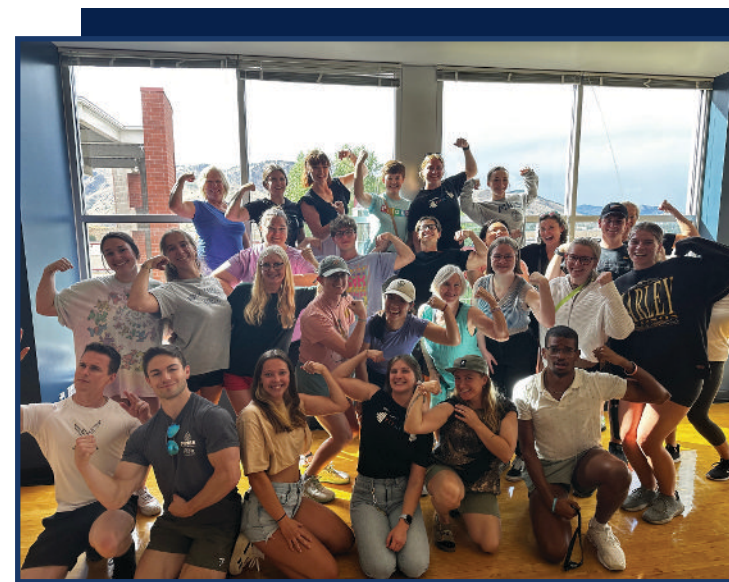
## Health & Wellness

Student well-being is always a priority at Mines, and we continuously adapt our services to ensure that our students have access to the support they need when they need it.

The **Counseling Center** saw a **32%** increase in the number of unique students served. Key to rapid access, almost **70%** of students requesting services met with a counselor within one business day, which compares favorably to a national average wait time of six days. As mental health continues to be a concern across the college landscape, providing access to support as quickly as possible is increasingly important.

**Student Wellness Promotion (SWP)** reached **1,575** students through the required course CSM 202: Introduction to Student Well-Being. Assessment of CSM 202 found that over **83%** of students agreed the course helped them understand the importance of seeking help for their well-being. SWP conducted **18** suicide prevention trainings (QPR, Mental Health First Aid), reaching **396** students. SWP also distributed Blaster Boxes (wellness kits) to over **1,018** students, with the sexual health-focused Blast-Off Box being the most popular.

The **Student Health Center** and Dental Clinic recorded a combined total of over **5,700** patient visits, and provided over **600** free flu shots to the campus community.



The **Sexual Harassment & Assault Advocacy, Prevention, & Education (SHAPE)** unit significantly increased engagement, reaching **2,977** people through workshops, presentations, and trainings (a **45%** increase from the prior year). **4,370** students across undergraduate, graduate, and athlete populations were also engaged through online prevention courses covering important health and safety topics.

**Student Outreach & Support (SOS)** managed referrals and incident reports for approximately **1,293** cases, providing holistic, non-clinical case management services for students in challenging circumstances. SOS met with over **50%** of referred students and provided direct support to **64%**. The most frequent issues SOS supported students through were Academic Concerns (526 cases) and Mental Health (501 cases).

Physical health is also incredibly important for overall well-being, and the Mines community took advantage of the opportunities to engage at the **Student Recreation Center (SRC)**. Record-breaking

numbers were recorded across nearly all programs. The SRC recorded an all-time high of **182,811** total visits. Intramurals saw **1,812** unique individuals participate (approximately **24%** of the student body), an all-time record. Club Sports also reached a record high with **821** unique participants. The **Outdoor Rec Center** focused on targeted marketing and outreach, resulting in more awareness and use of rental programs, strong event attendance, and a **70%** reduction in trip cancellation rates.

**MINES FITNESS INTRODUCED ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT IN THE MOTION LAB, AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF FITNESS RECEIVED HER ADAPTIVE AND INCLUSIVE TRAINER CERTIFICATION, SUPPORTING OREDIGGERS OF ALL ABILITIES THAT WISH TO ENGAGE IN PHYSICAL FITNESS AT MINES.**

## Getting Involved

It's incredibly important for students to find a community at Mines, and they often seek out student organizations to find peers with similar interests. Fortunately, there is no shortage of options for students to explore on campus. Last year, the **Student Activities, Involvement, and Leadership (SAIL)** team supported over **175** Registered Student Organizations (RSOs) with **7,400** undergraduate and **900** graduate student members. RSO's supported many, many events throughout the year, in which both new and returning Orediggers connected with their peers, learned something new, contributed to projects and causes that held meaning to them, and had fun!



together. Over **1,000** unique students engaged with MEP services during the past year, including the Authentically Me Speaker Series, Industry Mixers, the Fall Leadership Retreat, and less structured opportunities such as the Welcome Back BBQ and open time spent with peers in the MEP lounge spaces. The MEP house, in addition to providing community space, also holds a food pantry that supported hungry students throughout the year.

Orediggers also came out to support their peers in **Athletics**, with high turnout for special promotional events like "Rock the Lock" (football) and "Rock the Volk" (wrestling) and enthusiasm for games throughout the year. The Orediggers came out on top in many NCAA Division II arenas, including **7** Conference Championships, **2** Regional Championships, **1** Team National Championship and **1** Individual National Championship. As usual, the **500+** student athletes were an impressive group off the field, with **17** Academic All-Americans and **4** Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Academic Athletes of the Year. **2** Teams, Men's Cross Country and Men's Indoor Track and Field, also won Brechler Awards for the highest team GPA in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

## Spotlight on: The Pillar Program

**Mines Fraternity & Sorority Life (FSL)** uses the Pillar Program to assess the accomplishments of the FSL chapters and encourage positive community building. It is structured around three core pillars:

Community: Recognizing the active and important role FSL students play across campus and in the community.

Empowerment: Emphasizing development as leaders, activists, and collaborators through education and training.

Impact: Focusing on the students' academic achievements, philanthropic efforts, and community outreach programs.

The **Pillar Program** yielded positive results, showing the impact that FSL members have on the broader community:

- **46.6%** (**444** members) of the community were involved in organizations outside of their chapter
- **\$42,818** philanthropy dollars were raised
- **7501** service hours were completed
- **948** tangible items were donated to those in need

## Supporting All Students

Students come to Mines with their own history, values, and needs, and it's important to us that they feel cared for and supported in the ways that they specifically need. Now more than ever, it's important to adjust our assumptions about what a "typical college student" requires, and instead embrace the unique opportunities in place to serve our students meaningfully. Read on for examples of how we are doing just that!

### HELPING STUDENTS THAT REQUIRE ACCOMMODATIONS

Student needs are increasingly complex, and requests for support from the **Disability Support Services (DSS)** team extend beyond traditional disability barriers to include support for executive functioning, organization, and navigating daily college life. To address this complexity, DSS staff increased direct student support, as shown by a rise in interactions this past year (from **760** to **824**). Demand for official accommodations has also surged dramatically, with requests for exam accommodations skyrocketing by **187%** from 2,752 to 7,914 across the 2020 to 2025 school years. The **Mines Testing Center (MTC)** successfully processed all **7,914** exam requests from a record **626** registered students. A significant portion of the student body (**15%**) also required housing and dining accommodations, such as single bedrooms and assistance animals, prompting the DSS team to partner with Residence Life and others to provide students with the appropriate supports.

### PROVIDING HEALTH RESOURCES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Recognizing the difficulty of understanding the complex insurance landscape, the **Health Center** launched an 'Insurance 101' seminar specifically for international students, who comprise **23.4%** of Student Health Insurance Program participants. The Health Center also hosted an inaugural walk-in immunization clinic, which allowed international students access to required vaccines that may otherwise have been difficult to obtain. The **Counseling Center** also considered the unique challenges facing this population, and offered a stress management workshop specifically tailored for the international student population.

### MEETING THE UNIQUE NEEDS OF TRANSFER STUDENTS

The **New Student and Transition Services (NeST)** office and the **Multicultural Engineering Program (MEP)** provided programs to ensure the success of all new students, especially transfers. NeST led the comprehensive Helluva Welcome orientation week and managed the optional CSM 201 transfer course, a one-credit course for incoming transfer students to learn more about the resources available at Mines and to build community with other new transfer students. Complementing these efforts, MEP offered specialized support through initiatives like the Student Transfer Excellence Program (STEP), which provides a three-year scholarship and coordinated support to transfer students. MEP also launched the new, grant-funded BOOST Orientation Week for transfers, which received praise from participants who felt the program significantly helped them feel a sense of belonging and find community on campus. Both offices leveraged Peer Mentors and co-hosted events, like the Authentically Me Speaker Series Transfer Engineering Panel, to provide support for students navigating their transition to Mines.

# Partnering for Success

In Student Life, we know that our own impact can be amplified by collaborating with others to serve our students. Through key partnerships, we have enhanced our service to students this past year, providing opportunities for inspiring experiences, supporting well-being, and eliminating barriers whenever possible so that our students can focus on their success.

**PASCAL** initiated the Limitless Leaders Speakers Series in collaboration with various campus departments, including the **Mines Foundation, Campus Events, and Disability Support Services (DSS)**. This series brought leaders like Temple Grandin and Alejandra Campoverdi to campus, offering engaging discussions that highlighted the importance of business acumen, curiosity, and passion in science to broaden students' career perspectives.



Additionally, PASCAL's strategic partnership with the Mines Foundation significantly boosted support. PASCAL students received over **\$5 million** in combined scholarships and the Center secured more than **\$250,000** in direct contributions for professional development. PASCAL plans to leverage these partnerships to continue raising awareness of their services, especially the **Vallejo Irvine Program for Professional Development**.

The **Student Outreach and Support (SOS)** team also crafted a partnership with **Dining Services** to implement the Swipe Out Hunger program, which provided students in need with the opportunity to request meal swipes that can be used at Mines Market, the dining hall on campus. **1,200** meal swipes were provided to students experiencing food insecurity through this program.

The staff within **Sexual Harassment & Assault Advocacy, Prevention, & Education (SHAPE)** also recognized the value of relationships with internal and external partners, especially for students seeking support. To support seamless care for those students, the team developed a close partnership with St. Anthony's Medical Center for medical referrals and coordinated follow-up care at the Student Health Center on campus.

Many other departments collaborated with colleagues within and outside of Student Life to offer meaningful programs and services to students, including:

- The **Counseling Center** established embedded services by partnering directly with the **Geology Department, Athletics, and International Students and Scholar Services (ISSS)** to offer on-site office hours and customized programs for students who may not have otherwise accessed counseling services.
- **Residence Life** partnered broadly with campus offices including **Mines Public Safety, Sodexo, Counseling Center, Health Education, ISSS, SOS, SAIL, Career Center, ORC, and the City of Golden** to provide a variety of programming. For example, the Weaver Towers Community Council partnered with the Mines Police Department for an Alcohol Awareness program, and RAs collaborated with Mines Market (Sodexo) for a Heart Health program.
- The **Auxiliary Services** team worked with colleagues in **Admissions** to create a path for incoming students to submit photos as part of their summer checklist, which eliminated long lines during Move-In weekend.

## Behind the Scenes: Residence Life

Living on campus is a pivotal student experience, and the teams in **Residence Life** work tirelessly to ensure that students are safe, comfortable, and supported in their homes as they pursue their education. As the institution has grown and student needs and expectations have evolved, Residence Life staff have adjusted services and thought creatively about how to best support our Orediggers on campus.

The Occupancy Team managed to place over **1,550+** first-year students while simultaneously redesigning the housing assignment process for continuing students. A featured success in Fall 2024 was the launch of an innovative, off-cycle application for the new **650-bed Village at Mines Park**, allowing students to select apartments over a year in advance. This met the unique needs of students, who benefit from securing their living arrangements well in advance of the upcoming year; without such a program, students may not be able to apply for and confirm housing options until just weeks before the fall semester begins. Managing multiple concurrent housing cycles—including lotteries for 1750 Jackson and Mines Park renewals—created a complex operational landscape. Looking ahead, the team is dedicated to enhancing the student experience through clear, fair sophomore housing placements and strengthening workflows with Disability Support Services to ensure equitable, timely access to accommodations for all residents.

The Facilities and Operations Team has been incredibly busy as well. Beyond the routine management of residence hall openings, closings, and maintenance, the team was deeply embedded in multiple major construction projects, including the Village at Mines Park and the new sophomore residence hall, which remains under construction and will open in Fall 2026. In the year to come, as construction continues, the team will focus on fortifying residence hall maintenance, upgrading key security protocols, and continuing to ensure new facilities meet the highest standards of safety, accessibility, and operational efficiency.

**FUN FACT: STUDENTS LOVE RESIDENCE LIFE! 122 STUDENTS SUBMITTED APPLICATIONS TO BECOME A RESIDENT ADVISOR LAST YEAR. EVERYONE WANTS TO JOIN THE TEAM!**



# Evolving for Excellence

Student Life services and programs are continuously adapting to the changing needs of our students, as well as seeking out opportunities to enhance our offerings using technology or other resources. Similarly, we are always seeking to understand what our students may be experiencing in the classroom, so that we can support and complement those efforts in our own work.

One premier example of rapid change is the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) in many aspects of the student experience. The team in the department of **Community Standards** has played a key role in conversations about AI on campus and in the classroom, and has supported the development of AI policies and guidelines for students. Staff will continue to partner with others on campus, such as the **Trefny Center**, to provide resources and training to students and others as the use of AI expands. A Gen AI summit, a Gen AI Field Guide, and more are in the works.

Other technology upgrades or marketing strategies

have also led to enhancements in Student Life services. **Student Wellness Promotions (SWP)** greatly increased campus-wide usage of YOU@Mines, a digital well-being platform that connects students to a variety of resources in accessible formats including personal assessments and videos, among others. A whopping **121%** increase in logins was observed, alongside a **65%** increase in goals created using the program.

SWP also conducted the fifth National College Health Assessment, gathering information about students' health habits, behaviors, and perceptions. SWP collaborated with **Institutional Research (IR)** to create a dashboard in Tableau for the first time, making the data far more accessible to the Student Life team. With the insights gathered from the survey, SWP will tailor programs and outreach to best support students, and share findings with other departments to empower them to do the same.

Tableau is not only in use by SWP, however. The

**Career Center** also worked with IR to create not one, but two new dashboards: one for student engagement and one for experiential education. Career Center staff can now quickly and easily access current and historical data around service usage, event attendance, and student engagement in internships and other experiential education to support general reporting and enhance the use of data in decision-making, better meeting students' needs.

Many other departments have also increased Tableau usage to better understand student engagement in their areas. Event attendance and office visit data can be explored using the system, providing valuable insights about which students are, or are not, engaging in services. For example, data can be disaggregated by demographics, student type, academic program, and more. Equipped with this information, Student Life departments can provide strategic marketing and outreach to ensure students are aware of their offerings, and evaluate the impact of services to make informed decisions about resource allocation and planning.



**The Center for Academic Services and Advising (CASA)** launched two new assessment efforts in the 2024-2025 academic year, to assess satisfaction or all services and to better understand the advising experience for students. One highlight of these surveys was the importance of an assigned, available, and knowledgeable advisor to turn to when students have questions about their academic journey. The CASA team plans to use this and other data from their surveys to thoughtfully assess modifications or additional communication efforts that will continue to elevate students' confidence in their academic path.

Overall, staff across the Division of Student Life are invested in meeting students' needs, even as those needs morph year to year and student to student. We are always on the lookout for different approaches, and are committed to using data and feedback to inform our path. We look forward to seeing what the next year brings!

## Spotlight on: New Initiatives

In Fall 2024, a new orientation model, Helluva Welcome, was launched to welcome new Orediggers to Mines. The comprehensive week-long program for all incoming students included a thoughtfully organized and celebratory move-in experience (multiple families commented on the ease and warmth of the process), Convocation, and a trip to Oredigger Camp in Estes Park, where students spent three days engaging in engineering activities and making new friends. The program, designed to ease the transition to Mines and support students in connecting with their new home and community, was a huge success. Assessment data showed that students found Helluva Welcome to be helpful and left the program feeling supported and connected. The program's excellence was further recognized with the Mines Climbs Together Award and the NODA: Association for Orientation, Transition, and Retention Regional Innovative Orientation Program Award.

In addition to their work with Helluva Welcome, the **New Student and Transition Services (NeST)** team launched a new family portal platform, the Oredigger Family Portal, in early April. The platform immediately engaged a wide audience, connecting with over **8,800** family members to deliver customized communications and news. This initiative was directly supported by research into family programming needs, and informed by insights from family communications survey data. The new tool, powered by CampusESP, supports families of currently enrolled students and empowers them to access the information that is most impactful to them on a schedule that meets their needs.





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