



# REESTABLISHING IN-PERSON EVENTS AND THE CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY BUILDING

The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) serves as an engaging service department within CU Boulder's Division of Student Affairs, funded by the CU Student Government activity fee. In its variety of roles, CSI cultivates community-building on campus through intentional programs and events, leadership development opportunities, cultural programming, student employment and supporting student organization operations.

Outside of supporting student organizations and programming boards like the Cultural Events Board, Distinguished Speakers Board and

Program Council, CSI prioritizes hosting programs and events that connect CU students to one another and the greater campus community.

and their first year of college due to COVID-19. The year started off with a variety of event-based restrictions that made outdoor events more

compelling to students. Once event restrictions were reladuring the spring semester

CSI to be able to better investigate the impact and reach of its events in a year where many students were excited to further explore and engage with campus.

The annual Be Involved Fair, hosted in collaboration with the Volunteer Resource Center, served as a kickoff to student events during the beginning of the academic year in August. The fair was the first event for student organizations to gather in-person to

recruit new members since January 2020 and was the first large-scale event for students in 18 months. As a signature event within Fall Welcome, the Be Involved Fair was evaluated

to success at CU.” The findings around both meeting new people and feeling connected to the larger campus community from CSI’s spring programs emphasize the importance of hosting these types of events to enhance the experience of CU students. These regularly occurring weekly and monthly events provide opportunities for students to build community and connect with peers who share mutual interests in a fun, safe environment.

The demographic data associated with the attendees at spring events also provides opportunities for programmatic growth and additional assessment. While Arts & Sciences and Engineering students were well-represented, other colleges/schools, including Leeds Business

and CMCI, can become areas to seek out increased collaboration, marketing and partnership. Additionally, student populations, like transfer students and graduate students, present an additional area of intentional growth and outreach. Finally, a demographic analysis of attendee race and ethnicity indicates slightly higher engagement than the general campus population among two historically marginalized groups, Hispanic/Latino (15 percent vs. 12.6 percent) and AAPI (15 percent vs. 9.7 percent). The Fall 2021 Campus Culture Survey findings indicate students of color reported an overall lower sense of belonging and community at CU Boulder than their white peers. With the spring 2022 event data and in a larger university context, it is important for-