

DU Grand Challenges

Transformative Direction Three: Engagement and Empowerment in Denver and the Rocky Mountain West



ASPIRE
ACT
ACHIEVE

The DU Grand Challenges initiative is a family of programs that brings together university and community change-makers to address difficult and far-reaching issues. DU Grand Challenges addresses three inter-related issues: improving daily living, increasing economic opportunity and advancing deliberation and action for the public good. Each issue area will be addressed in a 3-year cycle, allowing us to co-create Aspirations, Actions, and Achievement with community partners.

Aspire: DU Grand Challenges Forums

DU and community leaders give lightning talks to spark small-group discussion among participants on how the Forum topic impacts our communities. Designed to advance dialogue to identify shared aspirations, the Forums seed ideas for the Action phase of each issue.



Aspire: A Community Table (ACT)

Small groups convened for intentional dialogue around building aspirations for improving daily living in our communities. During the inaugural event on April 11, 2018:

- More than 70 groups convened across the U.S.
- About 250 ideas were reported back to DU
- \$7,000 in grants were awarded to turn table ideas into actions



Opportunities to Aspire and Act

Curricular, scholarship, creative work, and co-curricular activities advance community-engaged, public good work to address issues under Thriving Communities. In 2017-2018, DU Grand Challenges provided \$29,533 to support community-engaged research and creative work through:

- Faculty Scholars Grants
- Class Grants
- Advancing Community Engaged (ACE) Student Scholarship Grants

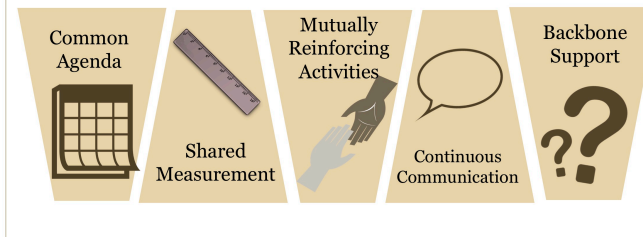
Building on the Pathways to the Public Good Pilot, DU Grand Challenges Champions is a faculty-mentored program provides a structured opportunity for students to identify ways that their DU education prepares them to address grand challenges. Faculty members mentor students in critical reflection on the intersection between students' future aspirations, their DU education, and public good work.

Overall Approach

The Collaboration for the Public Good Working Group consulted broadly and drew on multiple sources of information from students, faculty, staff, and community members to identify grand challenge issues that were:

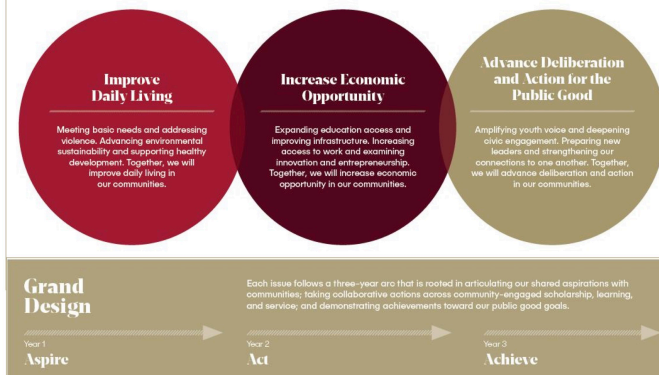
- **Multidisciplinary**, to engage every academic unit on campus;
- **Specific**, to identify attainable goals with community partners;
- **Relevant** to the community;
- In areas where DU has **depth and breadth** of faculty expertise with connections to both scholarship and teaching.

We identified collective impact as a framework, which focuses on moving from individual or isolated impact to collaboration for collective impact.



Thriving Communities

The DU Grand Challenges theme, thriving communities, will address three interconnected issue areas. Through the DU Grand Challenges family of programs, we will address the topics listed below.



Act: Improving Daily Living

Based on what was learned during the Aspire year, a framework for the Action year of Improving Daily Living was established. Community and university members were invited to apply to join one of four Collective Impact Cohorts focused on issues central to daily living.

Basic Needs



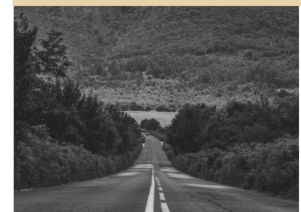
Urban Sustainability



Crime and Safety



Migration



Get Involved

