Scholar Shop & Community-Engaged Fellows
Transformative Direction Three: Engagement and Empowerment in Denver and the Rocky Mountain West

About Scholar Shop
Grounded in best practices for community engagement, the Scholar Shop connects university and community change-makers to collaborate in mutually beneficial ways to advance discovery while addressing community-identified problems. The Scholar Shop is designed to bring interdisciplinary faculty-student expertise to bear on issues identified by community partners. Students and faculty bring diverse academic experience and interests to these collaborations through research, creative work, and classrooms. Relevant to all academic units across campus, the Scholar Shop has seeded projects across disciplines that involve (but are not limited to):

- Designing a research study
- Analyzing, integrating, and interpreting existing data
- Producing information materials from empirical findings
- Conducting program evaluation
- Developing curricula
- ...and more!

Community-Engaged Fellows
The goal of the Community-Engaged Fellows Program is to help facilitate cross/interdisciplinary collaborations that deepen the university’s impact on some or our community’s most pressing problems. Fellows are assigned to an interdisciplinary issue area and charged with co-developing a plan to advance community-engaged work in this area in consultation with community and campus stakeholders as well as CCESL staff. Fellows issue areas include:

- Heath Disparities
- Urban Conservation, Ecology, and Sustainability
- Arts and Engagement
- Immigration
- Access and Education
- Meeting Basic Needs
- Gentrification
- Refugees
- Writing and the Public Good

Community Spotlight Events
Scholar Shop began to host Community Spotlight Events in 2013-14 in which CCESL invited community partners to campus to have dialogue with DU students, faculty, and staff with relevant interest and expertise. During one-hour events, the Community Spotlight Series provides a thoughtful setting for DU faculty and students to get to know representatives from community organizations who are interested in collaboration, and vice versa.

Community Partners
CCESL began piloting Scholar Shop in the 2012-13 academic year and originally called the program “Science Shop.” The name was updated to Scholar Shop in the 2015-16 academic year to be more inclusive and convey that the projects could be broad in nature. For the first five years of the Scholar Shop program, a CCESL Graduate Research Assistant (GRA) served as the Scholar Shop Coordinator. In the last two years, the Community-Engaged Fellows have helped facilitate the program. The program provides a critical leadership opportunity for the Fellows, many of whom have interests in higher education, large systems, and community change.

The program has seeded partnerships from organizations such as: