

SPRING QUAD 2022 Newsletter

City Planning - Ballistic Missile Defense - Community Cultural Collective - K-12 Education

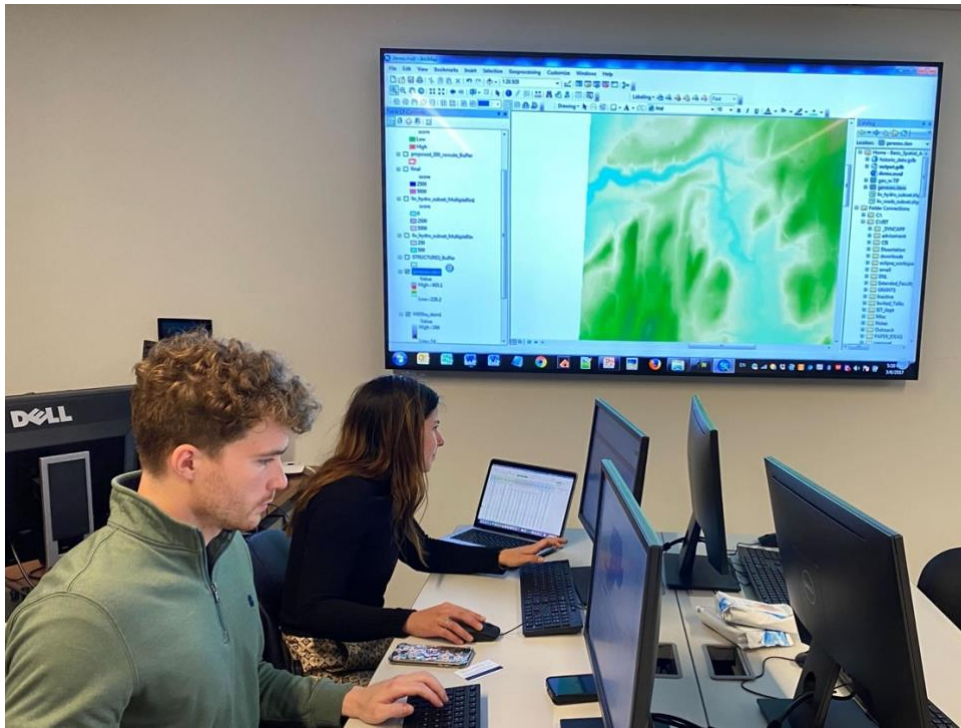


Community Cultural Collective Team

Supported by the Colorado Springs Community Cultural Collective

"This semester our Quad team was partnered with the Colorado Springs Community Cultural Collective, where our team conducted research about the desires of the young (ages 16-27) demographic within Colorado Springs and our campuses. Over the course of our semester, our team has researched local and national organizations, formatted a survey, analyzed over 600 survey response results from the college-aged population in Colorado Springs, created program/event ideas and developed a marketing outreach recommendation. We packaged this information in a comprehensive document for the use and benefit of the Community Cultural Collective (CCC) and presented to the CCC team in their space. After concluding this project, our perspective of Colorado Springs has changed greatly. As many of our team members are out of state student, we have sought out belonging and finding a community here. Not only has The Quad given us a sense of purpose but the collaboration with the Colorado Springs Community Cultural Collective has shown us the vast beauty and diversity that exists in our backyards. Within this project, we feel we grew a mastery for understanding the importance of successful team communication and the impact community engagement has on positive city growth."

Chase Culver (UCCS), Miriam Shames (UCCS), Esilee Rincon (UCCS), Nicole Tromble (PPCC), David-Elijah Brown (CC), and Olivia Henderson (USAFA)



K-12 Education Team

Supported by the Lane Foundation

"The K-12 Education team embarked on a second semester of data collection as we create a database with information on the city school districts to help public understanding of education in COS. While last semester focused on district performance, this semester we studied student performance at the high school level. The overall team objective was to understand how student performance varies across the city school districts and to begin to gather some intel on which factors contribute to differences in performance outcomes. Our study of 15 high schools involved a great amount of data gathering, development of metrics for performance and growth, creation and assessment of correlation matrices, and the production of graphs, charts, and GIS mapping to visually represent our findings. We also interviewed several local education professionals and got a great tour of Harrison High School from Principal Peter Vargas! We learned, first, that measuring student performance is *incredibly* complex and nuanced and we have made some recommendations for future study. Second, we found that the socioeconomic status of a student's family is the number one indicator of

how well, statistically, a student will perform and grow. This spanned *every* high school that we studied. Further, we found that, in Colorado Springs schools, certain student demographics (FRL, ELL, Students with Disabilities, and Minority students) are overlapping and most densely concentrated in Districts 2 and 11. The performance disparity between these schools and the schools with much lower percentages of these student populations is vast and significant. We loved learning about all the new initiatives to advance student outcomes underway in different school districts and believe it's important for future teams to go further into schools and learn more about strategies to help improve education for underserved populations. Finally, using GIS mapping technology, our team developed an interactive website where you can view this semester's findings. Please check it out and play around with our maps to learn more about education in your city!" <https://arcg.is/0O14L>

Grant Allen (UCCS), Julieta Lechini (CC), Alex Thompson (PPCC), Molly Moriarty (USAFA), and Jeremy Murphy (USAFA)

City Planning Team

Supported by the City of Colorado Springs

"Our team has spent the last two and a half months finding ways to reduce crimes of opportunity in Southeast Colorado Springs. We mapped crime data to find hotspots, researched best practices and case studies, interviewed community stakeholders, and found environmental and social strategies that could be used to help reduce crime in the identified hotspots. We learned things about a new topic realm far outside of ourselves, gaining knowledge that we likely never would have gained on our own. But these insights now inhabit our thoughts as we observe the spaces around us. This project taught us the importance of the little things - from the way a neighborhood is designed to the wording of a sentence—taking care of the small things can make all the difference. This has been an incredibly rewarding experience, not only in working with a great team, but also in knowing that our work could

Charlie Lynch (CC), Reese Smith (UCCS), Joseph Poelstra (PPCC), Niel Wetlesen (USAFA), Owen Graham (USAFA)



Supported by UCCS

"Over this past semester, our team was tasked with researching various aspects of ballistic missile defense (BMD). Our key research question was: *How do Americans form opinions on highly technically topics like BMD?* To answer this, we looked at the history of BMD, economic and technological shifts in the discipline, and how and why opinions of policy makers and the public have changed over time. Our team's assessment, supported by our research, is that the current BMD system is quite ineffective against intercontinental ballistic missile type nuclear weapons, which is an issue given that BMD is largely believed by the public to be a

successful protective measure. Participating in this work gave us a new outlook on how national defense works and how we, the people, perceive it. Working on this project has given us a unique opportunity to meet new people, develop research skills, and learn more about an incredibly important and relevant topic in today's political climate."

Hunton Russell (CC), Cassidy Fowler (UCCS), Melissa Mikolaitis (UCCS), Shea Singler (PPCC) Grace-Anne Beech (USAFA)

