

## Invite the conversation, co-create the community!

Come to Durango, Colorado, April 7-9, 2017,  
to co-create a unique conference partnership of emerging and practicing experiential and outdoor educators.



College students involved in  
outdoor education and recreation

Hosted by the Adventure Education Department at Fort Lewis College

## Conference highlights include...

- 25-30 workshops, including practitioner-led, student-led, and faculty-led workshops.
- Four-hour professional development intensives on topics that include LGBTQ+ training, telemark ski instructor clinic, site management, swift water rescue, adaptive winter sports, and more.
- Research poster session, including student research presentations.
- Exhibits, career connections, professional and social networking
- **Very affordable registration rates. Free guest lodging option for college students.**
- Two community breakfasts and one lunch included.
- Job fair
- Free gear raffle, Durango evening geocaching & pub crawl, open mic.
- An inspiring mountain setting! Area attractions include Silverton Ski area for backcountry skiing, Purgatory Ski Area for alpine skiing, snowshoeing, mountain biking, rock/ice climbing, whitewater play park, hiking, Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad, Mesa Verde National Park.
- Visit the [conference website](#).

### Who should attend?

- Adventure educators
- Outdoor educators
- Environmental educators
- Experiential educators
- College faculty and staff
- College and high school students
- Expeditionary learning staff
- Wilderness therapists
- Those interested in making a difference
- Employers seeking to hire staff

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## How to get involved in the conference

- **Register to attend.** If you're an educator, have your students register too! Or, register everyone as a group. Early bird registration closes March 1, 2017. See page 3. To register, [click here](#).
- **Submit a workshop proposal** to present a conference workshop or professional development intensive. Deadline is Monday, February 13, 2017. See page 4. To submit a workshop or PDI proposal, [click here](#).
- **Submit a research poster proposal:** See page 6. Deadline is Monday, February 27, 2017. To submit a research poster proposal, [click here](#).
- **Become an exhibiter;** promote your program or product. See rates on page 3.
- **Become a sponsor** by donating a scholarship for a student to attend, contributing items for the raffle, sponsoring a keynote presentation.

## Conference schedule

Specific information about workshops and professional development intensives will be added to the website in mid-February, when workshop proposals are reviewed. This schedule may be revised.

### Friday, April 7

- 10:00 – 8:00 Conference registration and check-in. Exhibitors set up.
- 8:00 – 5:00 Pre-conference outdoor clinics and recreation—mountain biking, packrafting, climbing clinic, Mesa Verde national park.
- 1:00 – 5:00 Professional development intensives
- 5:00 – 7:00 Dinner on your own, or join us in the Fort Lewis College San Juan dining room (approximately \$10)
- 7:00 – 9:00 Welcome and Playnote, led by Fort Lewis College Adventure Education students.

### Saturday, April 8

- 7:30 – 8:15 Breakfast (provided)
- 8:30 – 9:45 Keynote presentation: Bobbi Beale & Tony Alvarez
  - Bobbi Beale, Psy. D.*, is a clinical psychologist and researcher who specializes in non-traditional therapy programs for families and youth who are at risk. Her expertise includes work with trauma and resiliency, bullying, cultural diversity, teambuilding, and evidence-based practices.
  - Tony Alvarez, MSW, LMSW (MI)*, is an adventure and experiential-based trainer and program designer. His commitment to multicultural and global perspectives includes work with native/indigenous populations of Hawaii, Canada, and Alaska. He has been an invited presenter and speaker at conferences in Taiwan, China, Philippines, and Hong Kong.
- 10:00 – 12:15 Workshops
- 12:15 – 1:15 Lunch (provided).
  - Job fair—have a job? Find a job.
  - Research poster conversations.
- 1:30 – 5:00 Workshops
- 5:30 Dinner on your own
- 7:30 - ? **Free gear raffle**, open mic, cash bar, Durango evening geocaching & pub crawl.

### Sunday, April 9

- 7:30 – 8:15 Breakfast (provided)
- 8:30 – 10:30 Workshops
- 10:45 – 12:00 Close note: Denise Mitten and COES student
  - Denise Mitten, Ph.D.*, is coordinator of the Prescott College graduate program. She is internationally recognized for her scholarship in outdoor and environmental pedagogy, ethics, leadership, and gender (including body image considerations), and has developed an intensive leadership training and apprenticing program for women.

## Register to attend the 2017 COES + AEE Rocky Mountain Region conference

- Registration includes Saturday breakfast and lunch, and Sunday breakfast.
- Some Friday afternoon professional development intensives (PDIs) have an additional fee; see online registration form for details. Space in PDIs is limited, so early bird registration is strongly suggested.
- Friday all-day pre-conference clinics and trips have additional fees. See the online registration website.
- Presenters must register for the conference by the early bird date so we can ensure workshop offerings.
- To register, [click here](#).

Registration Levels	Early Bird Rate: Thru March 1	Regular Rate: After March 1
Student	\$50	\$65
Student: Workshop / PDI presenter	\$35	Presenters must register by 3/1
AEE member	\$125	\$150
AEE member: Workshop / PDI presenter	\$100	Presenters must register by 3/1
AEE member: Exhibitor (includes 1 registration)	\$100	\$125
Non-AEE member	\$150	\$175
Non-AEE member: Workshop / PDI presenter	\$125	Presenters must register by 3/1
Non-AEE member: Exhibitor (includes 1 registration)	\$125	\$150
Friday all-day pre-conference clinics and trips	See online registration	See online registration
Friday afternoon PDIs (see online registration)	\$0 - \$45	\$0 - \$45
<b>Add 1 year AEE membership: See below.</b>	<b>New Member Rate</b>	<b>On-Time Renewal Rate</b>
Student	\$55	\$45
FUEL: Future Experiential Leaders	\$45	\$45
Individual	\$150	\$125

**Association for Experiential Education (AEE) Membership Levels:** For details, visit <http://www.aee.org/member-levels>

Student Membership - The Student membership is for full-time students who want to begin their professional networking prior to getting a job. This is a great way to get connected to the community, get professional development, attend conferences, and receive free postings of your resume to the Jobs Clearinghouse and online access to the JEE.

FUEL Membership - Young professionals rejoice. There's a level for you! Early in your career, whether you're starting over or just starting out, you need to get involved with networking, mentoring, professional development and learning about building your career in experiential education. This is the place. Get great access to the JEE online, special access to Jobs Clearinghouse, and discounts to the bookstore, conferences and professional development. FUEL membership has a two-year term limit.

Individual Membership - Individual membership is perfect for an individual who wants to be connected to the experiential education community. You'll be listed in the membership directory, receive JEE in print and online, get special access to the Jobs Clearinghouse as well as great discounts to the conferences, events and professional development opportunities.

## ***Submit a proposal to present a conference workshop or a professional development intensive.***

- There is a reduced registration rate for workshop presenters—see registration information above.
- Proposal deadline is Monday, February 13, 2017. You will be informed by February 21. To submit a workshop or PDI proposal, [click here](#).

Proposals for workshops and professional development intensives are invited from students, professional practitioners, college faculty, and others. Workshop time slots are 60 and 90 minutes. Call for 60-minute student and 90-minute professional workshop proposals as well as four hour Professional Development Intensives (PDIs). Workshop proposals will be evaluated according to the guidelines:

1. **Relate your workshop to the AEE + COES conference theme:** “Invite the conversation, co-create the community.” This theme embraces the vision that, as educators, we strive to practice inclusion, social justice, evolving competency for ourselves and our organizations, and co-create intentional community through servant leadership.
2. **Include SPEC methodology** to present your workshop. SPEC is defined as Student-Centered, Problem-Based, Experiential, and Collaborative. This is a teaching method introduced in the Wilderness Education Association book, “The Backcountry Classroom,” by Drury et. al. In other words, don’t base your workshop entirely around lecture. Include involvement and engagement.
3. **Make it transferrable:** Do not merely do a show-and-tell about your favorite experience, program, or organization. Instead, use your experience as a short example to go on and help your workshop attendees develop specific strategies they can use for their own program.
4. **Get right into it.** Do NOT spend precious time doing an ice breaker, energizer, or group introduction that is unrelated to your workshop topic and learning objectives. We will do many of those community-building activities all together the first night of the conference. People come to your workshop to learn something you have to offer.

### ***If you’re a student, request a professional mentor.***

Consider requesting a practitioner/educator attending the conference, who has volunteered to help emerging professionals develop their expertise as workshop presenters. This person will connect with you before the conference via two one-hour video or phone sessions. You may also invite them to attend your session to provide feedback. If a faculty member from your college or university is attending the AEE + COES conference, you may want to invite that person to serve as a mentor. Or, we will pair you with a mentor if you so indicate. If this is your first workshop presentation, consider a 60-minute rather than a 90-minute time slot. As a mentee, you will be helping to promote the conference vision to co-create intentional community through servant leadership.

### ***If you’re a professional practitioner, volunteer to mentor a student.***

The Colorado Outdoor Educator’s Symposium (COES) is a young grassroots organization started by and for college and university students studying or involved in outdoor education and recreation. We expect up to 100 to 150 students will be attending the 2017 COES + AEE conference, and many of them will be submitting workshop proposals to take the next step as emerging professionals. The mentor’s role is to connect with their student presenter before the conference via two one-hour video or phone sessions, and, if invited, to attend and provide feedback on their workshop presentation. As a mentor, you will be helping to promote the conference vision to co-create intentional community through servant leadership.

## Select one or more of the following thematic strands for your workshop proposal:

You will need to indicate this on your workshop proposal:

**Adventure-Based Programming** -- Techniques and models used by practitioners to foster learning and growth in wilderness- and adventure- based programs, outdoor education, or organized camping. Topics could include, but are not limited to: challenge course building/design, universal programming/design, initiatives and trust building activities, climbing, boating, expeditions, and wilderness medicine.

**AEE Leadership Development** -- Workshops designed for AEE current and potential leaders and presenters. Topics could include, but should not be limited to: first-timer orientation, how to write a proposal, presenter development process, regional or Professional Group leader training or development, board and committee development, how to put on an AEE conference or event, general membership meeting, and AEE accreditation or publications training or meetings.

**Art and Science of Teaching** -- We all teach no matter in what thematic strand we operate. Topics could include, but are not limited to: techniques of effective teaching (i.e., what's in your teaching toolbox?), the "art" of teaching, skills necessary to be an effective teacher and an efficient learner, techniques to enhance learning, how multiple ways of seeing and thinking influence learning and teaching.

**Schools and Colleges** -- Experiential teaching and learning for primary, secondary and higher education. Topics could include, but are not limited to: collaborative learning, empowerment-based education, service-learning, adult education, inquiry and action learning, problem-based instruction, peer education, simulation and role playing, learning style-appropriate teaching, and lab-based instruction. Workshops may also focus on unique theories and models of programs, including co-curricular education, integrating adventure into the curriculum, interdisciplinary learning, learning communities, youth development, values and character development, and community-based education.

**Experience-Based Training and Development** --Techniques and theories to facilitate growth and development of and within organizations. Topics could include, but are not limited to: team building, leadership development, assessing clients' needs, program design and evaluation, facilitating strategic planning, visioning, business transformation, and systems thinking.

**Environmental Education/Nature Study** --Techniques, models, and curriculum used by practitioners to foster environmental literacy and learning about environmental issues and the natural world. Topics could include, but are not limited to: environmental awareness and stewardship, sustainability, nature studies, conservation, and minimal-impact techniques.

**Facilitation/Processing** -- Cross-disciplinary techniques, tools and models for exploring philosophy, practice, methodology, self-development and growth as a practitioner working with groups in a variety of settings. Topics could include, but are not limited to: challenge by choice, full-value contracts, group dynamics and development, framing, reflection, facilitating the experiential learning cycle, observation skills, technical skills, collaboration and co-facilitation, and developing professional skills.

**Mind/Body/Spirit** -- Integrating all dimensions of the human being as an essential aspect of experiential education. Topics could include, but are not limited to: creativity, yoga, meditation, martial arts, personal wellness, prayer and other practices that involve a synthesis of spirituality, mindfulness and body work.

**Program Administration** -- Managing risk, responding to trends, promoting and marketing, maintaining client relations, fiscal management and staff development. Topics could include, but are not limited to: grant writing, strategic planning, capital campaigns, partnerships, accreditation, certification, insurance, internship programs, training, supervision, and site development.

**Research and Evaluation**-- Theories related to experiential learning, new and continuing research results, evaluation methods and outcomes.

**Social Justice and Ethics** -- Social and ethical issues and questions as they relate to experiential education. Topics could include, but are not limited to: issues of ethnicity, class, gender, sexual orientation, age, ability and multi-culturalism. Also includes professional standards, ethics and integrity.

**Therapeutic** -- Therapeutic application and underlying theories and models of adventure-based practice in mental health, corrections, substance abuse, health and related fields. Topics could include, but are not limited to: clinical assessment, treatment modalities, ethics of client treatment, and workshops that blend other forms of experiential practice (art, drama, music, animal assisted, etc.) for therapeutic purpose.

## Submit a research poster proposal

We invite those who have recently completed research to submit a research poster that will be on display throughout the conference, with additional time for conversations with attendees over Saturday lunch. Research posters are particularly encouraged that inform experiential education and outdoor leadership practices of students, field instructors, and program managers.

- Deadline for submission of research poster proposals: Monday, February 27, 2017. You will be informed regarding acceptance of your poster by March 3.
- To submit a research poster proposal, [click here](#).

## Lodging information

- For lodging options, go to [Hotels.com](http://Hotels.com) and search for hotels in Durango, CO. There are hotels and motels with rates ranging from \$40 to \$134.
- If you are a college student and would like to stay as a guest (no cost) with Fort Lewis College Adventure Education students in the town of Durango, CO, email Kendra at [kskullby@fortlewis.edu](mailto:kskullby@fortlewis.edu) for more information.

### For further information or questions, contact...

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**Kendra Kulby:** COES representative; Adventure Education student, Fort Lewis College, Durango, CO.

*College students are invited to contact Kendra about guest housing arrangements with Fort Lewis College Adventure Education students.*

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