



COLORADO SCHOOL OF MINES



STUDENT LIFE DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

WELCOME to Student Life at Mines!

When I took on the role as Vice President of Student Life in July of 2022, I knew immediately that Mines was a special place. From the get-go, I was impressed with the ways in which I observed Mines students digging into their learning – both in and outside of the classroom. I was struck by the powerful ways that student leaders supported their community, genuinely cared for the wellbeing of others, and created the very notion of a signature student experience. I was also impressed by the diversity of the student body and the ways in which students' diverse backgrounds, identities, and experiences were integrated into the fabric of our community. As we move forward into the next academic year, it is not lost on me that the success that we continue to enjoy at Mines is made possible by an incredible team of faculty and staff who work alongside our students to create this special community.

Student Life at Mines provides our students with meaningful engagement opportunities and critical support so that they can make the most of their time with us. Whether students choose to play a sport, join a club, or partake in career prep or professional development activities, they are sure to find peers who will become a part of their Oredigger network. And, when students encounter challenging circumstances, whether academic or personal in nature, the Student Life team is at-the-ready to support them and keep them on track. The Student Life team at Mines is dedicated to facilitating a stellar student experience, and I'm thrilled to share our 2022-2023 highlights with you!

Braelin Pantel, Ph.D.

Vice President of Student Life



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2022-2023

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at Colorado School of Mines

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What is Student Life at Mines?

Attending the Colorado School of Mines not only guarantees a world-class academic program, it also promises a vibrant, engaging co-curricular experience. Our students live, study, work and explore in one of the most gorgeous settings imaginable, nestled in the foothills of the Rockies in Golden, CO. We recognize that our students want to pursue their passions both in and out of the classroom, and our Student Life team is here to provide ample opportunities to do just that.

Student Life at Mines includes nearly 200 registered student organizations, club and intramural sports teams, health and wellness programs, robust residence life services, meaningful cultural engagement opportunities, and more! Whether students would like to find ways to build community on campus, backpack with buddies for the weekend, or apply their skills building a new car or even a sustainable house, we have options for them.

Student Life is here for students who may be in need of support, academically or otherwise. Multiple programs ensure students can access resources, connect with peers or professionals for help, and find strategies that allow them to be successful while they navigate the Mines student experience. Whether it involves planning for

classes, managing an illness, or finding a career path, the Student Life team is available to help our Orediggers.

We want all students to connect their classroom, co-curricular, and professional experiences in a meaningful way that allows them to become well-rounded, world-ready graduates. To promote this connection, Student Life partners with faculty in the classrooms, alumni in our local and broader communities, industry partners, and our colleagues at the Foundation to provide holistic student engagement and support. Students apply skills learned in the classroom to practical application in a variety of settings, including professional experiences that truly set Mines graduates apart from others in their field.

Overall, Student Life at the Colorado School of Mines provides programs, services and opportunities to students to help them make the most of their time with us. We want students to be engaged in their areas of interest, to succeed academically, to find their community, to be physically and mentally well, to enjoy living on- or off-campus, to be prepared for life after college, and to graduate with a sense of pride that will set them up to stay engaged as an Oredigger for life.

Student Life Departments



**Center for Academic Services
and Advising (CASA)**

Athletics

Business Operations

Career Center

Office of Community Standards

Counseling Center

**Disability Support Services
(DSS)**

**Multicultural Engineering
Program (MEP)**

**Professional and Scholar
Communities Applied Learning
(PASCAL) Center**

Recreational Sports

Residence Life

ROTC

**Student Activities, Involvement,
& Leadership (SAIL)**

**Sexual Harassment and Assault
Advocacy, Prevention and
Education (SHAPE)**

Student Health Center

**Student Outreach and Support
(SOS)**

**Student Wellness Promotion and
Education**

**Vice President & Senior Student
Life Team**

Student Life: Committed to Service

The needs of our students continue to evolve, and this requires us to adapt and find the best ways to support them. The significant expectations from students and the increased number of interventions needed to support them prove that our work is more important than ever. By making a true commitment to service and serving the campus community we are helping to transform the student experience and literally changing lives.

Derek Morgan, Ph.D.
Dean of Students



Encouraging Engagement

There are myriad ways that students can be involved at Mines, and our goal is for every student to find their community on campus. We encourage students to be open to trying new things - you never know when you may discover a new passion!

Engagement at Mines begins prior to the first day of classes. New students attend Oredigger Camp, a multi-day event in the mountains that begins the process of building friendships and skills needed for success on campus. Our New Student and Transition Services (NeST) team welcomed **633** new students at camp this past year. By the time those students moved onto campus, they already had fabulous Mines memories to bring with them!



Members of Betsy's Friends, the Student Wellness and Promotion Office's peer educator program, share information with the campus community.

Last year, the Student Activities, Involvement and Leadership (SAIL) Office supported over **170** registered student organizations and **11** active fraternity & sorority life chapters, and advised the Mines Activity Council

(MAC) in the coordination of **42** unique, student-led events. SAIL also hosted

campus events including Family & Friends Weekend, E-Days, Homecoming and the Celebration of Mines. In addition to events, SAIL provided opportunities for

students to take on leadership positions within student organizations, and taught the *Special Studies in Leadership* course for students looking to hone their leadership skills.

Students participated in physical wellness activities in record-breaking numbers during the past year. There was a strong interest in exploring the natural spaces in the community: the Outdoor Recreation gear rental program, which allows Mines community members to rent equipment needed to enjoy outdoor adventures at an affordable price, saw a **62%** increase. Our students certainly made the most of Mines' beautiful Colorado location! Back on campus, students had additional options to get in some activity, through classes such as women's weightlifting (Empowered by Iron) and student organizations like the Kayak Club, Fencing Club or Running Club.

The Student Wellness Promotion and Education Office provided students opportunities to educate the campus community through their peer mentorship program, in which **22** students conducted more than **40** activities related to wellness education. Education opportunities were also provided through the peer mentor program in the NeST Office, which paired **131** peer mentors to co-teach an introductory course for new students alongside a professional staff or faculty member.

By the Numbers:

100+ programs put on by the SAIL team
579 student clubs and orgs events
170+ active registered student organizations
42 Mines Activity Council student-led events
20 actively competing club sports teams, with 769 participants
819 intramural games played
159 student participants in SAIL Leadership Summit



EVERY OREDIGGER

EQUIPPED FOR LIFE

Every OreDigger Initiative

At Mines, being engaged includes being invested in your community. Over the past year, the Every Oredigger Initiative has encouraged all students, staff and faculty to prioritize well-being in all of its dimensions: physical, emotional, social, environmental, intellectual, spiritual, and financial. A committee was reconvened during the fall 2022 semester, and established a robust library of resources, actionable steps and relatable content to empower our community to care for themselves and one-another. This initiative will remain a priority for Student Life for years to come.

Spotlight on: Hannah Miller, 2022 NCAA Div. II National Champion in the Pole Vault

Hannah's victory was not a total surprise; she's been one of the best and most consistent vaulters in the nation for years (multiple-time all American). What made this win so special was the adversity she faced before the meet. She didn't practice for two weeks between the RMAC Championships and the national championships due to an injury. So the first time she touched a pole was at the national meet. Her experience, desire, and trust in her coach allowed her to win that day.

Matt Sparks
Head Track and Field Coach



Supporting Total Well-Being

It's critical that our students receive the support needed to stay well, physically and mentally, throughout their entire Mines journey. Student Life will continue to prioritize well-being services for our students who may be in need as we move into the 2023-2024 academic year.

Student Life departments are focused on adapting to the needs of our students as they navigate the lingering impact of the pandemic, rising costs, and various other challenges. We recognized a need for additional mental health support during the past year, with our [Counseling Center](#) seeing a **45%** increase in crisis visits compared to 2022-2023. We provided more services than ever, including tele-health options available 24/7, virtual drop-in counseling sessions, and various group therapy options. Case management services within our Counseling Center provided direct connections to community resources for students when needed as well.

We also proactively responded to other health needs in our community. Our [Student Health Center](#) procured **250** naloxone kits for our campus, and continued to provide Covid tests for students. Knowing how important it is for our students to stay healthy and attend class, the Health Center also provided **8** flu vaccination clinics on campus to prevent illness before it began. We also focused on providing outreach and education about all types of wellness through workshops and training materials. The [Office of Sexual Harassment & Assault Advocacy](#),

[Prevention, & Education \(SHAPE\)](#) was added to our Student Life portfolio, and played a critical role in educating our community and providing confidential resources when needed. SHAPE provided a peer educator program for the fourth time, utilizing student voices to spread awareness and build skills throughout our community.

Student Life also provided ample opportunities for students to focus on their physical wellness, whether they tapped in as one of the **166,686** visits to our [Rec Center](#), participated in one of the **35** weekly fitness classes, or took one of the **70+** domestic trips or **5** international trips with Outdoor Recreation throughout the year. We saw a record number of participants in club and intramural sports as well, showing that our students are not only competitive in the classroom!

We also saw a need for individual support, with **818** referrals to our [Student Outreach and Support \(SOS\)](#) Office. The SOS team provided case management to students dealing with a variety of personal and school-related issues, and found resources both on- and off-campus to support them through these challenges.

We all want our students to be happy, healthy and successful at Mines, but sometimes they will need a bit of extra support. Student Life will continue to adapt to meet the needs of our changing students in a changing society throughout the upcoming year.



As a member of the Blue Key Executive Board, I am proud to bear the responsibility of protecting a long-standing Mines tradition: the M-Climb. The M is not merely a geographical symbol, it is a physical representation of Mines as a guiding light in the world of engineering. The M-Climb is a tribute to the hard work and dedication required to become a Mines graduate. When engaging in this climb, the first-year students are uniting as a class and committing to bettering the future of science, engineering, and leadership.

WESLEY SWIETER
'24 MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
M CHAIR, MINES BLUE KEY 23-24

BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Building Skills for Success

Our goal at Mines is to prepare our students to build the life that they want to lead after college. Student Life aims to provide them with experiences that help them stand out and build confidence to chart their path - wherever they want it to take them.

A significant focus of Student Life is career preparation and professional development. We know that the industries into which our students are heading are competitive, so we seek to give them the edge needed to pursue a career that they love. In Spring 2023, our Career Center responded to the high demand in previous semesters and hosted its first two-day Career Days event, bringing **336** companies to campus to connect with students. The Career Center annually works with more than **1,000** employers and industry partners to the benefit of our student industry and graduate school placement - routinely greater than **92%**.

The Professional and Scholar Communities Applied Learning (PASCAL) Center also supported professional development, stewarding the Vallejo Irvine Program (VIP) for Professional Development and providing signature events and workshops for students. Events included a professional development symposium, a panel discussion with leaders from Ball Aerospace, and featured speakers sharing lessons about leadership and showcasing accomplishments. In total, PASCAL hosted **141** professional development and scholarship programs in 2022-2023.

Beyond a successful career, we want our students to apply skills they have gained at Mines to all aspects of their life both during and after college. Living on campus and engaging in Residence Life programs gave students opportunities to hone real-life skills, including conflict management, time management, leadership, communication, community-building, and more. The option to live in one of **8** Signature Learning Communities, which allowed **296** students to create community among those with similar interests and enhance their skills in specific areas. **75** students served as Resident Advisors, building leadership skills and cultivating a positive culture within the



Students had the chance to interact with employers during Career Days.

halls. The team conducted **318** education programs, **61** of which centered on the pillar of inclusion and respect, preparing our students for the diverse and dynamic world they will be entering into upon graduation.

Mines student athletes are perhaps those who learn skills such as time management, team-building and self-discipline most keenly, as they navigate the demands of training and travel in addition to their course schedule. Last year, more than **500** student athletes participated in 18 NCAA Division II sports, and Mines won its **7th** consecutive Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) All Sports Cup. The football team competed in the NCAA Division II championship in Texas, and our men's cross country team took home the national title. Through teamwork and determination, all of our athletes excelled, winning **7** conference championships, **3** Brechler Awards for the highest team GPA in RMAC, and **9** RMAC Academic Athletes of the Year awards.

All of our Student Life departments helped teach students the skills needed to succeed on-campus and beyond. We look forward to continuing these efforts in the coming year, and we are committed to adapting our efforts to support skill-building that remains relevant in an ever-changing landscape.

Working Together for our Students

Whether they are in the classroom, at an event, in the residence hall, or doing one of the hundreds of other activities available on and around our campus, we want our students to receive the support and engagement that they need to be their best selves. Across the institution, faculty and staff collaborate to serve our students as effectively as possible, and we partner with local resources to provide access for students and to build our own skills in relevant areas. Read on for examples of how we have worked together during the past year!

We know that food insecurity impacts many members of our community. Staff and student employees in the Business Operations unit, alongside the Faculty/Staff Giving Committee and Fighting Hunger @ Mines (a student organization), stepped in to support the stocking of Blaster's Basket, a food pantry for the campus community. Campus food drives and community partnerships were organized to fill the shelves and provide hungry students with snacks, fresh produce and supplies for meal preparation.



The SHAPE Office, the Student Health Center, and the Counseling Center connected with Porchlight Family Justice Center to learn about domestic violence survivor services and create connections between the teams. The Student Health Center also partnered closely with SHAPE to enhance trauma-informed services for survivors. Through these partnerships, students in our community who have experienced domestic violence were able to receive the thoughtful care that they needed in their recovery.

The Disability Support Services (DSS) Office collaborated with campus partners including facilities, IT, academic departments, the Trefny Center and others to promote a more accessible campus and to provide support for approximately **800** students throughout the year. Through these efforts, students had access to the resources that they needed to thrive, including an inclusive orientation for incoming students, improved processes for physical access around campus, and accessible chemistry lab equipment. DSS also collaborated with the Residence Life team to ensure that all students with disabilities were appropriately housed, and facilitated **6,156** exam requests through the Testing Center for students requiring accommodations.

Mines is a world-class institution, and we showcased this during the Higher Learning Commission's (HLC) Assurance Review process this past year. Several Student Life offices and individuals directly served on and/or supported the 2022-2023 Accreditation Campus Leadership Team, which prepared for and led to us passing the review.

The Center for Academic Services and Advising (CASA) had **7,143** individual advising meetings during the academic year, and provided guidance to students as they navigated the next steps on their academic journey. To provide the best service possible, CASA staff attended Faculty Senate meetings to stay informed about relevant information in academic affairs that could impact students' decisions. CASA staff also provided substantive feedback on the academic core curriculum, another factor that hugely influences the student experience at Mines. CASA advisors understand student perspectives that are critical in the development of policies and curriculum, and their input during the process ensured these perspectives were taken into consideration.

CASA staff also worked with the Multicultural Engineering Program's Challenge Summer Bridge Program participants, providing daily 1-hour courses about the transition to college to prepare students for the first semester!



Students in the Multicultural Engineering Program's Challenge program built the confidence and friendships needed to succeed in college. In this photo, the group has conquered a ropes course together!

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Access

You Belong Here

Mines is committed to creating a safe, welcoming environment for students with different identities and lived experiences. Every student deserves to find a sense of community and acceptance while pursuing their degree, and Student Life departments have intentionally framed their work during the past year to supporting our students' sense of belonging.

The Multicultural Engineering Program (MEP) supported underrepresented and first-generation students from the beginning of the school year, hosting a welcome-back BBQ (attended by **257** students!) with resources, campus organizations and industry partners present to connect with attendees and share the variety of options for community building and engagement. MEP also provided support to six student organizations for underrepresented groups totaling **1,322** members.

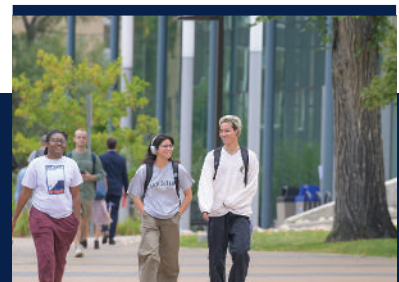
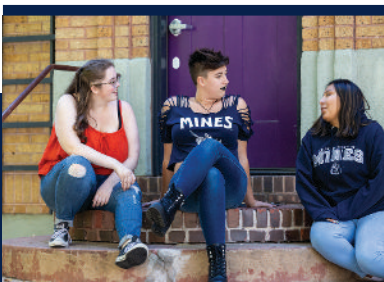
MEP also worked behind-the-scenes to advocate for the needs of underrepresented students on campus. The MEP team collaborated with faculty, departments and student groups to think critically about serving these populations and identify next steps to increase effectiveness, including coordinating efforts across student experiences - in the classroom, at the Rec Center, in the residence halls, at events, and elsewhere. Those collaborations, alongside efforts to

pull and utilize data to understand service successes and gaps, will guide future plans to support our students with diverse identities.

Of course, the most important voices in the conversation about creating a welcoming campus are those of the students themselves. During the past year, the Student Equity Advisory Council (SEAC) was created to allow underrepresented students direct access to campus leadership to provide feedback about their Mines experience. In the 2023-2024 academic year, the SEAC will continue to expand and provide direction for the campus' equity and inclusion work, along with the Presidential Fellow for Diversity, Inclusion and Access.

The Community Standards department also promoted a safe, supportive campus community by engaging in restorative justice (RJ) practices, which promote healing and repairing relationships after harm has occurred. A partnership was initiated with Restorative Jeffco, a new community organization focused on RJ efforts, and additional Mines community members received

facilitation training. In the coming months, restorative practices including facilitated circles may be used to address instances of harm on our campus, especially those affecting our underrepresented students.



Efforts this past year have been centered around setting the groundwork and identifying DEI&A priorities that speak to the variety of ways folks in Student Life support students and staff. While leading this work, I believe it is essential that the voices of students and staff are included as we collectively work towards building strategies to further our practices that are centered in equity. We are just starting out on this journey, and I continue to be energized by the interest and excitement from people across the division.

Sheena Martinez
Assistant Vice President of Student Life for Equity and Engagement

Don't Just Take it from Us...

What matters most to the Student Life team is how our *students* feel about the work that we have done during the past year; after all, they are the reason we are here! We asked students to share with us how Student Life departments have impacted their Mines experience during the 2022-2023 academic year. See below for their stories!

Being both an employee and participant in REC sports has had such a positive impact on my time here at Mines. Whether it's using the climbing wall, gym equipment, participating in intramurals, group fitness, or renting from the ORC, REC sports has continuously given me a refreshing way to fill my time outside of school. REC sports has fostered a supportive and caring community of individuals that enjoy self-improvement through physical activity, and this a community I am proud to be a part of.

Ava Courtney '26
Computer Science



I love being a Resident Advisor because I get to help the first-year students figure out this weird thing we call "college" during their first year and beyond. I love seeing former residents around campus and seeing how they've grown as students and as people. Other universities are so large that a Resident Advisor can't really continue to see and mentor students.

Hannah Harling, '25
Computer Science



Residence Life has given me a family at this school with the largest student staff on campus. This group of people is so diverse and offers a great support system for those discovering what it's like to work AND be a Mines student at the same time. I can't thank this group of people enough!

Isa Libonate '24
Biochemistry



The NeST Office has been great about offering opportunities for leadership and allowing people to step up, whether in formal leadership roles or otherwise. Their peer mentor program is very student-focused and student-led, and they do a great job at facilitating connections between students. Student Life leadership are very approachable and available; they always prioritize conversations with students. I always feel comfortable going to talk with them. I've established good relationships with them and find it easy to provide feedback. I worked with Sheena this year to create the equity council, which at another school I don't think would have been possible to do with as much student input and insight.

Davian Sandoval, '25
Mechanical Engineering



Spotlight on: Signature Student Life Events

Orediggers Having Fun!



Chilly weather did not stop our students from making the most of the annual Engineering Days celebration (commonly referred to as "E-Days"). In spring 2023, students set aside their studies to honor the history and traditions of Mines in a series of fun events, including bouncing through the snow!

Mines students embraced the theme of "MysterE Days" during a rainy Ore Cart pull to the capitol, a brisk but sunny carnival, a rousing cardboard boat race featuring **108** competing teams in Clear Creek, concert and comedian performances, and a field day competition. More than **2,500** students attended the carnival, and all



other events saw several hundred attendees/participants as well, showing that a little bit of rain, wind, or snow won't stand in the way of the campus celebrating one of Mines' most-loved traditions!



From the very beginning, Orediggers celebrated being on the beautiful Mines campus. On move-in day, Blaster was on-site to welcome our students to their new home - and provide an abundance of photo opportunities! Alongside

him were the incredible move-in crew members, who helped students and their families bring in their belongings



and begin to make the space their own. Every new Oredigger was welcomed with a smile and assurance that they had chosen the right place.



Everyone loves visiting Blaster during our events - even the President, PCJ!



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