

# CSU LIFE



CSU PRESIDENT AMY PARSONS ATTENDS CSU DAY AT THE NATIONAL WESTERN STOCK SHOW ON JAN. 13.

## Frigid temperatures don't stop Rams from celebrating CSU Day at the Stock Show

By Allison Sylte

If you're a Colorado State University Ram, you don't skip the National Western Stock Show just because it's below zero degrees outside. Instead, you throw on your green-and-gold beanie and make the trek to Denver to celebrate a partnership that began in 1906 and is still going strong.

"It's a day for the whole family," said Allison Trembly, an '03 CSU grad who helped staff the university's stock show display on the second floor of the Hall of Education. "The fact that Ram fans are bundling up their newborns and making their way to the stock show grounds shows the power of this tradition."

This year's edition of CSU Day at the National Western Stock Show was held on Jan. 13, and as usual, Ram fans showed up in a big way. Volunteers like Trembly handed out bandanas and the ever-popular Ram horns at the CSU booth – both were a common sight at the rodeo and throughout the stock show grounds.

Over at the CSU Spur campus, student volunteers demonstrated a variety of STEM activities, ranging from boat wars in the Water TAP lab to 3D printing to interactive robots.

"It's so awesome to expose kids to engineering, and even if they choose not to go into the field, they can come here and see what's possible," said Gabriela Gritz Moya, a fourth-year engineering student.

CSU Day visitors even got to check out parts of Spur that are usually not open to the general public. That included a second-floor bioengineering lab where CSU graduate students and faculty members explained their work and showed kids how to extract DNA from a strawberry at home.

"It's a fun challenge to take what you do and try to explain it to a general audience," said Claire Bailey, a bioengineering Ph.D. student at CSU. "I never got to do this as a kid – I never got to go into a lab – and it's fun to help show the possibilities of where science can take you."



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THIS MONTH

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

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WINTER BIKE TO WORK DAY

Feb. 9

WORLD UNITY FAIR

Feb. 17



APPLAUSE

**Warner College of Natural Resources**  
Geosciences Professor Ellen Wohl is the recipient of the G.K. Warren Prize for her expansive research and advancements in river and watershed sciences from the National Academy of Sciences. The prolific field scientist and University Distinguished Professor has studied rivers and watersheds from ephemeral desert channels to torrents in the tropics on every continent except Antarctica. Wohl is what's known as a fluvial geomorphologist, or a scientist who studies river processes and physical characteristics. She was drawn to CSU by its legacy of water research and its location, where she would have quick access to mountain streams.

**College of Liberal Arts**  
Justin Frigault, who graduated in December with his bachelor's degree from the College of Liberal Arts, is one of only 45 students in the country to receive a fellowship from the Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Program. The Rangel Program awards up to \$42,000 annually

for a two-year master's degree program. At CSU, Frigault was an English major with a concentration in languages. Before enrolling, he had served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 2015-20, where he worked on security details at U.S. embassies in Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and South Korea, earning the rank of sergeant.

**CSU Drone Center**  
The CSU Drone Center staff was honored by CSU's Employee Appreciation Board for kindly and proactively setting up a shared folder to track the expense receipts of an FAA grant they were awarded. The Drone Center is the full-service unmanned aerial vehicle drone hub for the university, providing consultation on aircraft systems, project guidance, piloting, pilot training, logistical support, sensor integration and equipment rental. They collaborate with industry and educational partners, both internal and external to the university, and manage the Christman Field airstrip and flight training area.

EXPERIENCE MORE OF CSU LIFE ONLINE

Print editions of CSU Life are being delivered in smaller batches to campus buildings this semester as some university community members are working remotely. Additional copies are available in the Lory Student Center. Read more stories about faculty, staff and the CSU community online at [csulife.source.colostate.edu](http://csulife.source.colostate.edu).

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CONTACT US AT [CSULIFE@COLOSTATE.EDU](mailto:CSULIFE@COLOSTATE.EDU)

Meet Wiz Kid, CSU Spur's newest host who wants to share her enthusiasm for all things science

By Allison Sylte



The Colorado State University Spur campus is all about embracing the excitement that comes from learning something new, and no one embodies this quite like Wiz Kid.

Wiz Kid is CSU Spur's newest host. Her job is introducing kids – and the young at heart – to the wonders of this Denver-based learning destination, and to share her excitement about all things science. In fact, the initial season of the Wiz Kid educational series will premiere on April 4.

Here are some facts to help you get to know Wiz Kid, who made her debut at CSU Day at the National Western Stock Show.

- + Wiz Kid considers her laboratory to be the CSU Spur campus at the National Western Center in Denver.
- + Some of her favorite things to do at CSU Spur are to play at the stream table, explore the virtual reality laboratory and visit the trout in the Hydro building and watch them grow before they're released into Colorado's rivers.
- + Her favorite subjects are chemistry, biology, botany and art.
- + Speaking of art, she loves to check out all the interactive exhibits all around CSU Spur. One of her favorites is Esperanza, the 9-foot kitten in the lobby of the Vida building.
- + Wiz Kid's favorite things are experiments, and she loves getting her hands dirty and trying new things. She'll showcase some of her experiments on video, which include everything from at-home chemistry activities, a look at what plants need to grow and a behind-the-scenes peek at taste testing activities in CSU Spur's sensory lab.

YOU CAN BE A WIZ KID, TOO!

You can be a Wiz Kid, too! Visit [csuspur.org/wizkid](http://csuspur.org/wizkid) for the latest information and to keep up with CSU Spur's Wiz Kid adventure. Don't miss Season One of Wiz Kid premiering April 4.

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# Community celebrates Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Lincoln Center

By Joe Giordano

The frigid weather didn't stop community members from celebrating Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Fort Collins.

Despite the cancellation of the annual march portion of the event due to sub-zero temperatures on Jan. 15, several hundred community members gathered in the warm confines of the Lincoln Center to experience "From Myth to Man: Martin Luther King."

The one-man performance by Ira Knight – a playwright, producer, director and author – gave attendees an intimate glimpse of the late Civil Rights Movement icon. Set in King's Lorraine Motel room in Memphis on the day he was assassinated, Knight gave a Shakespearean soliloquy that portrayed the emotions King might have experienced in his final hours.

"I'm just working through some things," Knight said during his performance as King. "I

miss my family. I really, really miss my family. I miss my children. I really miss my children because I know that I will never get to see them grow up."

Following the hourlong show, Knight explained during a question-and-answer session that his inspiration for the play came from King's final public speech – "I've Been to the Mountaintop" – in which he discusses his mortality.

During the performance, Knight spoke in a stream of consciousness to the audience, sharing King's emotions: "In case you're not aware, I am human. I get tired. I get worn down. I get discouraged. I get depressed."

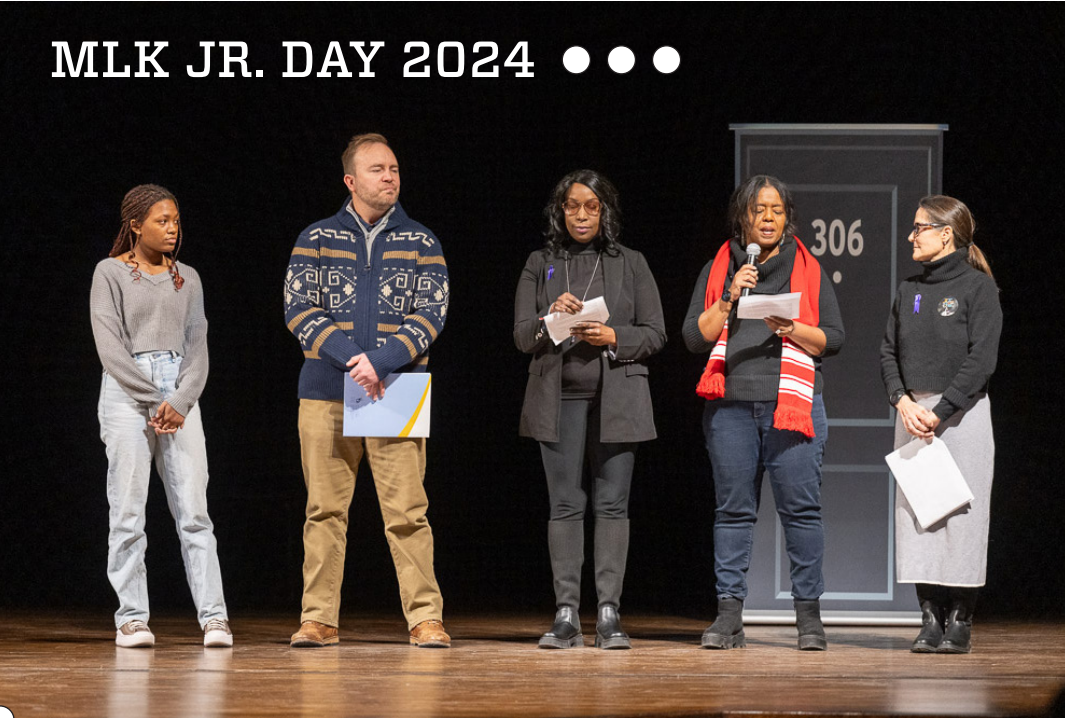
The performance ended with King contemplating whether to call his children before taking a meeting on the balcony outside of his motel room. He ultimately decided

against it to not disturb them during dinner. He exited the stage, and two shots rang out.

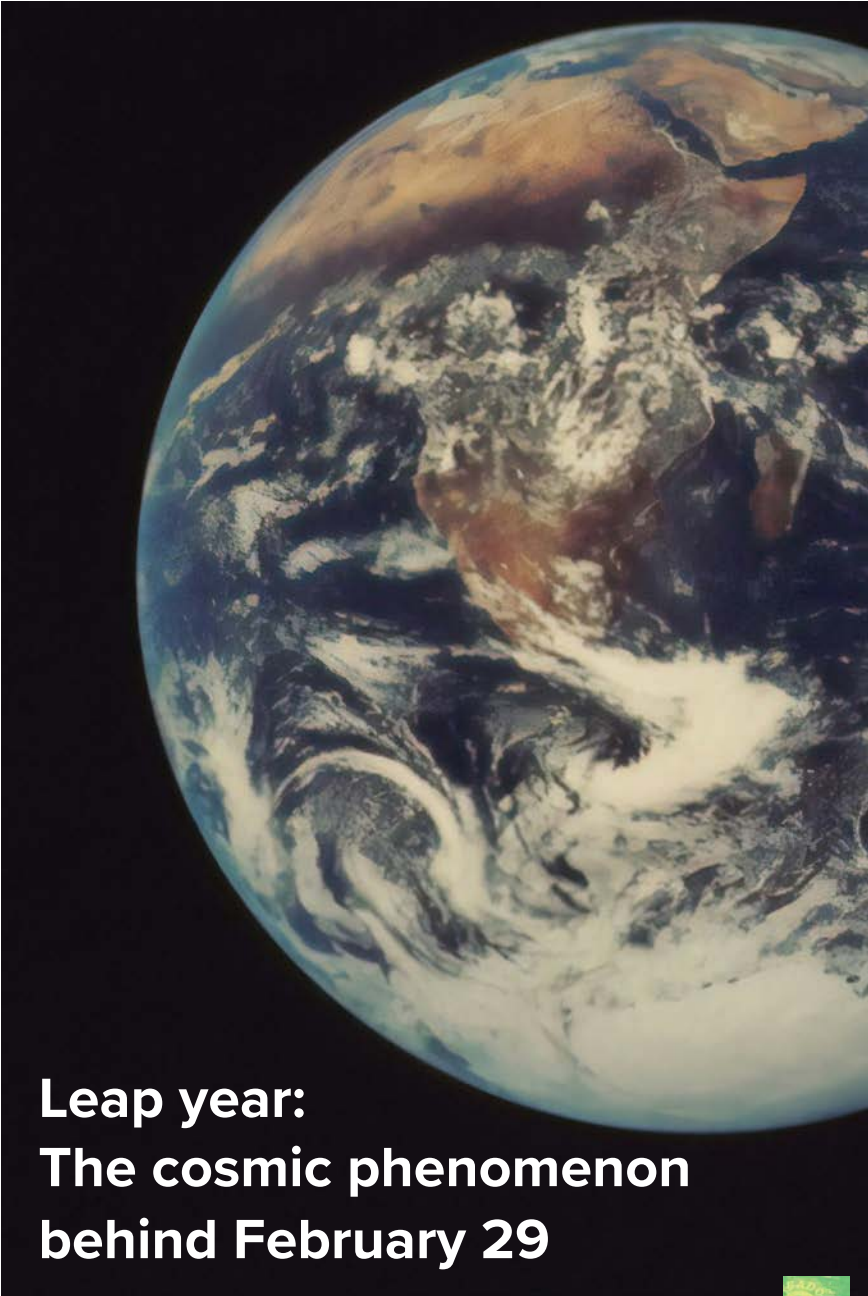
"The purpose and intent of this piece was to connect Dr. King to this and all generations as a human being," Knight said following the performance. Knight also touched on the theme of this year's celebration – "It Starts with Us" – noting everyone has unique talents and gifts like Martin Luther King Jr.

In the spirit of King, CSU and Fort Collins community members gathered at the Lincoln Center prior to the performance to assist in a clothing drive benefiting Northern Colorado's Homeward Alliance, a nonprofit dedicated to providing basic needs to families, adults and seniors.

Photos by John Eisele/CSU Photography



MLK JR. DAY 2024 ●●●



## Leap year: The cosmic phenomenon behind February 29

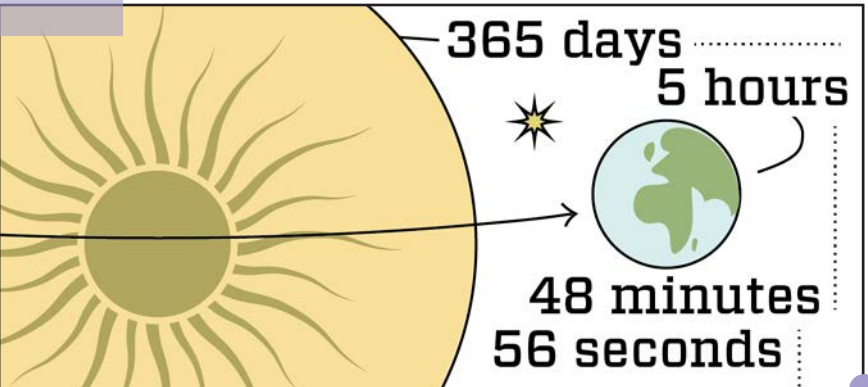
By Annie Weiler

This year, February is feeling a little extra special and gets 29 days instead of the usual 28! We all know about leap years, but let's dive into the cosmic, complicated reasoning behind this phenomenon. What's going on, and why do we have leap year?

A calendar year is typically 365 days, but Earth takes about 365.242190 days to complete its journey around the Sun – 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 56 seconds to be exact. That's a lot of time unaccounted for in our usual calendar. Without this year's bonus day, the seasons would start playing musical chairs with the months - summer would start in December, and winter would start in June! By throwing in an extra day every four years, we keep our calendar in sync with Earth's sidereal year.

But here's the twist: The sidereal year doesn't add exactly 24 hours over four years – it's 23.262222 hours. Adding a leap day every four years seems like a solid plan, but it turns out we're overshooting a bit. We're making the calendar longer by over 44 minutes. Those extra minutes might seem small, but over time, they'd push the seasons into different months. So, not every four years gets the leap year treatment. The party skipped a beat in the years 1700, 1800, and 1900 to account for it.

Don't stress about missing the next leap year, though – the next time we hit pause on the leap year is in 2100. Until then, we have plenty of leap year fun coming our way.



CSU

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[thematicyear.colostate.edu](https://thematicyear.colostate.edu)









# Lagoon Concert Series named best outdoor concert in Readers’ Choice Best of NOCO awards

By Jeff Dodge



Colorado State University’s Lagoon Concert Series has received first place in the category of Best Outdoor Concert in the Readers’ Choice Best of NOCO awards.

Results of the annual competition, which were announced in December and are drawn from a survey conducted by NOCO Style magazine, featured a couple of other honors for CSU. The university’s Youth Sport Camps got second place in the “Youth Summer Camp” category, and in the “Weddings” section, the CSU Trial Gardens got second place for best proposal spot.

In the outdoor concert category, the Lagoon Concert Series beat the Greeley Stampede and the Bohemian Nights Thursday Night Live. CSU’s Division of University Marketing and Communications fully produced

the series for the first time this summer after working alongside the Mantooth Company for 11 years.

The six-week series featured local and Colorado bands each Wednesday evening, partnered with local food trucks, and was funded by local sponsors. Each week, interactive booths were featured in partnership with sponsors and CSU units.

And for the first time, four themed nights were added as part of the series, with a focus on first responders, educators, military members and Rams Against Hunger.

Associate Director for Events Jennifer Wright is already planning for the 2024 series and is partnering with the Bohemian Foundation to elevate the music experience. The lineup will be released this spring at [lagoonseries.com](http://lagoonseries.com).

## Graduate Center for Inclusive Mentoring welcomes new director

Lisa Angeloni has stepped into a new role at the Graduate School as the director of the Graduate Center for Inclusive Mentoring at Colorado State University.

Angeloni, a long-time faculty member in the Department of Biology and the Graduate Degree Program in Ecology, brings a wealth of experience and a commitment to equitable mentoring practices. She plans to expand GCIM’s offerings, connect students with mentors, and develop initiatives to support graduate students with marginalized identities.

“For me, mentoring students is the most rewarding aspect of being a professor; and mentors play a huge role in post-graduation success,” said Angeloni. “When mentors take the time to learn about a student’s unique experience, interests and career path they can connect students with the right resources to help them advance.”

GCIM equips mentors in CSU’s graduate community with the tools they need to help their mentees reach their goals and overcome challenges. Faculty who advise graduate students are encouraged to enroll in GCIM’s Mentor Well training. This program covers mentoring topics critical to graduate students, such as maintaining effective communication and promoting independence. Faculty, from any department, who complete a series of eight sessions receive a GCIM Mentor Well certificate. Registration for Mentor Well training is open now and sessions will begin in the spring of 2024.

Mentor Well certification is only one part of a multi-pronged approach to advance mentoring at CSU. The Mentor Monday series features discussion-based sessions on the first Monday of each month, providing a forum where graduate students and mentors can discuss various challenges and opportunities present in graduate school. This spring semester, Angeloni will further focus discussion towards equity, diversity, and inclusion.

“We are very lucky to have an experienced mentor as our new GCIM director,” said Colleen Webb, vice provost for graduate affairs and dean of the Graduate School. “She advocates for all graduate students, especially those with underrepresented identities.”

Departments are encouraged to utilize GCIM opportunities such as scholarships, awards, department grants, and other provided activities and programs to support graduate students. GCIM, housed in the Graduate School, provides these opportunities with the understanding that lifelong mentorships have a positive impact on scholarly achievements at CSU. As director, Angeloni plans to expand offerings while continuing successful initiatives.



# Try to tell a Ram not to re-charge: CSU Bookstore selling reusable batteries

By Mark Gokavi



The Colorado State University Bookstore inside the Lory Student Center is selling next-generation rechargeable batteries that the manufacturer says can be charged 1,000 times.

The Paleblue products can power all of those remotes, toys, gadgets and gizmos that take AAA, AA, C and D batteries.

“CSU is very eco-friendly, and providing an alternative to constantly discarding batteries is appealing,” said John Parry, director of the CSU Bookstore. “The initial cost is higher than standard batteries, but they can be recharged hundreds of times, so the long-term savings is very big.”

At the CSU Bookstore, a four-pack of AA Paleblue batteries including a charging cord – which can charge four batteries at once – costs \$29.95, but they may outlive whatever device they power. Widescale use of rechargeable batteries would reduce the amount of used single-use batteries collected around campus.

In fiscal year 2023, CSU collected 7,755 pounds of batteries from all campus departments. That’s more than 3.8 tons for recycling, according to CSU Materials Supervisor Jake Drenth.

In fiscal year 2022, CSU collected 3,057 pounds of batteries. In fiscal year 2021, the amount was 5,687 pounds. That’s a three-year total of more than 8.2 tons that have been recycled by Dynamic Lifecycle Innovations.

“The full battery recycling buckets across the University attest to the thousands and thousands of batteries CSU employees and students use each year,” said Tonie Miyamoto, executive director of communications and sustainability in the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs.

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# The perfect flowers for Valentine’s Day

By Annie Weiler



Flowers have carried special meanings for generations, adding an extra message to your Valentine's Day bouquets. The right flower can help you express love, happiness, or gratitude—the wrong one, however, can represent anxiety, jealousy, or danger. Dive deeper into the language of flowers, and we'll guide you in creating the perfect arrangement for your valentine.

**Roses**

Roses are the quintessential flower to express love—florists call the red variety “the lover’s rose.” A multicolored rose bouquet can convey a bunch of hidden messages: white roses symbolize humility and innocence, yellow roses express friendship and joy, pink roses represent gratitude or admiration, and purple roses are for someone who captivates you.

**Peonies**

Peonies are favored among gardeners and interior decorators for their sweet fragrances, lush petals and vibrant colors. Pink peonies are especially popular, representing prosperity, appreciation and good luck. Meanwhile, red peonies symbolize passionate romance like red roses. These are perfect flowers for long-term romantic partners with whom you hope to share a future, symbolizing love, wealth and prosperity.

**Sunflowers**

No surprises here! The striking, warm beauty of sunflowers symbolizes optimism, happiness, adoration and peace. Sunflowers shine so brightly that they’re best given on their own, so that they don’t outshine any other stems in a Valentine's Day flower arrangement. Their vibrant presence is perfect for conveying not just affection but also a heartfelt wish for lasting happiness, safety and abundant opportunities.

**Orchids**

Orchids are often regarded as symbols of purity, elegance and beauty. When it comes to pink orchids, they take on an additional layer of meaning, symbolizing joy, grace and elegance. On the passionate side, red orchids align with desire and infatuation, echoing the sentiments of other red flowers. The orange variety signifies excitement and success, making them ideal for celebrations, be it an anniversary, milestone or special occasion like Valentine's Day.

**Lilacs**

Lilacs, commonly found in parks and gardens, are celebrated for their lush, fragrant flowers and clustered blooms. White lilacs exude youthful innocence, while the purple varieties symbolize the first stages of love, making them ideal for someone you’ve recently met. When lilacs lean towards soothing blue hues, they communicate happiness and tranquility. If they boast a more magenta shade, they boldly express love and passion.

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CALENDAR

**Black Faculty/Staff Mixer**  
Thursday, Feb. 8  
3:30 p.m.- 5 p.m., Mary Ontiveros House  
Throughout the month of February, the Black/African American Cultural Center will be hosting a series of events within the community to celebrate Black History Month.  
+ [baacc.colostate.edu/contact-us/](http://baacc.colostate.edu/contact-us/)

**Winter Bike to Work Day**  
Friday, Feb. 9  
Station on the Oval  
The city of Fort Collins gathers with the CSU community to encourage bike riding with free prizes, food and warm beverages to start off a winter day. The stations will start at the Oval and appear along bike routes throughout Fort Collins.  
+ [fcgov.com/bicycling/bike-to-work-day](http://fcgov.com/bicycling/bike-to-work-day)

**Founders Day**  
Sunday, Feb. 11  
Colorado State University celebrates 154 years of academic success.

**CSU Career Fair (open to all majors)**  
Tuesday, Feb. 13  
10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Lory Student Center Grand Ballroom

The CSU Career Center is hosting a career fair that is open to all majors. Individuals will be able to talk with potential employers and gather further information about future career opportunities.  
+ [colostate.joinhandshake.com/stu/career\\_fairs/45264](http://colostate.joinhandshake.com/stu/career_fairs/45264)

**World Unity Fair**  
Saturday, Feb. 17  
5 p.m. - 9 p.m., Lory Student Center Grand Ballroom  
The 68th World Unity Fair features an abundance of food, dance, music and cultural traditions to share with individuals in the CSU community.  
+ [international.colostate.edu/iss/programs-events/spring-events/world-unity-fair/](http://international.colostate.edu/iss/programs-events/spring-events/world-unity-fair/)

**Little Shop of Physics Open House**  
Saturday, Feb. 24,  
10 a.m. – 4 p.m., CSU Lory Student Center  
Free and open to the public, science fun for all ages! Come join CSU staff and students for over 300 hands-on science experiments and interactive presentations from partners.  
+ [lsop.colostate.edu/open-house/](http://lsop.colostate.edu/open-house/)

**Family Day at the Gregory Allicar Museum of Art**  
Saturday, March 2  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m., UCA Gregory Allicar Museum of Art  
Family Day is a free, drop-in program featuring art activities inspired by current exhibitions at GAMA. Join on the first Saturday of the month through May to explore the galleries and connect with art. Designed for children ages 5-12.  
+ [artmuseum.colostate.edu/events/family-day-6](http://artmuseum.colostate.edu/events/family-day-6)

**Women in Science Symposium**  
Wednesday, March 6 and Thursday, March 7  
9 a.m. – 3 p.m., CSU Lory Student Center Ballrooms  
The 8th annual Women in Science Symposium (WISS) highlights the voices of leading innovators as they share their career journey. WISS24 will focus on the question: How are we going to tackle cancer?  
+ [womeninscienceci.colostate.edu](http://womeninscienceci.colostate.edu)

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MARCH 23, 2024

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