

Colorado – applied & integrated – Regional Network for Sustainability (CaiRNS): Planning for a Network to Address Pressures, Responses, and Sustainability Intersections across a Growing, Innovative, Dry, and Purple State

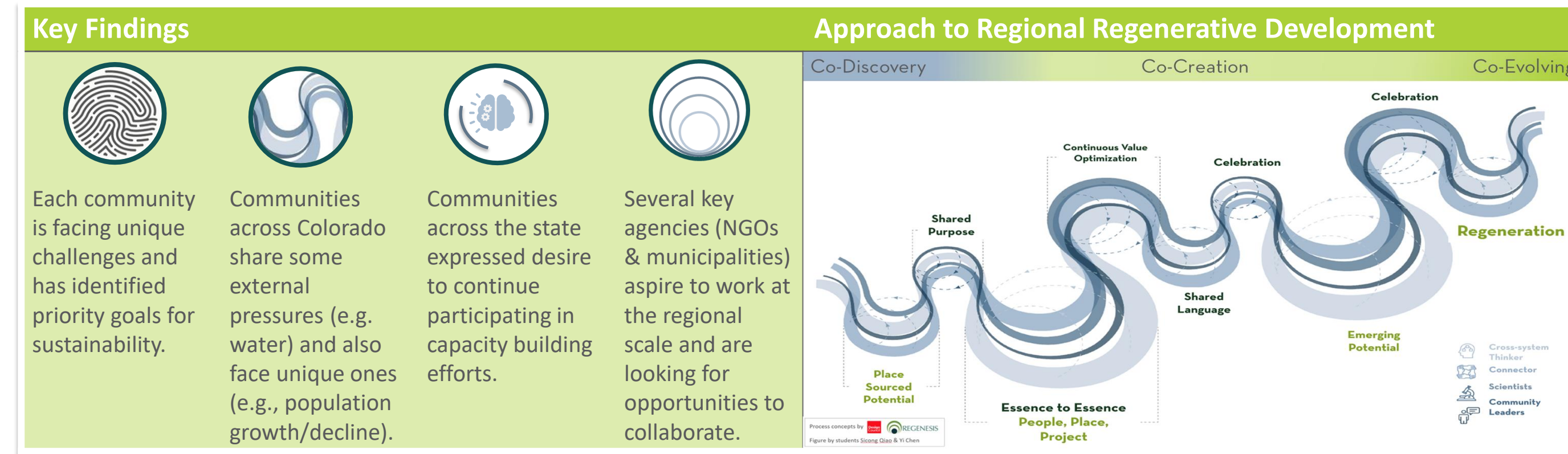
Principal Investigators: Jennifer E. Cross (CSU-FC, Sociology), Sylvester A. Kalevela (CSU-P, Civil Engineering), Elicia Ratajczyk (CSU-FC, IBE), Joseph C von Fischer (CSU-FC, Biology), Stephan Weiler (CSU-FC, Economics); NSF Award #2115457

Steamboat Springs / Yampa Valley, Colorado (4 participants in planning, full meeting canceled):

- Key Community Identified Pressures:** Water, Affordable Housing (Workforce), Wildfire Danger, Climate Change.
- Key Community Identified Needs:** Better regional coordination & expanded vision (beyond just working together on water issues). More involvement from a wider range of people across sectors and focuses.
- Desired Capabilities:** Engage and activate diverse stakeholders and develop shared vision and goals within the Yampa River Valley around issues beyond water and tourism. Better coordination across sectors and issues.
- Request of CaiRNS:** Work with the community to co-create shared frameworks and processes for sustained engagement and collaborative work toward shared goals beyond water issues in the Yampa Valley.

Fort Collins, Colorado (23 Participants):

- Key Community Identified Pressures:** Population Growth (affordable housing, land use, etc.), Supporting Innovation & Entrepreneurship, Regional Connection/Coordination/Collaboration.
- Key Community Identified Needs:** Better regional coordination & shared vision/goals. We have many strengths in our ways of working and being that could be shared regionally.
- Desired Capabilities:** Form better partnerships and collaborations across the region and be able to work together to create and work toward shared regional goals or pursuits.
- Request of CaiRNS:** Build bridges and create connective tissue in the region.



Sterling, Colorado (8 participants on phone call, no in-person meeting scheduled):

- Key Community Identified Pressures:** Population Dynamics, Technological Change, Economic Change
- Key Community Identified Needs:** Resources for action (i.e. funding, information, human capital)
- Desired Capabilities:** The capability to follow-through on and implement the strategies and solutions that the community had already developed together through previous engagement processes.
- Request of CaiRNS:** Martial the expertise and human-power that the community is lacking to create a report and secure funding to move forward on a specific pursuit that community members have already decided that they want to move forward on, but haven't, because of lack of resources.

Metro Denver Area / Front Range Region, Colorado (35 participants):

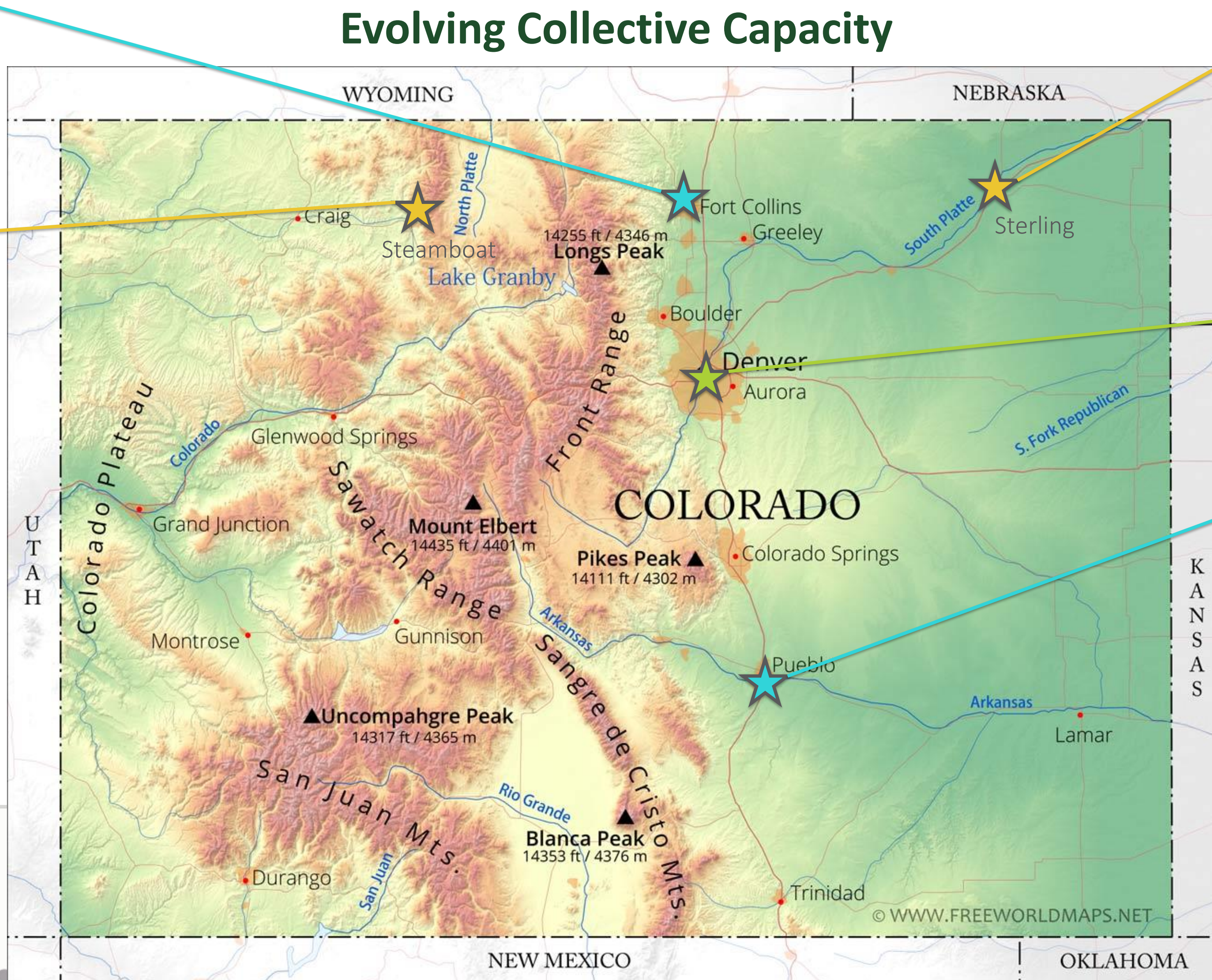
- Key Community Identified Pressures:** Population Dynamics; Technological, Economic, & Social Change; Climate Change
- Key Community Identified Needs:** There are already many groups and orgs doing great work everywhere, but it is siloed and disconnected. Need pathways and processes for being more aware of one another and collaborating.
- Desired Capabilities:** Ability to be aware of the dynamics, needs, and activities happening at the regional scale and use that information for decision-making and action.
- Request of CaiRNS:** Provide tools and resources to help create connectivity and increased awareness. Provide opportunities for connection across organizations, groups, etc.



Making Sense of Regional Wellbeing Report

- Key Community Identified Pressure:** Population Growth and its effects on regional systems (e.g. water, housing, etc.)
- Key Community Identified Need:** Better ways to bring together and make sense of siloed and disparate data to identify potential key questions, topics, and nodal intervention points to discuss with community stakeholders.
- Request of CaiRNS:** Working with the Foundation on a process for data processing, reporting, and engagement.

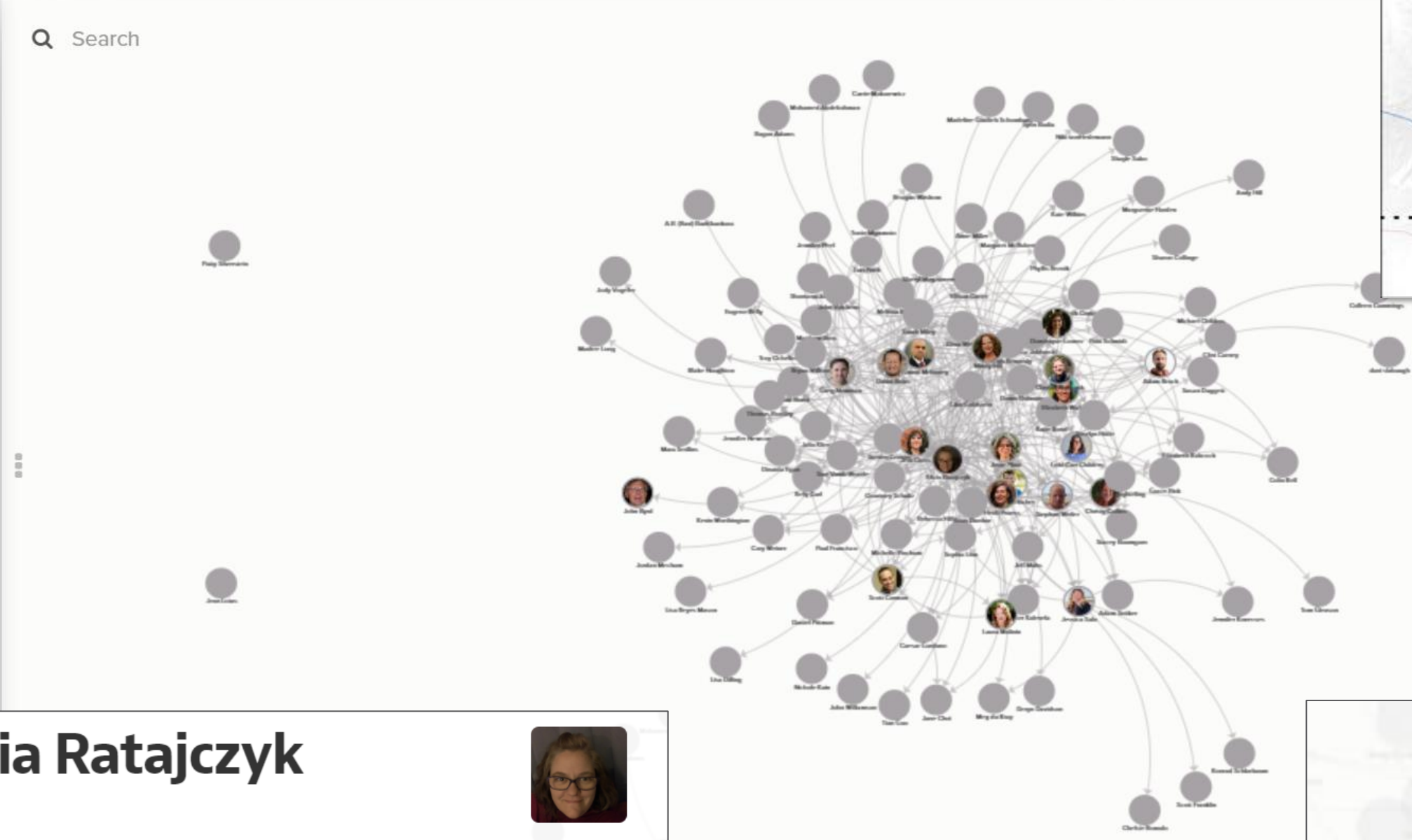
The **Community Foundation of Northern Colorado** is a non-profit organization serving as a catalyst for community projects and philanthropy in the communities of Larimer and Weld counties in Colorado seeking to understand and hold a vision for regional wellbeing and invite community stakeholders to work with them to co-develop shared visions, goals, and pursuits.



Pueblo, Colorado (15 participants):

- Key Community Identified Pressures:** Economic Change, Population Dynamics, Technological Change
- Key Community Identified Needs:** Need to identify & create ways of keeping and/or attracting young talent and workforce to stay in the area.
- Desired Capabilities:** Develop better connections between the University and the Community to engage students in community projects that both benefit the community but also inspire students to stay and work within the community after graduation, perhaps with a focus on renewable energy production (as a community goal)
- Request of CaiRNS:** Build a university-based hub for training professors in community-engaged projects across the curriculum; provide resources and support connecting faculty with community partners working to address local sustainability challenges; catalyze new long-term community-university partnerships.

CaiRNS Network Tool



Elicia Ratajczyk
PERSON
Linked

I am a Research Scientist and Collective Action Catalyzer at The Institute for the Built Environment (IBE) at Colorado State University.

ARE THERE OTHER POTENTIAL BENEFITS THAT YOU ENVISION AS OUTCOMES OF THIS NETWORK?
Yes, I would like to see better integration between researchers, policy-makers, practitioners, and communities to understand, realize and develop more sustainable regional systems.

CONSENT
Yes

DO YOU CURRENTLY DO COLORADO-BASED WORK IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS?
Community Development
Regenerative Development
Resilience
Sustainability



Planning Grant Products

Community Meetings	CaiRNS Network Tool	Network Development Workshops	Grant Award*	Interactive Open Data Catalog	Articles
5	100+ Nodes	5	Computer Information Science & Engineering (CISE) – Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) *pending	Beta version of Colorado Preliminary Open Sustainability Data Catalog is online	Ecology & Society abstract accepted for special issue
Gatherings across ecological regions of Colorado	Sum App Kumu	29 Faculty 6 Graduate Students 6 Universities 3 NGOs 8 Municipal Agents 1 Activist			

Colorado Open Sustainability Data Catalog: Schematic

