

## CSU's Water MOOC: What Happens when 13 Professors and 500 Students Participate in a Tuition-Free, Credit-Free Online Course?

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**Abstract.** In 2013 CSU's Online Plus Program joined forces with The Water Center and The Institute for Learning and Teaching to enter the rapidly developing field of massively open online courses (MOOCs). The result, one of three CSU MOOCs, is "Water, Civilization, and Nature: Exploring 21<sup>st</sup> Century Water Challenges" (<http://www.online.colostate.edu/free-online-courses/water-civilization-and-nature/>). The 8-week course made its debut in January 2014, with 500 students registered, and concluded on March 23. Tuition is free, and no academic credit is offered, but students may earn a statement of accomplishment. Course content is organized around 20 brief lectures recorded by 13 CSU water faculty from various departments. Feedback from the first offering of the MOOC suggests that this vehicle is a welcome addition to CSU's outreach program related to water.