

To: Scott Torvik, Vice Principal
Cc: Jesse Oswald

Dear Scott,

I am working with a group of faculty in the Department of Bioagricultural Sciences and Pest Management at CSU to develop a new undergraduate major for our department. We would like to learn what appeals to high school students who are interested in science and what is important to them for their college education and future careers. Toward that end, we would like to hold a focus group (essentially a group discussion) with 4 to 8 science-oriented high school students at Fossil Ridge High. Would that be a possibility? The interview will be a comfortable group discussion, but is actually pretty structured and will take 60 minutes. It will be led by a trained facilitator from The Institute for Teaching and Learning at CSU, Karen Falkenberg. I have attached the interview guide for the first focus group we held this week with undergraduates in the College of Agricultural Sciences. This will be adapted for high school students, but will still address the same major topics. One or two faculty who are committee members will be present to observe the discussion, and we will record the session.

The information gathered will be used by the committee to inform the development of the undergraduate major and for materials used to apply for approval of a new major within CSU. The focus group can be scheduled before, during or after the school day, depending on what is convenient for the students and what will work with Karen and my schedules. We would like to provide pizza and soft drinks (or breakfast food and drink, if it is a morning session) to the students before the session, too.

One of our committee members, Dr. Cris Argueso, knows science teacher Jesse Oswald, who might be able to help identify students to participate in the interview. I copied Jesse here.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Best regards,

Cini

=====
To: Jesse Oswald

Dear Jesse,

Cris Argueso and I are working with other faculty at CSU to develop a new major for our department, Bioagricultural Sciences and Pests Management, at CSU. One of the things we want to do to help inform our effort is interview students who are interested in sciences. Cris mentioned that you may be able to help organize a group discussion with 4 to 8 students from Fossil Ridge High who are interested in science. After a number of phone calls to the school district offices to identify what approval process would be needed, my request was directed to Julie Chaplain, who delegated it to Scott Torvik. I will copy you on the email to him, which describes more about the discussion and what it would involve.

After you get a chance to review that message, please let me know if you are willing to help us arrange a group discussion. Please feel free to call me on my cell phone (970) 222-4570, or at the email or phone number below, with questions.

Best regards,
Cini