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Press Release

--For immediate release--

Nature in the Classroom Expands Reach Into Colorado With Latest Tree Canopy Ceiling Installation

10 October 2021, Ft. Collins, CO - California based, Nature in the Classroom, expanded its reach into the state of Colorado as it installed its latest tree canopy ceiling at Irish Elementary Escuela Bilingüe School, a Title 1 school, in the Poudre School District in Ft. Collins, Colorado.

"New ideas take a long time and a lot of scrutiny before they're widely accepted and utilized. We are now in five school districts and it's exciting to witness students receiving exposure to nature in learning environments. This type of exposure has been directly linked to increased academic success," said Founder and Executive Director, Mr. Ernesto Rodriguez.

In its expansion to other states and regions, Nature in the Classroom continues its commitment to using trees native or endemic to those specific areas. The Aspens featured in the photograph for the ceiling are Colorado's only indigenous, deciduous tree. According to Colorado Forest Service sources this species covers approximately five million acres or 20% of the state's forested lands. The placement intends to promote stewardship and spark creativity among the Ft. Collins students.

"Based on feedback I have received, not only are the students engaged and learning about nature, teachers are also attesting that students are much calmer under the trees and that is music to my ears," added Rodriguez.

Backed by forty years of peer-reviewed, scientific research on the positive effects of nature in academia, the aim of the tree canopy ceilings will be to raise test scores and grade point averages, increase attention spans, and lower stress levels. Further research also finds photographic images of nature share comparable impacts with improved learning outcomes by placing students in a calming environment.



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"The encouraging thing is that the word is getting out. The teachers that have reached out to me recently are versed in the science and benefits that nature exposure brings to students and are eager to bring the tree canopies into their classrooms. We intend to continue this expansion every chance we get," said Rodriguez.

To achieve the effects of being outdoors, eighteen high resolution images were printed onto 2'x4' ceiling tiles and pieced together to complete the ceiling canopy. All tiles meet existing national building and fire codes and are produced with non-toxic inks on recycled plastic.

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Nature in the Classroom, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization that seeks to enhance academic achievement, socio-emotional development, and nurture a connection to the natural environment by installing tree canopy ceiling murals in educational settings.



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