

Nancy M. Santagata

March 31, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to be considered for the Clear Creek Fire Authority Board of Directors (District 2). As a concerned citizen and resident of the unincorporated community of Downieville-Lawson-Dumont, I believe that I am uniquely qualified to serve in this role.

I am currently employed at the Gilpin County CSU Extension office. My work there is fulfilling as it combines my background in both education and scientific research and affords me the opportunity to help educate local residents on topics relevant to life in the Rocky Mountains. For example, our office recently hosted a wildfire and forest health movie matinee series in collaboration with Timberline Fire Protection District and the Clear Creek Watershed & Forest Health Partnership. The series brought together experts from several relevant agencies like the Colorado State Forest Service and the Gilpin County Sheriff's Office and stressed the importance of forest health, wildfire mitigation, and emergency preparedness. I am currently working on a small project to help local residents identify the different types of conifer trees native to the area in an effort to combat the recent mountain pine beetle infestation. This summer we are planning a fire wise social media campaign, for which I will be the primary manager and content creator.

Although I am employed outside of Clear Creek County, I have a strong personal interest in contributing to my own community by becoming active within the CCFA. This interest began shortly after moving to the area in 2021 when I participated in the York Gulch station maintenance event in October of that year. I very much enjoyed chatting with the CCFA members that were in attendance and have since considered submitting a volunteer firefighter application, but have hesitated because the physical demands required are quite frankly very intimidating to me. I have been searching for an opportunity to contribute in other capacities, and the Board of Directors position seems like the perfect fit.

On a more personal level, my husband and I live full time in Dumont. We actively work to support forest health on our property and maintain fire mitigation best practices around our home, and I frequently encourage our neighbors to do the same. Given our relatively dry winter this year (and climate change in general), as well as the current economic status of Clear Creek County, I am very eager to actively contribute to my community by serving on the Board of Directors of the CCFA.

In sum, I would be very excited to bring both my professional skills and interest in community engagement to the CCFA in an official capacity as a member of the Board of Directors. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or require further information. I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for your time.

Nancy M. Santagata

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# Nancy M. Santagata, PhD

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**2024-present Office Assistant**

**Gilpin County CSU Extension**

*Black Hawk, Colorado*

- Office assistant supporting the general mission of CSU Extension and Gilpin County. Act as the first point of contact for county residents and provide relevant research based information as appropriate. Assist with preparation for and hosting of workshops, classes, and other events. Maintain office budget as well as manage social media and internet presence.

**2021**

**Mine Tour Guide**

**Georgetown Loop Railroad**

*Georgetown, Colorado*

- Tour guide in historic silver mine. Conduct factual but engaging tours of hard rock mining operations for groups of approximately 20 guests, both adults and children. Instruct and assist with gold panning experience. Follow established safety protocols and carry out safety inspections of underground mine facilities.

**2012-2021**

**Teaching Faculty**

**The Ohio State University**

**University of Memphis**

*Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry (OSU)*

*Department of Chemistry (UofM)*

- Lead instructor for large enrollment (175+ students) lecture and laboratory courses, both in-person and remote learning. Facilitate active learning in stimulating environment while incorporating pedagogical best practices. Prepare and deliver engaging lectures, compose and administer weekly activities/quizzes via web-based learning management system, manage homework assignments via online learning platform, conduct weekly office hours, compose/administer three exams per semester, compose/administer final exams. Update existing laboratory experiments and develop new experimental protocols. Supervise teaching assistants and conduct weekly staff meetings. Participate in departmental activities, projects, and committees as assigned.

## EDUCATION

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**2009**

**PhD, Chemistry**

**North Carolina State University**

**2003**

**MS, Chemistry**

**University of California, San Diego**

**2001**

**BS, Chemistry**

**Monmouth University (NJ)**

## RELEVANT SKILLS

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*Activities:* Mill Creek Valley Historical Society (board member and Secretary), Dumont-Lawson-Downieville (DLD) Planning Project (steering committee)