

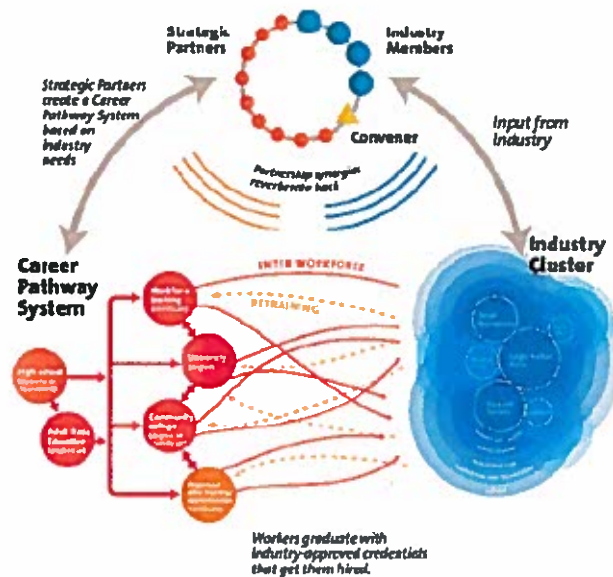
Building Industry-Driven Career Pathways Systems in Colorado

The Colorado Model: In Colorado, industry-driven career pathways ensure that education, training, and workforce systems stay deeply attuned and responsive to the needs of the labor market, preparing students and workers with the skills and credentials they need for jobs and careers.

- **What is a career pathway system?** A career pathway system aligns public partners and engages them in a continuous conversation that is led by industry to ensure that jobseekers and students move seamlessly through and among support programs, educational institutions, training opportunities, and work-based experiences to build skills and credentials that meet industry demand and prepare them for jobs and careers.

In Colorado, a sector partnership is the vehicle for building industry-driven career pathway systems, providing a forum for productive and ongoing collaboration with industry and among workforce, education, training partners, and other community partners.

Colorado's statewide career pathway system aligns career pathway programs and systems developed throughout high demand industries in each economic development region of the state.





- ***What is a Career Pathway Program?*** A career pathway program is a set of stackable credits and credentials, combined with support services, that enables students to secure industry-relevant skills, certifications, and credentials and advance to higher levels of education and employment.
- ***What are Career Pathway Tools?*** Tools or resources that help individuals involved in career pathway programs or helping them to understand various career pathway opportunities. A career pathway map is an example of a tool that maps of how occupations connect to one another and what education and training is needed to prepare students or jobseekers for occupations. Statewide career pathway maps focusing on the top industries in Colorado will be accessed on College in Colorado. Often times, tools like career pathway maps are used to talk with students and job seekers about how they can progress through education and training experiences to obtain employment that meets his or her goals.
- ***What's the difference between a career pathway system and a career pathway program?*** A career pathway program offers a clear sequence of stackable credits and credentials, combined with support services, that enables students and jobseekers to secure industry-relevant skills, certifications, and credentials and advance to higher levels of education and employment in high demand occupations.¹ A career pathway system is made up of multiple career pathway programs that span educational institutions, workforce and support service partners. These programs are all oriented around a shared understanding of the needs of industry.
- ***What are sector strategies and why do they matter for career pathway systems?*** A sector partnership is as an industry-specific regional partnership led by business in partnership with public partners in economic development, education, workforce development and community support partners. In Colorado, industry-led sector partnerships are the vehicle for aligning public partners with industries' needs in an effective, results-driven manner. They provide the "home" for career pathway systems-building, engaging industry leaders and public partners in a continuous dialogue to ensure that education and training systems respond to industry needs. Other sector strategies include industry-driven public-private partnerships that serve as effective "homes" for career pathway program and systems development.

Resources

Available at www.sectorssummit.com/toolkit :

- Colorado Sector Partnership Convener Guide: A step-by-step guide for launching sector partnerships
- Colorado Career Pathway Step by Step Guide: A step-by-step guide for building regional career pathway systems

Available at www.colorado.gov/cwdc: Colorado Talent Pipeline Report: highlighting Colorado's top growing occupations and