



Colorado Workforce
Development Council

CWDC
NEWSLETTER
SUMMER 2014

Newly Appointed State Legislator to the Colorado Workforce Development Council

The CWDC is pleased to welcome Senator Jessie Ulibarri to the Council. Senator Ulibarri represents Senate District 21 in Adams County. Among other noteworthy accomplishments, Senator Ulibarri was a primary sponsor of HB 14-1384, which created the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative. The CWDC will support the Colorado Opportunity Scholarship Initiative by acting as the convener of partners to design and implement the program. The CWDC Executive Committee will serve as the advisory board to the program, along with three higher education representatives. We look forward to working with Senator Ulibarri as a member of the Council!

CWDC is on Social Media!

As the Colorado Workforce Development Council develops a more robust presence online, you are invited to connect with us on social media under the Sectors Summit umbrella. CWDC would love to share current events, relevant discussions, and everyday happenings on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Join in the conversation!



The Northern Colorado Manufacturing Partnership participates in a panel to discuss their experience forming a sector partnership and the lessons they have learned as a result. (Left to right): John Melville, panel facilitator, Collaborative Economics; Paul Harter, Aqua-Hot Heating Systems, Inc; Dave Carlson, Moyer Machine & Tool; Jacob Castillo, Larimer County Workforce Center; Lynn Vosler, Front Range Community College; and Eric Berglund, Upstate Colorado Economic Development.

Sectors Summit II: Growing the Talent Pipeline

After months of planning, Sectors Summit II: Growing the Talent Pipeline was a wonderful success. The goals of the Summit were to 1) continue to grow and expand sector partnerships across Colorado and to 2) utilize sector partnerships as the vehicle to develop industry-driven career pathways in Colorado.

"I love the connections between employers, government agencies, and education," stated an attendee. "We share a common goal. I am enthusiastic that we will be working together side-by-side and not just headed in similar directions."

In a sentence, a sector partnership is an industry specific regional partnership led by business in partnership with economic development, education, and workforce development.

The Summit brought together over 330 people that represented a diverse group of Colorado's and the nation's leaders. The diversity in participation is an indication of the Summit's success, and the near even distribution representing statewide partners, industry representatives, education, workforce development, and economic development. The right people were at the table for a two-and-a-half day Summit designed to bring these connections together.

The Colorado Workforce Development Council is also eager to report some of the exciting outcomes from Sectors Summit II. In the Metro Denver region, a commitment was made to launch a sector partnership in the Information and Technologies industry convened by the Colorado Technology Association. In addition, Region 13 launched a Health and Wellness partnership just prior to Sectors Summit II. The Summit was able to act as an immediate check-in for feedback and vision casting for next

Colorado Workforce Development Council Launches a New Website July 15th

As part of a statewide migration to an updated platform, CWDC will be moving its website to a more user-friendly, modern space that should benefit members, stakeholders, and the citizens of Colorado. The design will be easier to navigate and there will be room for more interactive and frequently updated content. Visit and bookmark our new URL on July 15th to see the changes!

www.coworkforcecouncil.org

Have suggestions of things you'd like to see CWDC incorporate into the new site? Email Eric.Mergens@state.co.us to make a recommendation.

Reauthorization of WIA is Closer Than It Has Ever Been

Last week, the Senate passed the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA - H.R. 803), a bill to reauthorize the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), by a vote of 95-3. The vote followed a brief debate on two amendments. Both amendments failed on roll call votes.

WIOA contains several of our priorities including reaffirmation of the governors' 15 percent set-aside, common accountability metrics measuring all federal workforce programs, and preservation of gubernatorial authority over state workforce investment boards.

The bill now proceeds to the House where it is expected to be considered on the floor after the Fourth of July recess.

steps for moving the sector partnership forward. Many attendees also commented on how beneficial it was to hear specifically from the Northern Colorado Manufacturing Partnership, as well as and Yvonne Myers of Columbine Health Systems and the Northern Colorado Healthcare Partnership about their personal stories on how sector partnerships have been a success for their businesses and industries and why it has been such a critical strategy for them.

The presence of so many key influencers provided Sectors Summit II a big lift and gave the Summit a very distinct "national" feel while keeping the content all about the bottom up work in Colorado. From Lt. Governor Joseph Garcia giving the opening remarks, to having Dr. Joseph Fuller from Harvard Business School, representatives from the National Governors Association, the United States Department of Labor, as well as leaders from other states, the involvement of these leaders in this Summit shines a deserving light on the hard work that these partnerships have been undertaking over the last 18 months, and the foundation laid in previous years. Council members and local partners expressed that this will be an inspiration to them knowing that as they move forward, they are effectively viewed as national leaders in this work from which other states can learn.

Colorado Workforce Development Council In-Person Meeting

On May 19, the Colorado Workforce Development Council held an in-person meeting in Denver, which was attended by business Council members from across the state, as well as by other state and local partners.

The meeting was held in conjunction with Sectors Summit II: Growing the Talent Pipeline at the Denver Marriott Tech Center. The meeting was kicked off with a "Tackling Poverty Together" luncheon with additional community and public partners joining the Council business leaders from across the state. The key next steps of the discussion were to focus on gathering data to assist in steering the conversation, setting the proper measures that are outcome-based, and making sure to allow businesses to be at the table from the beginning of the process leading the way when it comes to education, training, and re-employment efforts. A follow-up discussion will be taking place at the July CWDC meeting in Centennial. The meeting continued with a discussion of CWDC's role in convening and supporting collaborative work with our partners, our strategic plan, and new legislation; an update on the new website coming in July; and a date change for October's in-person meeting; please note that the October meeting will be held on October 9th and 10th with a location to be announced.

[Click here to view the meeting summary](#)

Sector Partnership Coaching

A perfect way to leverage the momentum from Sectors Summit II is to take advantage of sector partnership coaching. The Colorado Workforce Development Council provides unique opportunities to assist you in taking next steps, whether those steps involve launching, growing, or sustaining your sector partnership. You can learn more [here](#).

Sector Partnership Coach: Is your region considering forming a sector partnership? Launched and ready to next steps? Or expanding an existing partnership? The Colorado Workforce Development Council is pleased to provide national subject matter expert coaches to help guide you no matter what stage your partnership is in. We will work with you to determine what coaching would be most helpful, from 1:1 calls with your core team to site visits. Contact CWDC@state.co.us to learn more and with any questions regarding technical assistance coaching.

Monthly Peer Networking Calls: On the first Monday of every month, the Colorado Workforce Development Council and Lindsey Woolsey host an hour-long peer networking call to get your questions answered and to have a great discussion about what's going on with your sector partnership. Email CWDC@state.co.us to RSVP for the calls. Here's a quick look at the remaining dates for 2014:

July 7th
August 4th
September 8th
October 6th
November 3rd
December 1st

All calls are at 1 p.m. MT and can be joined by dialing 877-820-7831; participant passcode 236121

Colorado Companies to Watch

CWDC is proud to be a Gold Sponsor of [Colorado Companies to Watch](#).



This great program celebrated its sixth year of recognizing innovative second-stage Colorado companies at a Gala. It was extra exciting as another of CWDC's board members became one of this elite group to win this incredible award. Mark Spiecker and Sharklet Technologies received this award for innovation, entrepreneurship and community service! Congratulations to Sharklet Technologies!

<http://sharklet.com>

Check out all the winners at <http://www.cobizmag.com/.../colorado-companies-to-watch-2014>

STEM Roadmap

The Colorado Workforce Development Council is partnering with the Colorado Education Initiative, the Lieutenant Governor's office, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment, the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, the Colorado Department of Education, the Gill Foundation, Colorado Technology Association, and industry leaders to elevate the STEM Roadmap. In June, a draft of the Roadmap was discussed with partners and an advisory committee of state leaders will continue to build momentum toward implementation. For those in attendance at Sectors Summit II, Angela Baber, Director of Next Generation Learning for the Colorado Education Initiative was able to "tee-up" the STEM Roadmap and how the CWDC's Education and Training Committee will be ensuring that STEM education efforts at the local level advance sector partnerships and career pathways as CWDC convenes this group of partners.

Talent Pipeline Legislation



Governor John Hickenlooper signs Senate Bill 14-205 into law as members of the Colorado Workforce Development Council, Department of Labor and Employment, and the Office of Economic Development and International Trade look on.

SB 14-205, sponsored by Senator Linda Newell and Representative Dave Young, requires the Colorado Workforce Development Council, CDE, CDHE, CDLE, and OEDIT to work collaboratively to grow relevant talent pipelines, ensure robust talent pipeline development infrastructure, leverage sector partnerships to bring the right people to the table to build effective talent development programs, and focus and align through an Annual Talent Report production. The bill was developed through a partnership between the bill sponsors and the Colorado Technology Association. Governor Hickenlooper signed the bill into law at the Sector Summit II: Growing the Talent Pipeline.



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