

## The Problem

#### **WORKFORCE IMBALANCE**

Colorado currently has two available jobs for every unemployed person in the state.

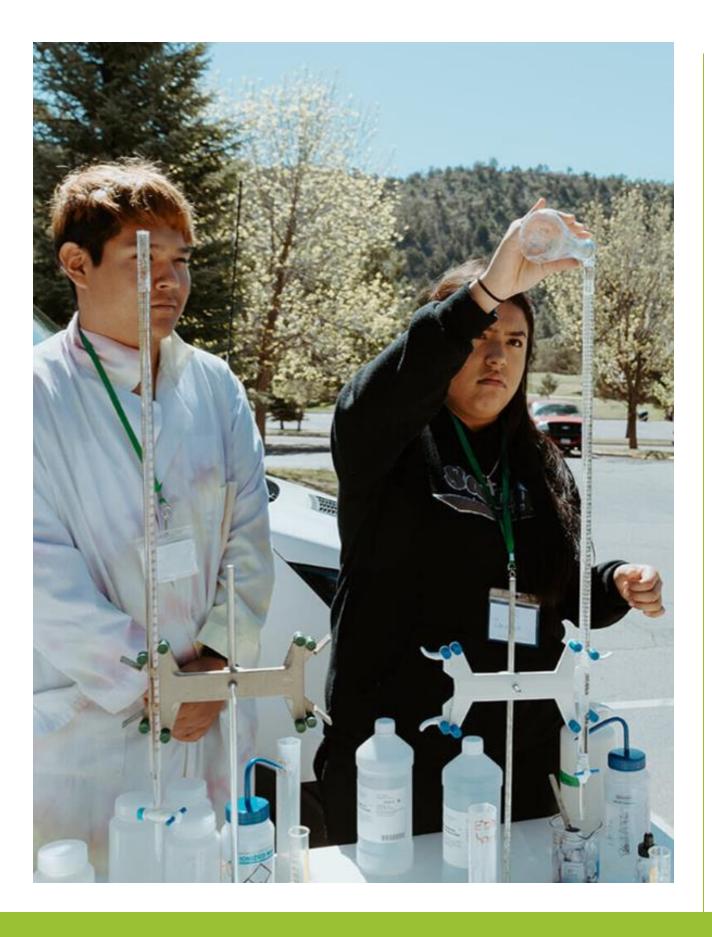
#### TRAINING REQUIRED

More than 90% of top jobs that provide a living wage require a postsecondary education or training

#### **UNDERGRADUATE DECLINE**

Colorado resident undergraduate postsecondary enrollment has declined by 8% since 2010.





## The Opportunity

#### **COURSEWORK ATTAINMENT**

Students can be completing
Career & Technical Education
(CTE) and concurrent enrollment
courses for college credit while in
high school for free

#### HIGH VALUE INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS

Students can leave high school with in-demand industry credentials leading to high-wage careers

#### ON THE JOB WORK EXPERIENCES

Students can engage in real work through internships, preapprenticeships, and apprenticeships to assess job fields for skill fit and interest A career pathway program offers a clear sequence of stackable credits and credentials, combined with support services, which enables students and job-seekers to secure industry-relevant skills, certifications, and credentials and advance to higher levels of education and employment in high-demand occupations. - CWDC



# Rural students have unlimited potential.

## Rural schools have limited resources.

- Funding: High proportion of fixed costs and low property tax base
- Talent: Limited pool to recruit, small staff size inherently limits breadth of expertise
- Course Options: Low enrollment limits potential for course and program diversity





## How to Meet the Opportunity in Rural Together

#### **Pathways Boost Local Economies**

The most effective partnerships bring together K-12, higher education, and industry to formally partner to build pipelines of qualified, young candidates to fill the most-needed jobs.



#### 2+ Public School Districts

Member school districts formally agree to host and resource pathway courses. These agreements allow students access to expand resources while remaining enrolled in their home district.



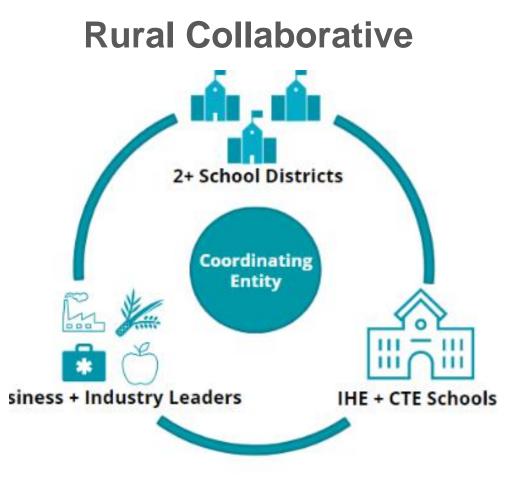
#### 1+ Institution of Higher Education

Colleges and universities provide post-secondary qualified instruction allowing students to earn certifications, college credit, and degrees, all before graduation.



#### 1+ Industry Partner per Pathway

Business leaders care about nurturing local talent. Partnering with industry leaders means on-the-job training for students who make connections with employers as they are building their skillset.



## How Rural Collaboratives can support a region



Convene regional stakeholders to set a vision and add capacity for implementation while leading policy and advocacy efforts



Bridge geographic separation to provide equitable access to courses, credentials, and concurrent enrollment opportunities to all students in a region



**Increase quality and quantity of opportunities** by expanding upon existing programs and pooling resources to create new programs



Improve talent recruitment and retention region wide through facilitating professional learning, and developing Grow Your Own initiatives that generate a steady pipeline of talent ready to address regional workforce needs



**Strengthen connections to higher education and local industry** to provide students a clear path to work- based learning, postsecondary degrees, and careers aligned to regional workforce needs



### One Example: Southwest Colorado Education Collaborative

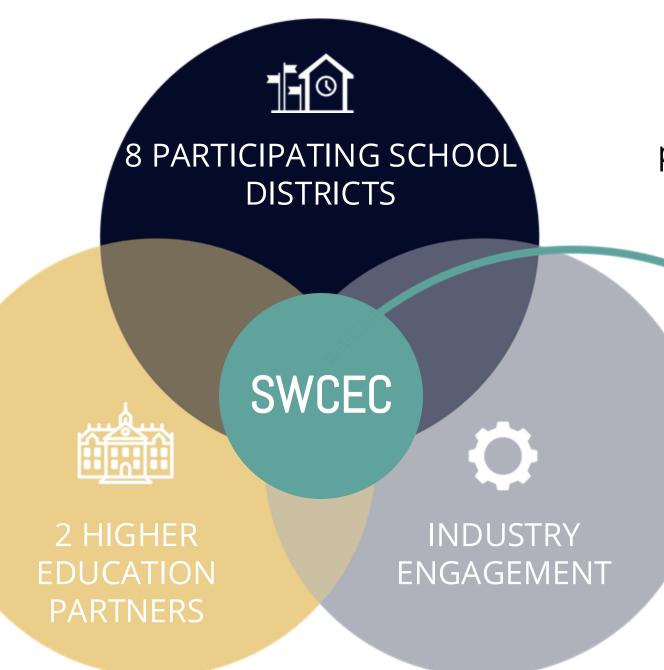
#### **CAREER PATHWAYS**

The Collaborative organizes five shared pathways:

- BUILDING TRADES
- ENVIRONMENTAL
- HEALTH SCIENCES
- EDUCATOR
- HOSPITALITY & TOURISM

#### **PATHWAY FEATURES**

Pathways feature CTE and concurrent enrollment courses, mobile learning labs, and a variety of work-based learning opportunities.



#### **FUNDING**

SWCEC was awarded multiple competitive grants, receives philanthropic funds, and districts and higher education partners financially contribute.

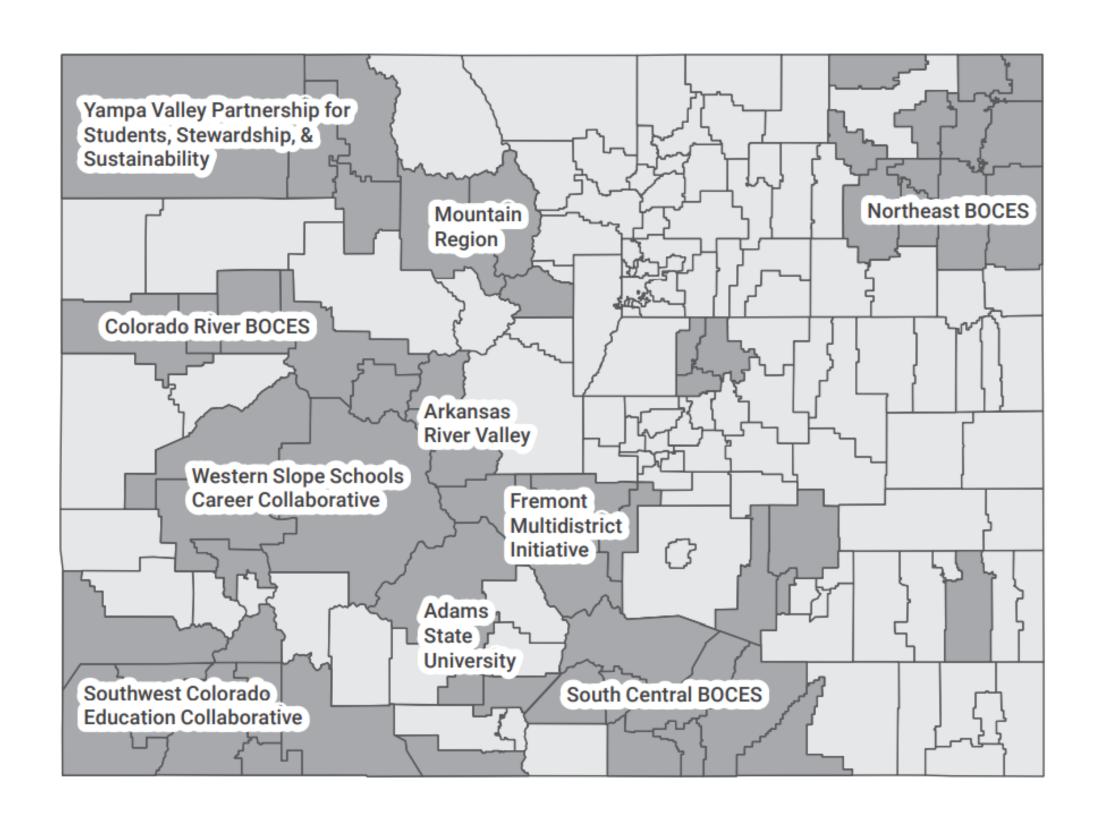
## FORMAL MOU & GOVERNANCE

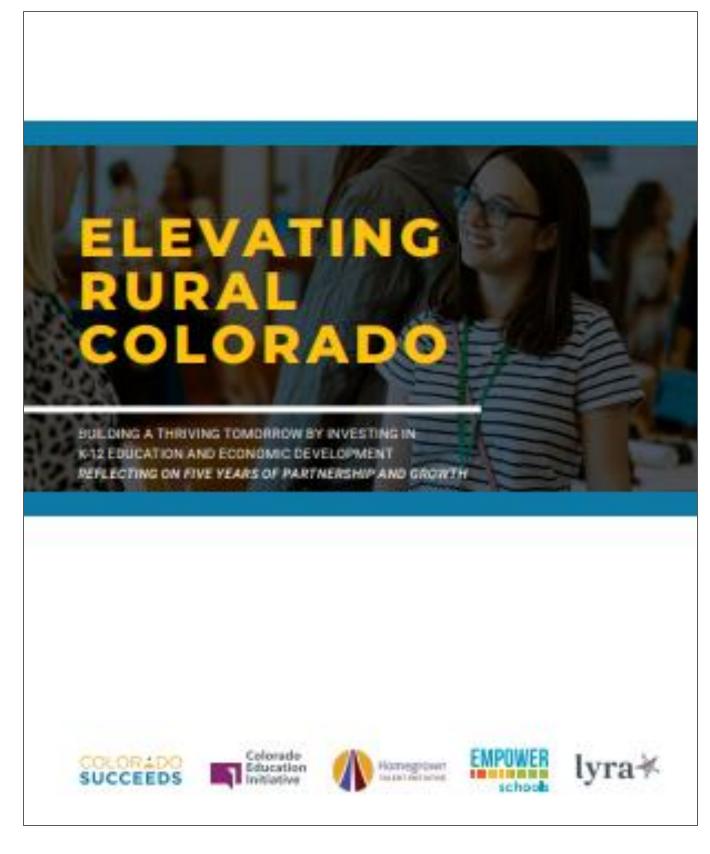
Partners have all signed a formal MOU. The centralizing nonprofit has full time employees and Board of Directors of K12, higher ed, industry, community, and tribe representatives.

#### Rural Collaboratives are not

- X An informal agreement
- Working together on a short-term initiative or one that only serves a small number of students
- X District Consolidation
- X Only for rural districts (despite the name!)
- X Copy/paste models from region to region
- X Led by an outside organization or non-local leaders

## These Partnerships are Forging All Over Colorado





## Join us in a breakout to learn more

- How these collaborations got started and their current states
- How you can get involved in a current region or start your own
- Tips for success and challenges to watch out for



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