

# PWR News – AUGUST 2024

From the Office of Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness (PWR)



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

Welcome back! We hope you all had time to enjoy our beautiful state over the summer and begin this new year rejuvenated and energized!

## FEATURED ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PWR Regional Trainings 2024-25

This school year, we will host six regional trainings around the state covering updates to Individual Career and Academic Plan (ICAP) rules and integrating Multi-Tiered Systems of Support into ICAP.

- **October 15:** Southwest Region @ Durango
- **October 30:** Northwest and West Central Regions @ Glenwood Springs
- **November 13:** Southeast Region @ Lamar
- **December 11:** North Central and Northeast Regions @ Greeley
- **January 14:** Denver Metro Region
- **February 4:** Pikes Peak Region @ Colorado Springs

Registration for each event is not yet open, but you may [sign up to receive updates and the link](#) when registration opens. NOTE: Because these trainings will be truly regional, with a focus on the issues and strengths specific to each region, we ask that attendees choose the region closest to their school or place of work.

### Welcome Alexa and Cassandra!



Alexa Enamorado is a new PWR Specialist overseeing the ILOP program. She earned her bachelor's degree in Psychology and master's in Rehabilitation Counseling, with a certificate in Career Counseling from California State University, Los Angeles. Alexa worked in higher education for over 10 years, and for the past five years has taught career counseling courses at different community colleges in California. Prior to teaching and academic counseling, she worked at University of Southern California, assisting students on academic probation, conducting intake assessments, and facilitating workshops related to strategies needed to succeed in college. She is excited for the opportunity to gain experience outside of higher education while still helping students.

Alexa has enjoyed exploring her new state since moving to Colorado in 2020 with her husband. They have two children and three dogs.



Cassandra Córdova is a PWR Specialist now overseeing the AP/IB Exam Fee Program, Concurrent Enrollment Expansion Grant, and the FAFSA/CASFA Grant. She holds a BA in Education with an emphasis in Mathematics. She is a lifelong learner and dedicated educator, relentlessly advocating for educational improvement. For over 7 years, she dedicated herself to the TRIO Upward Bound Programs at Adams State University nurturing the dreams and aspirations of the San Luis Valley Youth as they pursued and embarked on their postsecondary journeys. As an equity champion, Cassandra has experience in facilitating dialogue and professionally led workshops to drive positive change and equity in the San Luis Valley. She strives to amplify community voices and create an equitable environment for all. With her dedication, open heart, and leadership skills, she is determined to break barriers and provide support for students.

Cassandra finds solace under the beautiful Colorado sky, day or night. She is a moon gazer and tea sipper.

### **ICAP: Notice of Rulemaking**

A request for approval of the public notice for a rulemaking hearing will be on the Thursday agenda of the State Board of Education's [August 2024 meeting](#) to consider amendments to [1 CCR 301-81](#), Rules Governing Standards for Individual Career and Academic Plans (ICAP).

### **Graduation Guidelines and Digital SAT**

The department is aware that the new Digital SAT assessment may have implications for the Graduation Guidelines Menu of Options SAT cut-scores. The Student Pathways and Engagement Unit and Assessment Division are working together to determine options. At the August board meeting, there will be an informational item on ways to adjust the Graduation Guidelines SAT cut-scores with a possible vote in September. More information will be shared after discussions with the state board.

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## **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **FAFSA/CASFA GRANT**

#### **Sixth Round Open – Due Oct. 7**

[The application for this grant will re-open on September 6, 2024.](#) Local Education Providers can request funds from \$2,000 – \$30,000, ending June 30, 2025. The applications are due by October 7, 2024.

Questions? Contact [Cassandra Córdova](#)

## TEACHER RECRUITMENT EDUCATION AND PREPARATION (TREP)

### District Feedback Sessions

As TREP continues to grow, CDHE is collaborating with CDE to review and possibly update the pathway courses and other aspects of the program. If you would like to provide input on the educator pathway as a district representative, we are offering two Zoom sessions to receive feedback.

Once these and two other sessions with Educator Prep Program representatives are complete, we anticipate inviting you to another session for further analysis and discussion about next steps for changes.

[Option 1: Monday, September 16, 1-2:00pm](#)

[Option 2: Tuesday, October 1, 9-10am](#)

Questions? Contact [Erica Ryan](#)

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### OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Counselor Webinars from The Boettcher Foundation

The Boettcher Foundation is relaunching its popular Counselor Webinars this fall. These webinars aim to share best practices with high school counselors, and other school staff, as they support their college-bound students in their university and scholarship application process. The first webinar was August 21, and the next one is [Wednesday, September 18 from 12-1pm](#).

#### INROADS College Links

INROADS College Links is accepting applications from students in the Greater Denver Metro area for their career and college readiness program—completely free for students. INROADS is a college and career readiness program for underserved high school students (9th to 12th grade) interested in all aspects of academia. The program introduces students to various careers, including those in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) and Business. Students gain professional and soft skill tools, goal-setting and planning skills, and access to career immersion activities.

[Learn more about INROADS and find the application on their website](#). A [printable flyer is available here](#).

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### CONTACT US

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