

PWR News – OCTOBER 2023

From the Office of Postsecondary & Workforce Readiness (PWR)



COLORADO
Department of Education

FEATURED ANNOUNCEMENTS

PWR Regional Tours

We're hitting the road! Based on school district participation data and human-centered design community feedback reports from the [1215 Task Force](#), we learned that district participation in PWR programs is very low in rural areas of the state. Additionally, students, families, educators, and industry professionals shared that limited awareness and access of PWR programs are the top barriers to participating in these career readiness opportunities.

Join your peers from neighboring schools, districts, and community partners for a PWR Tour in your region to engage in strategic conversations about increasing your knowledge and participation in PWR programs.

- **October 24:** Southern Colorado – San Luis Valley
- **November 8:** Western Colorado – Grand Junction
- **November 28:** Northeast Colorado – Fort Morgan
- **January 23:** Southeast Colorado – La Junta
- **January 31:** Denver Metro – TBD

View the [draft agenda](#) and don't forget to [RSVP](#)!

Welcome Sami Mooney to the PWR Team!

As the Education Consultant in a shared role with the Colorado Workforce Development Council and the Colorado Department of Education, Sami works to align workforce priorities in the education system with industry demand. She supports schools in being responsive to the needs of the labor market and believes that if the next generation can start their career pathways early on, they will be ready for the future of work and experience meaningful careers in tune with their interests and strengths.

Previous to joining the CWDC/CDE, Sami worked directly with industry in the Pikes Peak region focusing on building effective talent development strategies and workforce initiatives, including work-based learning and workforce ecosystem engagement, to meet the needs of business. Sami holds a Master's degree in Organizational Leadership & Strategic Communication from CU Boulder and studied Justice & Equity and Cross Sector Leadership at Arizona State University. Sami was recently a workforce fellow with Results for America, the 2022 Colorado delegate for the Western

Governor's Association Leadership Institute, and is an alumna of the Next Generation Service Corps at ASU.

You can contact Sami at sami.mooney@state.co.us or 720-892-7118.

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

ASCENT

ASCENT Estimated Program Participants – Due Nov. 13

If your school district is planning to participate in the [ASCENT](#) program next year, please complete the 2024-25 Estimated Number of Program Participants Intent to Participate (ITP) web form by Nov. 13. Even though the ASCENT cap has been lifted, ITPs help us ensure accurate funding for the program.

Questions? Contact [Erica Ryan](#), 720-576-4288

AUTO-ENROLLMENT IN ADVANCED COURSES GRANT

Grant Application Opening Soon – Due Jan. 15

The John W. Buckner Automatic Enrollment in Advanced Courses Grant is intended to increase the number of students enrolled in advanced courses for subjects in which the student has demonstrated proficiency. Approximately \$220,000 is available to be distributed among grantees for a one-year cycle, and funds can be used for high school or middle school (grades 4-8) students. The Fact Sheet for this program is available [here](#) and FAQs are currently being developed.

The Request for Application (RFA) will be made available for reference at the end of October. Because this grant cycle will utilize CDE's new GAINS grant management system (see below), an Intent to Participate will be due January 8, 2024, and the application will be due in GAINS by January 15, 2024. These steps and timeline will also be published on the [Auto-Enrollment website](#).

Questions? Contact [Alena Barczak](#), 303-548-8427

FAFSA/CASFA GRANT

Educator Financial Aid Trainings

The Southern Region training will be held on January 17, 2024 in Trinidad. Use [the registration form](#) to join upcoming trainings and check future dates.

These trainings are designed for K-12 school counselors, advisors, educators, and any who are involved with the FAFSA/CASFA processes at their school, organization, or agency. They will be 1-day, in-person trainings that include updates and changes on the FAFSA, overview of CASFA, ICAP, the FAFSA Completion Portal, My Colorado Journey, and more. Eligible participants who complete this training will receive a \$500 stipend as part of [HB22-1366 Improving Students' Postsecondary Options](#).

Click [here](#) for more resources relating to FAFSA.

Questions? Contact mcj@dhe.state.co.us

INNOVATIVE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM

ILOP Recruitment Webinar – Oct. 31 @ 10 am

Do your students participate in work-based learning? Learn about the [Innovative Learning Opportunities Pilot \(ILOP\) Program](#) and the benefits of having this program in your school/district. This webinar will provide information on the ILOP Program, how to apply, and you will hear from current schools/districts about their ILOP programming. [Register for the ILOP Recruitment webinar here.](#)

TEACHER RECRUITMENT EDUCATION AND PREPARATION

TREP Estimated Program Participants – Due Nov. 13

If your school district is planning to participate in the [TREP](#) program next year, please complete the 2024-25 Estimated Number of Program Participants Intent to Participate (ITP) web form by Nov. 13.

Questions? Contact [Erica Ryan](#), 720-576-4288

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

CDE's New Grant Management System

This fall, CDE is launching the Grants Administration, Implementation, and Navigation System (GAINS), which will streamline the Department's multiple application systems and processes into a single location and system!

September's recorded trainings and other resources can be found on the [GAINS website](#).

Grant Writing Workshops

CDE is hosting Fall Grant Writing Trainings across the state to help you submit strong applications to CDE grants. Remaining trainings include:

- November 14: Edwards, CO
- November 16: Loveland, CO
- December 14: Monument, CO

Whether your school, district, or BOCES has a designated grant writer or not, [register here](#) to take advantage of these free trainings!

CONTACT US

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