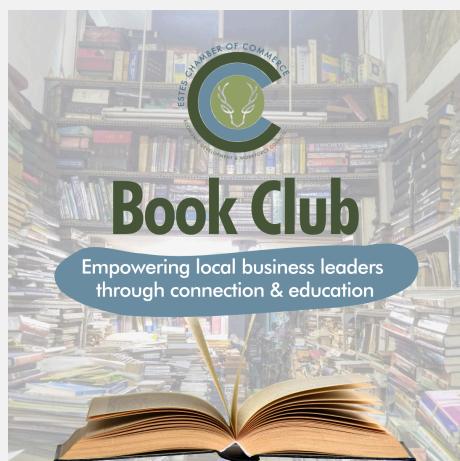




Economic Development & Workforce Council Newsletter

2025| July

Our Top Story EDWC & Chamber Invite You to Book Club *The Infinite Game* by Simon Sinek



"We received great feedback from our participants last quarter and we are hoping for more folks to join us – whether or not they are Chamber members," said Chamber President Colleen DePasquale. "We can all learn from the experiences of others and share our own trials and successes to help Estes Valley businesses thrive," she added.

This quarter, the Chamber and EDWC will read *The Infinite Game* by Simon Sinek, a highly praised view of long-term business thinking.

Two book club meetings will be held to discuss: Coffee + Books at Inwell + Brew on August 14th from 8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Books + Brews at Lumpy Ridge Publick House on August 20th from 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Grab your copy of *The Infinite Game* and get ready to learn and grow! Future book selections for 2025 book club events will include *Dare to Lead* by Brene' Brown, and *Essentialism* by Greg McKeown.

[Pre-Order from MacDonald Book Shop](#)

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar!
6th Annual Chamber Cup
Friday, August 8th



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sponsorships are still available!

Dust off your golf clubs and pull on your shoes to join us on August 8, 2025 at the 18 Hole Course for our 6th annual Chamber Cup Golf Tournament sponsored by Derek Vinge, Edward Jones!

This year we are moving to a morning shotgun at 8:00 a.m.!

Bring your appetite, Mother's Cafe will be preparing our meals for the big day!

Registration begins at 7:15 a.m.
Putting Contest at 7:40 a.m.
Shot Gun Start at 8:00 a.m.
Lunch & Awards from 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.

[Become a sponsor](#)

[Sign-up your team](#)

Larimer County & Northern Colorado Latest



Tapping into AI for Small Business
Wednesday, Jul 16, 2025
9:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Grab a cup of coffee and join us for an energizing morning session that will spark ideas and set the stage for how AI can work for your small business. Whether you're brand new to the concept or just testing the waters, this foundational class is the perfect place to start your AI journey.

Led by the knowledgeable and engaging Hope Hartman, this hands-on session will break down the buzz



Construction Scholarships - Energy Efficiency, High Performance Buildings and Zero Energy Building

The City of Fort Collins is now offering scholarships to further educate and expand local industry workforce on energy efficiency, high performance building, and zero energy building. Scholarships are also available to encourage entry into the building

around AI and show you practical ways it can lighten your load, boost efficiency, and help you work smarter—not harder.

What we'll cover:

- Are you AI-ready? Let's find out!
- Smart things to consider before diving in
- The limits of AI: what it can't do (yes, it's good to know!)
- Where AI could support your daily operations
- A live use-case demonstration of AI in action
- Actionable takeaways: AI Tool Matrix + Readiness Checklist
- Open Q&A to answer your burning questions

[Learn More & Register](#)

industry workforce, with an emphasis on building energy efficiency and electrification technology.

Individuals can apply for up to \$1200. Businesses and organizations can get up to \$2,500 annually.

Si necesita que la solicitud de beca de construcción se traduzca al español, envíe un correo electrónico a e indique en su mensaje «Please translate application in Spanish».

[Email for application details](#)

Colorado State Updates



Startup Essentials
Wednesday, Aug 13
2:00 PM to 5:00 PM
Boulder Office

Attorney Theresa Pickner walks you through the nuts and bolts of starting your own business, including legal entity selection, taxes (sales, use, and payroll), liability protection, registering your trade name, and more. This workshop will help save time and stress by helping you determine which agencies to contact along with the forms you will need, and by providing the information necessary to make key decisions before completing your paperwork.



EnGen Virtual Career-Aligned English as a Second Language Program

Who we are: EnGen delivers personalized, career-aligned, mobile-first English learning solution that connects working adults with English skills and job skills simultaneously.

EnGen offers **170+ on-demand English courses** with support in 70+ languages, 1:1 coaching, and live group classes, in high-demand sectors including healthcare, manufacturing, green energy, technology, HVAC, construction, and more.

How we work: EnGen has a proven methodology to advance learners'

[Learn More](#)



Colorado Clearance Ready Credential Course

Expand and diversify your talent pool by connecting with job seekers who understand the clearance process and are ready to step into high-demand positions.

The Security Clearance Ready Course, vetted and recognized by Colorado industry leaders, utilizes security-cleared experts to deliver valuable insights into clearance-required careers, optimize the application process, and effectively prepare candidates to navigate clearance requirements, significantly enhancing their competitiveness in the job market.

Employer Benefits

- Access a more prepared and diverse candidate pool Reduce hiring delays with candidates prepared to avoid common errors in the clearance processing
- Ensure candidates understand common security clearance requirements upfront
- Encourage potential hires to complete this free, online, self-paced training, and make your hiring process smoother.

Learn more and help expand your talent pool by sharing the course link or QR code today!

English proficiency and job skills simultaneously, and has been proven to improve employee retention and recruitment.

[Learn More & Apply](#)



Colorado Workforce Development Council

Colorado Employment Situation - May 2025 Report

According to the survey of households, the number of unemployed individuals decreased by 100 to 158,700 from April to May. Colorado's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate remained unchanged over the same time period at 4.8 percent. The national unemployment rate remained unchanged at 4.2 percent from April to May.

[Visit our Website](#)

Important Changes to My Colorado Journey

Beginning July 1, 2025, My Colorado Journey (MCJ) is evolving to focus on its most-used features:

Careers in Colorado and the Program Finder tool. All customer and professional accounts, along with the resume tool and assessments, will sunset at 11:59 p.m. MST on June 30, 2025.

The next iteration of MCJ will launch July 1, 2025, featuring open access to the Program Finder Tool, which includes the Eligible Training Providers List, without the need for an account, user registration, or login credentials.

Amplify your reach and showcase your commitment to developing security-cleared professionals by promoting it on your business's social media channels, website, or through impactful handouts – opening doors to new opportunities and attracting qualified candidates!

[Learn More](#)

Additionally, a brand-new Creative Industries pathway and an updated Financial Services pathway will be added to reflect the latest industry trends, required skills, and potential career trajectories.

[Learn More About These Changes](#)



Driving Public Sector Article Heading

Under the leadership of Governor Polis, Colorado is leading a transformation in talent management, shifting toward a more skills-focused approach that prioritizes a candidate's skills, competencies, and relevant work experience over traditional qualifications like degrees or job titles. In a recent joint meeting between the National Governors Association's (NGA) Skills in the States Community of Practice and Opportunity at Work's Transformers in the Public Sector cohort, Colorado and Arizona shared their innovative strategies for implementing skills-based hiring practices.

EDWC Council Members

Christina Kraft, Bank of Colorado, Market President Estes Park, EDWC Chair

Diane Muno, White Orchid, Owner, EDWC Secretary

Bill Brown, Estes Park Town Trustee

Jason Damweber, Estes Park, Deputy Town Administrator

Adam Crowe, Larimer County, Economic Development Manager

Rebecca D. Gelsinger, Visit Estes Park, Director of Operations

Nick Smith, Lumpy Ridge Brewing, Owner

Ingrid Bush, The Barrel, Owner



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