



Economic Development & Workforce Council Newsletter

2025| September

Our Top Story: Book Club Selects "Dare to Lead" for Fall Reading



This fall, we're diving into Brené Brown's *Dare to Lead* — a powerful exploration of what it really means to lead with courage, connection, and heart.

Brown challenges us to rethink leadership not as titles or power, but as the ability to **step up, be brave, and foster trust**. Through stories, research, and practical tools, she shows how vulnerability is not a weakness, but the path to stronger teams, deeper relationships, and lasting impact.

If you've ever wondered how to lead with authenticity (at work, in your community, or even at home), this book offers inspiration and actionable steps. Come ready to reflect, share, and maybe even get a little uncomfortable — because that's where growth begins.

'Un' Book Club Discussion Sessions: Don't worry if you haven't read the book - a summary will be provided and the discussion is more about topics than the book itself...it's an 'Un' Book Club!

Discussion sessions will be:

Coffee & Books at InkWell & Brew: November 13th from 8:30am -10:00am

Books & Brews at RockCut Brewery: November 19th from 5:30pm - 7:00pm

Upcoming Events



[Apply Now](#)

Applications Open: BASE 2.0

BASE 2.0 is a locally-driven business accelerator program produced by the Estes Chamber of Commerce and its Economic Development & Workforce Council. The program is focused on helping Estes Park entrepreneurs build stronger, more sustainable businesses.

BASE 2.0 is a 10-session commitment. Each session begins with a morning Community Coffee Roundtable followed by a strategic working period and guest presentations. The afternoon portion of each session includes working time to build Operating Plan components, work through issues, run thought experiments as a group, and discuss best practices and learnings.

Larimer County & Northern Colorado Latest



Tickets on sale for the 2025 Workforce Symposium

Information provided by: Larimer County Economic and Workforce Development & Employment Services of Weld County

Date: September 30, 2025

Time: 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Location: The Ranch Events Center in Loveland

Cost: \$49

The 2025 Workforce Symposium promises to be a transformative experience, providing valuable insights and strategic perspectives that will help you navigate the evolving business landscape. By attending, you can expect interactive panel discussions, networking opportunities, and access to cutting-edge resources.



Registered Apprenticeship Program (RAP) 101 Info Session

Is your business looking for a way to build a skilled workforce?

Join us for Registered Apprenticeship 101 - a monthly info session designed to help businesses explore the benefits of Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) and the steps to get started.

What you'll learn:

The benefits of apprenticeship for businesses

- How to determine if a RAP is right for your organization
- Steps to develop or connect to a RAP
- Resources available to support your success

Apprenticeships are workforce development tools, used across industries including manufacturing, healthcare, skilled trades, business, and more. They're flexible, proven, and built for today's workforce needs.

The Colorado Apprenticeship Hub works in partnership with the Colorado

Get your tickets

Workforce System and The State Apprenticeship Agency to support the development and implementation of registered apprenticeships across the state, at no cost!

Register for a Session (2nd Tuesday of the month)



Perception Survey: What makes NoCo, Northern Colorado?

As part of a research-driven initiative led by **NoCo REDI**, we're gathering insights about life and work from people across the Northern Colorado region. Your feedback will inform the development of a people-powered regional brand and support efforts to attract companies and create jobs, retain talent, fill critical roles, and make the case for why Northern Colorado is a great place to build a career, a business, and a life.

Set aside a few thoughtful minutes to share your perspective. Your responses are completely anonymous. So grab a cup of coffee, sit back, relax and tell us what makes us...us.

Take the survey



Last Chance: FREE Hospitality Leadership Training

Enrollment is now open for the final cohort of the Career Advancement Program! This online certified course is specifically designed to equip our local workforce with the skills, knowledge, and experience needed to excel in the local hospitality industry. Created by local industry leaders the content focuses on leadership expectations for career advancement in retail, restaurants and hotel job opportunities right here in Northern Colorado.

Program is valued at \$300 per participant and is FREE to enroll! Space and scholarship opportunities are limited.

Program will be available for Spanish speaking learners as well.

Register Today

Colorado State Updates



COLORADO
Department of
Labor and Employment

Colorado Occupational Employment
& Wages for 2024 Released



COLORADO
Secure
Savings

Critical Deadline Approaching:

Information provided by: Colorado
Department of Labor & Employment

Did you know that the average hourly wage in Colorado is \$36.33, which is 11% higher than the national average? The Fort Collins-Loveland metropolitan area's average hourly wage in May 2023 was \$32.18, slightly higher than the national average of \$31.48.

This comprehensive report, a collaboration between the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment and the Bureau of Labor Statistics, breaks down wages and employment for over 800 occupations across the state and its subregions.

Dive into the details, from the highest-earning professions to a spotlight on construction and extraction jobs.

Check out the latest insights on Colorado's job market with the new 2024 Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics report



Colorado First and Existing Industry Job Training Grants

Colorado companies can apply for the **Skill Advance Colorado First and Existing Industry Job Training Grants**. These grants can provide up to \$3,800 per learner for workforce training for both new hires and current employees.

Jointly administered by the Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade and the Colorado Community College System, these grants support workforce training for both new hires and current employees.

Businesses interested in applying for funding work directly with a local college representative, who assists with eligibility determination, training needs assessment, and grant application development. Training topics are customized to the individual business needs. Areas may include

Colorado Secure Savings

State law requires that any Colorado business in operation for two or more years with five or more employees to offer a retirement savings plan. The Colorado Department of the Treasury has been conducting outreach to educate businesses ahead of enforcement, which may result in fines next year.

To avoid these penalties and empower employees with a path to a secure financial future, businesses must either register for the no-cost [Colorado SecureSavings Program](#) or certify that they offer another qualified retirement plan.

Get the FAQs



Colorado State University Business Training Programs

Venture Validator 1.0 – October 23

The Venture Validator is the starting blocks for your entrepreneurial venture. This cohort-based program takes you through all the steps to get your venture off the ground and figure out if there's a real opportunity there. The Validator is a 2-week 4 session program where you will:

- Understand who your customer is and what drives their decision making.
- Clarify your value proposition and know exactly what problem you're solving and how.
- Build out the first half of your Business Model Canvas, identifying all the components needed to have a sustainable business.

continuous improvement and quality, essential skills, leadership and management, manufacturing and computer/business skills.

[Learn More](#)



Upskill your Career with Continuing Education

Get ahead in your career with a high-quality, continuing education class taught by experts with flexible schedules to fit your busy life.

- **Introduction to 3D Concrete Printing** | Self-paced, start dates vary | Online
- **QMAP Certification** | Hybrid, start dates vary | Greeley and online

[Learn More](#)

- Learn from successful entrepreneurs and mentors as they guide you on your journey.

Venture Validator 2.0 – November 13

The Venture Validator 2.0 is a continuation of your customer discovery journey from the Venture Validator 1.0. This cohort-based explored the second half of the BMC to dive deep on if there's a real opportunity to turn your idea into a business. The Validator 2.0 is a 2-week 4 session program where you will:

- Develop your competitive landscape and see how you differentiate.
- Explore your supply chain and prospective partnerships.
- Build out the second half of your Business Model Canvas, identifying all the components needed to run a sustainable business.
- Learn how to build your Minimum Viable Product/Prototype.
- Learn from successful entrepreneurs and mentors as they guide you on your journey.

[Learn More](#)

EDWC Council Members

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

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



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