

# COLORADO SUCCEEDS

Great Schools are Good Business



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# 2016

IMPACT REPORT

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## DEAR SUPPORTERS AND ADVOCATES

“Gentle pressure, relentlessly applied.”

Al Timothy, one of Colorado Succeeds’ founding board members coined this phrase early in our organization’s history. These four simple words have proven an apt description of the business and civic leaders in our coalition and a profound mantra for our approach to improving Colorado’s schools. Oftentimes described as much more relentless than gentle, we close 2016 celebrating ten years of significant impact.

As we reflect together and look at what lies ahead, we can’t help but be optimistic. The size and influence of our coalition has never been stronger. In the past year, we’ve **led initiatives** to create innovative workforce readiness solutions, **shaped public policies** to increase access to high-quality public charter schools, and we have **engaged business** in improving the relevance and value of education. Our momentum is at an all-time high and every day we continue to strengthen an already powerful network of business leaders from across Colorado invested in clearing a path for student success.

As we gathered across the state with our members - and even across the country, in our nation’s capital - we continue to realize the power and impact the business community can have on improving educational outcomes for all students. As a member of our delegation to Washington, D.C. shared at the end of our trip,

“Education drives our state’s economic engine. Business plays an important role and Colorado Succeeds is the tip of the spear in advocating for effective policies and reform.”

We could not do this work without you. We know you share our belief that Colorado is the best place to live and work and we want it to stay that way. We are humbled and honored to partner with you and we remain committed to relentlessly advancing opportunities for students to realize their greatest potential and, in turn, fully meet the talent needs of Colorado’s highly-skilled economy and your workforce.

With extreme gratitude,



**Scott Laband**  
President



**Brent Abraham**  
Co-Chairman



**Bruce Hoyt**  
Co-Chairman



**Scott Laband**  
*President*



**Brent Abraham**  
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# STATEWIDE COALITION BUILDING



Colorado Succeeds led a delegation of chamber and industry association leaders - representing **all 64 counties** of Colorado - to Washington D.C., in September 2016 to meet with elected officials, diplomats, and national experts on key education issues and opportunities during an intense three-day trip.

The highlight of the delegation's trip was a breakfast discussion at the Swiss Embassy, hosted by Ambassador Martin Dahinden, where our delegates learned from American businesses and community colleges who are partnering to expand apprenticeships.



## OP-EDS

### Common Tests Help with Many Aspects of Our Children's Education

Cathy Shull, Progressive 15 and Terry Jones, Ft. Morgan educator



### The American Dream Remains Within Reach — in Switzerland

Colorado Succeeds



*I have found Colorado Succeeds to be the most balanced organization and the most interested in preparing our youth for the world.*

Cathy Shull  
Progressive 15

“

*I learned so much on this trip & I have a renewed energy and excitement for change in our K-12 system.*

**Kristi Pollard**

Grand Junction Economic Partnership



The statewide network meets at the White House with representatives from the White House Business Council and the President's education policy advisors.



The group met with 18 national experts to discuss the intersection of education, leadership, and business. They visited the U.S. Capitol to meet with both Colorado's U.S. Senators, Cory Gardner and Michael Bennet, and participated in a robust national partners discussion with leaders from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and education advocacy groups.

For 10 years, we have led initiatives, engaged business, and shaped public policy to clear a path for student success.



### LEAD INITIATIVES

Convene leaders from business, education, and government to establish a statewide agenda for improving outcomes



### ENGAGE BUSINESS

Connect employers and educators to increase the relevance and the alignment of education for future workforce needs



### SHAPE PUBLIC POLICY

Clear away obstacles, create space for innovation, and scale successful practices statewide



Work with business and education leaders to **create rigorous high school graduation guidelines** that establish multiple pathways for students to demonstrate their skills and competencies.

Launch **Colorado School Grades**, an online resource that provides millions of Coloradans with easy-to-understand information about school performance.



Publish *Proving the Possible*, shedding light on **Colorado's early literacy crisis and identifying solutions** to support struggling readers.

Host the *Learn to Read, Read to Learn* Conference to develop **bold strategies for innovative early literacy policy**.

Champion **groundbreaking teacher and school leader legislation** empowering principals to choose who works in their schools, creating annual teacher evaluations based on student progress, and ending lifetime job guarantees.

2011

**Local CEO's found Colorado Succeeds** to ensure all of Colorado's children are educated to their greatest potential, and all of Colorado's businesses have the talented and innovative homegrown workforce they need to thrive.

Publish *Engineering the Future*, a seminal report on Career and Technical Education that laid the groundwork for **greater skills-based learning in Colorado**.



2010

2006

2007

2008



Our work for Colorado's students continues.

Represent the business community on the committee tasked with developing Colorado's state plan for implementing the **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**.

Establish financial rewards for schools that support students in successfully pursuing **industry credentials, work-based learning, and AP Computer Science**.



Launch the **Readiness Report**, an interactive dashboard that monitors Colorado's progress on 12 key metrics for student success.

Create a **nation-leading financial transparency system** and increase funding for public charter schools through the Student Success Act.


**Significantly decrease student testing time** by 34%, while maintaining accurate school and district performance measures.

Bring the **P-TECH school model** to Colorado, strengthening the connection between high school, post-secondary education, and the workforce.


2014

2015

2013



**Publish *The Business Case for Ed Reform***, illustrating how our education system impacts our workforce and economy, and making the case for continuous improvement.



Develop one of the **nation's leading early literacy policies**, the READ Act, to identify struggling readers and provide personalized literacy supports.

2012

**Create BizCARES**, a statewide network of chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, business roundtables, and industry associations rallying over 500,000 employees in all 64 counties of Colorado.

Support state leaders in developing one of the **nation's most-admired school and district accountability frameworks**.

Promote **Colorado's Achievement Plan for Kids (CAP4K)** to establish a statewide system of academic expectations and aligned assessments.

Advocate for the **Innovation Schools Act**, providing successful schools and districts with greater autonomy to incorporate innovation into their educational approach.

2009

## ENGAGING BUSINESS

Throughout the year Colorado Succeeds held quarterly meetings with over 60 Board of Advisors for deeper dives into key issues. Colorado Succeeds also hosted regular member-only events in which over 400 business leaders gathered together. Opportunities like these expand our members' understanding of how the business community can support innovative policies and successful schools throughout the state.



## BRINGING CHANGE TO SCHOOLS

Colorado Succeeds hosted more than 250 business leaders, education experts, and policymakers for the Great Schools Are Good Business luncheon in January 2016. Attendees heard from expert change agents from both business and education on making meaningful systems improvements.



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*Colorado Succeeds provides a collaborative leadership role that encourages involvement from each area and provides a voice for businesses to give input on what the workforce must look like to address employers' 21st century needs.*

**Roberta Robinette**  
AT&T



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*Colorado Succeeds brings the voice of industry to the table. That's powerful, especially as we work together to recruit businesses to partner with schools and colleges.*

**Ray Johnson**  
IBM



“

*To see Colorado Succeeds work with the school district, students, and employers to help students build their resumes before they even get out of high school is just amazing.*

**Demesha Hill**  
Janus



A packed house gathered at the Governor's Mansion in May 2016 to hear the inside baseball at the Capitol in our annual Legislative Recap with frank analysis of the legislative session's high and low points from the education perspective.

## OP-EDS

### A Commonsense Way to Improve Colorado's Talent Pool

Nancy Wollen, Kaiser Permanente & Maja Rosenquist, Mortenson Construction



### Education Needs CEO Activism

Colorado Succeeds, featuring Zack Neumeyer, Sage Hospitality



### How Entrepreneurs Can Help Teach the First Kid to Land on Mars

Colorado Succeeds, featuring Dave Gingerich, Lockheed Martin



### How to Improve Education: Get a Better Return on Investment

Colorado Succeeds, featuring Greg Moore, former Denver Post Editor



# SHAPING PUBLIC POLICY

In 2016, Colorado Succeeds promoted and passed policies that:



Reward schools with an additional \$2 million in funding when students earn in-demand workplace skills and credentials.



Respect a principal's right to choose the staff and team that work in their building.



Made Colorado one of the best places to operate a high-performing charter school.



Ensure all Colorado students have the benefit of high expectations and all schools are accountable to those outcomes.



Chalkbeat

JULY 21, 2016

## Meet the 20 People Who Will Help Reshape Colorado's Education Policies

Luke Ragland of Colorado Succeeds appointed to State HUB committee



### OP-EDS

#### Charter School Funding: The New Discrimination

Colorado Succeeds



#### Colorado Must Address its Tech Talent Gap

Colorado Succeeds

THE DENVER POST

#### Testing Reflects School Performance

Colorado Succeeds

The Gazette





### SHARK TANK

Colorado Succeeds received \$100,000 - double what it asked for - from the national education conference EdVenture's Shark Tank. Three sharks (funders) will provide funding to support technical assistance and communications efforts that help maximize the impact of HB-1289: The Incentives for Industry Credentials bill, which became law in May 2016.



*Colorado Succeeds plays an important role in how we shape policies, making sure the business community has a strong voice in how we better prepare our students for 21st century jobs.*

Majority Leader **Crisanta Duran (D)**



*For Colorado to move forward, we need leaders who are focused on achieving progress toward our goals. Colorado Succeeds' business leaders invest in understanding the issues and approach problems with a pragmatic view. That is how we can get things done.*

Colorado Senator **Owen Hill (R)**



### READINESS REPORT LAUNCH

Colorado Succeeds launched the Colorado Readiness Report, an interactive online dashboard focused on the education metrics that matter most. The Readiness Report dashboard cuts through the clutter to focus on the 12 most important predictors of student success.

We, the members of Colorado Succeeds, join forces to ensure our education system works better and smarter for all people of Colorado. We assist in identifying key education priorities for Colorado and provide the necessary, consistent business leadership to advocate for positive change and continuous improvement. We know that when Colorado's schools improve, everybody wins.

