

Aligning...

School -to-Career & Service Learning

Colorado Service Learning: Learn and Serve Colorado



Service Learning is an educational strategy. Students (K-16) learn from serving in their schools and communities by performing needed tasks in a volunteer capacity. When service is integrated into the school curriculum, it enables educators to tie classroom instruction to real-life hands-on experiences. Service Learning engages young people in addressing significant unmet needs in their school and community. Through participation in community service activities, students learn by doing and have the opportunity to give back to the community.

COLORADO

School-to-Career Partnership
Connecting Communities, Classrooms & Careers



Colorado School -To-Career
Partnership: *Connecting Communities,
Classrooms & Careers*

This statewide effort assists local schools and communities in developing a K-16 learning system which promotes attainment of high academic standards, career development and workforce preparation for every student. Academic, career development and occupational education are integrated in classrooms and worksite experiences, and align with academic content standards and assessment.

School -To-Career and Service Learning:

Service Learning and School-to-Career are forms of experiential education that extend student learning into the community and the worksite. Both provide students with contextual learning opportunities showing the importance of academic instruction. Through Service Learning and School-to-Career, students of all ages engage in learning experiences that help develop skills needed to reach high academic standards in the workplace and for responsible citizenship.

Benefits of Connecting School-to-Career and Service Learning

Reaching High Standards:

Service Learning and School-to-Career support the belief that young people learn best when they are active participants in the learning process. Through hands-on experiences in the classroom and community, students will apply the academics they learn in school. This will support all students in reaching high standards and enhance accountability to the community.

School and Community Support:

Integrating Service Learning with School-to-Career can help increase support from schools, educators, and communities. As young people participate in and design service activities that directly benefit the community, society recognizes the value of Service Learning. In addition, as teachers, school administrators, and other educators witness young people developing substantive classroom and workforce preparation skills through community service, they too may be more willing to offer increased support to these efforts.

Youth Leadership:

Service Learning and School-to-Career activities provide a vehicle for younger students to obtain and demonstrate leadership skills. These experiences encourage young people to research community and career issues and act as resources to solve local problems. Although younger students may not be ready for structured work experiences, they can become involved in activities to clean up their neighborhoods, tutor elementary school students, volunteer

in community organizations, or participate in any of a variety of service projects linked to classroom learning, positive youth development and career awareness.

Career Development:

In conjunction with community experiences, students participating in Service Learning activities have the opportunity to explore a variety of careers that are available in the area of human service. Through these opportunities students will expand their career options and choices for the future.

Working with Diverse Populations:

Incorporating a Service Learning component into a School-to-Career system allows young people to experience working with a wide variety of individuals with different backgrounds and experiences. School-to-Career partnerships and community service projects involve diverse groups of participants. Often, young people work side by side with adults, reinforcing the view that youth are important members of the community.

Improved Citizenship:

Service Learning further highlights to School-to-Career participants their importance to society. Students discover ways in which they impact others and their community. As a result, youth can become better citizens and more active members of their community. Showing young people that they make a difference in the lives of others increases their sense of responsibility in school, on the job, at home, and in the community.

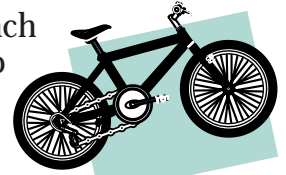
School-to-Career and Service Learning Attributes

- Integrated Curriculum
- All Students, Ages and Grades
- Contextual / Applied Learning Projects
- Life and Work-Based Skills
- Academic Skills
- Career Development
- Work/Service Linked to Academics
- Life-Long Academics
- Life-Long Learning
- Career Paths



Strategies that Incorporate School-to-Career and Service Learning

- Students run a school store including purchasing, pricing and selling. Each semester donate a percentage of the profits to a charity.
- Students organize a school clean-up project and explore community agencies and businesses that work in this area.
- Students complete a self evaluation after each community or career experience to identify interests and strengths.
- Community members come into the classroom and talk about their occupation, the skills needed within that field, and the community service efforts of their company.
- Elementary students setting up a recycling program, educational materials, and a newsletter on community issues, ideas and solutions.
- College students provide one-on-one tutoring and companionship to youth in high risk situations and assist in identifying careers in human services and education.
- Students participate in tree mapping and identification with the Parks Service and explore careers.
- Students prepare meals for older citizens and study the career options in nutrition and gerontology.
- Construction course tied to Habitat for Humanity where students learn specific trade skills and techniques while building homes for low income citizens.
- Students prepare presentations and provide information on the value of work-based learning in community service organizations.
- Work with a local newspaper or other publication on human interest articles to learn technical editing and explore careers in this area.
- High school students teach younger students how to repair and maintain their bicycles resulting in a computerized personal bicycle repair book.
- Students select a career of interest. Interview a person in this field to determine the types of reading materials that are used and the type of community service that the company is involved in. Gather different types of materials from a variety of occupations and use in classroom activities.
- Students learn how science principles are used in the area of health through partnering with a hospital or medical lab. Classroom activities may involve learning CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver. Include volunteer work and/or job shadowing opportunities.
- Use the concept of independent living to structure the grading system for a classroom. Points for assignments are given in dollars. Each student must keep a checkbook and pay rent (desk space), transportation, food etc. Research existing supports for persons unable to pay their bills.
- Work with a community organization to develop an end-of-the-year report regarding profit/loss and make recommendations on improving the organizational efficiency. Develop and present a comprehensive report to the board of directors of the company.
- Students interview their parents or a relative about how their profession is impacted by social, political and cultural changes.
- Students learn and operationalize a conflict resolution process and apply this to issues at home, school, work and in the community (extended examples could include teen court, peer counselors etc.).



Information

School-To-Career Resource Centers:

These regional resource centers represent 65 School-To-Career Partnerships across Colorado including 70% of school districts with the capacity to reach 90% of all students.

Region 1 – Northern Colorado

Connie Long

Aims Community College
Corporate Education Center
5590 11th Street

Greeley, CO 80634
(970) 330-8008 x740
Fax: (970) 339-6564

(Counties: Larimer,
Weld, Morgan, Logan,
Sedgwick, Phillips,
Washington, Yuma, Elbert,
Lincoln, Kit Carson, and Cheyenne)



Region 2 – Denver/Metro

Alice Potter

Public Education and Business Coalition
1410 Grant Street, Suite A-101
Denver, CO 80203

(303) 861-8661 Fax: (303) 861-1501
(Counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder,
Gilpin, Clear Creek, Jefferson, Denver,
Douglas)

Region 3 – Central Colorado

Ed Bowen

Pikes Peak Community College
5675 South Academy Boulevard, Box 38
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
(719) 540-7357

Fax: (719) 540-7059
(Counties: Park, Chaffee, Teller,
El Paso, Fremont, Custer, Pueblo)

Region 4 – Southern Colorado

Julie Sumpter

Otero Junior College
1802 Colorado Avenue
La Junta, CO 81050
(719) 384-6835

Fax: (719) 384-6836
(Counties: Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, Bent,
Prowers, Baca, Las Animas, Huerfano,
Costilla, Alamosa, Conejos, Rio Grande,
Mineral, Saguache)

Region 5 – Southwestern Colorado

Barbara Milicevic

Pueblo Community College
Southwest Center
60 South Cactus Drive, Suite 1
Cortez, CO 81321

(719) 565-7536
Fax: (719) 565-7499
(Counties: Delta, Gunnison, Montrose,
Ouray, San Miguel, Dolores, San Juan,
Hinsdale, Montezuma, La Plata,
Archuleta)

Region 6 – Western Colorado

Darla Bennett

STC Resource Center
504 27th Street
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601
(970) 947-0851

Fax: (970) 947-0862
(Counties: Moffat, Routt, Jackson,
Grand, Summit, Eagle, Lake, Pitkin,
Mesa, Garfield, Rio Blanco)

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Produced by:
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7