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State's STEM Support Continues to Climb

Denver, CO — Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education is gaining momentum in Colorado thanks to new [STEM Champions](#) investing in The Colorado Education Initiative (CEI) — and increasing access to STEM education for all Colorado students.

Four New STEM Champions

In the last quarter, four businesses joined the Colorado STEM network as new STEM Champions — [Boeing](#), CH2M, Oracle Academy, and Zayo Group. STEM Champions are companies, foundations, and individual donors contributing time, talent, and financial resources to implement the [Colorado STEM Education Roadmap](#).

The STEM Roadmap is designed to advance STEM education for all Colorado learners, meet business needs, and attract new companies to the state.

“By welcoming new business partners that support the state’s STEM education, CEI is able to partner with schools to ensure that Colorado’s workforce needs will be met,” said CEI President and CEO Glenna Norvelle. “Fifty-five percent of Colorado’s top jobs that offer higher wages require STEM skills. We need to prepare students for an anticipated 1 million STEM jobs in the U.S. by 2020.”

CEI is the lead organization facilitating the STEM Roadmap. The Women’s Foundation of Colorado (WFCO) is leading implementation of the gender equity components. CEI and WFCO are working side-by-side to run the STEM Champions Board.

“We are focused on empowering groups who are traditionally under-represented in STEM studies and careers so they can increase their economic stability and we can achieve prosperity for all,” said WFCO President and CEO, Lauren Y. Casteel.

Investments by STEM Champions help support resources like the [Colorado STEMworks](#) database, which was launched in January through a partnership among CEI, the Colorado Technology Association, and Change the Equation. The database connects educators to high-quality, effective STEM education programs and provides funders an easy way to find and invest in programs that work. Its launch is a milestone in the implementation of the STEM Roadmap.

About The Colorado Education Initiative

[CEI](#) is an independent nonprofit working in partnership with the Colorado Department of Education, educators, schools, districts, and other public education stakeholders to unlock the unique potential of every student by incubating innovation, shining a spotlight on success, and investing in sustainable change that improves outcomes for all students. CEI envisions that every student in Colorado is prepared

and unafraid to succeed in school, work, and life, and ready to take on the challenges of today, tomorrow, and beyond.

About The Women's Foundation of Colorado

[WFCO](#)'s mission is to build resources and lead change so that every woman and girl in Colorado achieves her full potential. WFCO is committed to boldly leading systemic change to advance economic opportunity for all women and girls in Colorado; using research to build knowledge and guide action; building philanthropy that supports and champions women and girls in Colorado; demonstrating and promoting inclusiveness and commitment to a diversity of people, partners and ideas; and creating strategic partnerships throughout the state to service our mission.

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