



THE
COLORADO
EDUCATION
INITIATIVE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2015

Colorado becomes third U.S. state to launch STEMworks pilot

Jan. 22 event kicks off new partnership and Colorado STEMworks pilot to identify and promote effective STEM education programs

DENVER, CO – A new partnership among [The Colorado Education Initiative](#) (CEI), [Colorado Technology Association](#) (CTA), and [Change the Equation](#) (CTEq) will launch the Colorado STEMworks pilot to identify and promote effective science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education programs.

The project will result in a robust database of effective programs in Colorado schools — and other places such as museums and libraries where learners pick up ideas and experiences — as well as grants to promote and expand programs that offer experience-to-career relevance.

This is a first for Colorado, which joins two other states — Arizona and Iowa — partnering with CTEq to tap the nationally recognized STEMworks protocols to evaluate and support quality STEM programs for elementary, middle, and high school students.

“Talent is the most powerful incentive a state can offer and directly impacts a company’s bottom line. Colorado has one of the nation’s most educated, technically savvy workforces contributing to its strong position in a broad range of industries. Quality science, technology, engineering, and math education prepares and excites Colorado’s students for Colorado jobs,” said Governor John Hickenlooper. “I applaud the companies dedicating their time, resources, and talent to ensure every Colorado learner has access to engaging, real-world STEM education and experiences.”

“It is critical that every dollar we invest in STEM education makes a real difference for Colorado kids and the Colorado workforce pipeline,” said Matt Smith, Vice President of Engineering, United Launch Alliance and Chair of the Colorado STEM Champion Board. “ULA’s leadership on the Colorado STEM Champion Board, and this partnership with Change the Equation, helps enable a means to identify and invest in the most effective programs.”

CTEq works at the intersection of business and education to ensure that all students are STEM literate by collaborating with schools, communities, and states to adopt and implement excellent STEM policies and programs. CTEq’s member coalition works toward universal STEM literacy through its support of evidence-based, high quality STEM programs and strong STEM policies.

“Colorado is a leader in ensuring all students have the experiences and resources to fully participate in Colorado’s innovation economy,” said Linda Rosen, CEO, CTEq. “Through this partnership, Colorado is setting a high bar of excellence and Colorado companies are committing to support those programs that really do deliver for kids.”

The new partnership and pilot are early milestones for Colorado’s STEM Education Roadmap, a public-private partnership to advance STEM education in ways that increase opportunities for all students, meet business needs, and attract new companies to the state. CEI is the lead organization facilitating the roadmap, which launched in August 2014.

“CEI is dedicated to supporting our partners to better understand and invest in quality STEM education. This focus ensures a strong local talent pipeline and addresses the critically important issue of social equity. Quality STEM education provides students with a vehicle to upward social mobility,” said Glenna Norvelle, CEO, CEI. “We want every Colorado student, regardless of background, to have access to experiences that prepare them for success in college, career, and life.”

"STEM literacy and competencies are at the heart of our future tech economy in Colorado, hence we are intent on ensuring corporate engagement in quality STEM programs to drive meaningful change. We believe the CTEq framework is an important element of realizing this vision." said Erik Mitisek, CEO, CTA, a key partner in providing the staffing capacity and innovative leadership to this partnership.

Rosen will announce the partnership at a reception for Colorado’s STEM partners 5-6:30 p.m. Thursday, January 22 at the Warwick Hotel, 1776 Grant St. in Denver. This partnership is funded by the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado, which is matching up to \$50,000 in challenge grant funding to develop Colorado’s database of effective STEM programs. Members of the media interested in attending the reception may contact Liz Kuehl, CEI, 1-920-698-0848, lkuehl@coloradoedinitiative.org.

STEM Champions are companies, foundations, and private donors contributing at least \$30,000 — and their time and talent — to the implementation of Colorado’s STEM Education Roadmap. They include:

- Ball Foundation
- Battelle Memorial Institute
- Campos EPC
- Colorado Workforce Development Council
- Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado
- ISSAC Corp
- JPMorgan Chase
- United Launch Alliance
- Women’s Foundation of Colorado
- Xcel Energy

Learn more about the Colorado STEM Education Roadmap at <http://www.coloradoedinitiative.org/our-work/stem/additional-stem-information/>.

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About The Colorado Education Initiative

CEI is an independent nonprofit working in partnership with the Colorado Department of Education 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.