



THE  
COLORADO  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 7, 2015

**Orica Supports Students in Colorado's STEM Economy**

Denver, Colo. – Colorado businesses are investing in what works in our state's science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education to support a local talent pipeline to fuel Colorado's innovation-based economy.

Orica, the world's largest provider of commercial explosives and blasting systems to the mining, quarry, and construction markets, has made a \$150,000, three-year investment in Colorado STEM through The Colorado Education Initiative (CEI).

Orica is one of 26 [STEM Champions](#) — companies, foundations, and individual donors contributing time, talent, and financial resources to help implement the [Colorado STEM Education Roadmap](#). The purpose of the STEM Roadmap is to advance STEM education in ways that increase opportunities for all students, meet business needs, and attract new companies to the state.

Orica's investment supports 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.

"We are excited to join our Colorado partners in making a real difference in the lives of all learners and to support a growing pipeline of local STEM talent," said Orica's North America Group Executive and President James Bonnor. "Orica is a science- and technology-based business, so it's crucial that we engage the next generation of engineers, scientists, and researchers to ensure the sustainability of both our operations and the mining industry in general."

CEI is committed to ensuring every K-12 Colorado learner has access to effective STEM education and experiences. It serves as the backbone organization to Colorado STEM, the community-based effort to implement the STEM Roadmap.

"CEI is dedicated to ensuring a high return for our companies who want to invest in what works in STEM education in our state," said CEI President and CEO Glenna Norvelle. "Historically, opportunities in Colorado STEM programs show a disparity of access between our affluent and poor students. We want to change that and reach more students from low-income backgrounds, and also build a community of practice to help good programs do even more for the learners they serve."



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*About The Colorado Education Initiative*

The Colorado Education Initiative 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.

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