



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Loveland and Berthoud Become Newest Colorado Communities to Offer CareerWise Modern Youth Apprenticeship

Three-Year Apprenticeships Available to High School Students in Information Technology, Financial Services, Advanced Manufacturing, Business Operations and Healthcare

LOVELAND, Colo. – Sept. 5, 2018 – Loveland and Berthoud have been selected as [CareerWise Colorado](#) communities starting with cohorts in 2019. CareerWise modern youth apprenticeships are currently offered in the fields of financial services, information technology, advanced manufacturing, business operations and healthcare, and are designed to create education and career options in a rigorous combination of work-based and classroom learning. Recruitment for business partners interested in hiring apprentices will begin immediately, and student recruitment will begin this fall. Students begin the program as Juniors in the fall of 2019.

The Loveland/Berthoud CareerWise program implementation is led by the Thompson School District (TSD) and the Larimer County Economic and Workforce Development Department (LCEWD). The community is in conversation with several businesses with the three-year youth apprenticeship program. Initial employers (and the pathways in which they'll offer apprenticeships) include Bank of Colorado (financial services), LPR Construction (business operations and information technology) and Tolmar Pharmaceuticals (advanced manufacturing).

“Modern youth apprenticeship solves a lot of problems,” said Steve Moos, district Career and Technical Education Coordinator. “In addition to gaining meaningful work experience, students earn debt-free college credit and an industry-recognized credential.”

Added Susan Scott, Business Community Coordinator with TSD: “Apprentices also build a professional network and will be better prepared to continue their path to success by either beginning employment in a high-demand career or pursuing a two or four-year degree.”

Local businesses are also beneficiaries of modern youth apprenticeship. “Businesses have an additional tool to take an active role in shaping and feeding their talent pipeline, while realizing tangible returns on their investment and reducing turnover and training costs,” said Kate Durkin, LCEWD’s senior career specialist. “Moreover, we all benefit from supporting middle skill occupations and creating opportunities for young people right here in our community.”

Apprenticeships typically begin in a student’s junior year and continue through a post-graduation year. The three-year commitment ensures a meaningful experience for apprentices as well as businesses. Upon completion, apprentices have the work experience and industry certification needed to step into good-paying careers, or can apply their newly gained perspectives and college credit they’ve earned toward furthering their education.

CareerWise launched its first cohort in 2017. More than 75 business partners in the Denver metro area, Eagle County, and Grand Junction are hosting youth apprentices onsite, with many employing a second cohort of apprentices who will take the first step on their path to career success this fall.



“Getting the program off the ground in a new community isn’t like flipping a switch—there’s quite a bit of work to be done to align the marketplace,” said Ashley Carter, CareerWise Colorado’s Chief Operating Officer. “CareerWise is there every step of the way to offer guidance and tools to help ensure success.”

Businesses and students interested in getting involved with modern youth apprenticeship may contact Susan Scott at TSD, 970-613-5081, susan.scott@thompsonschoools.org, or CareerWise at info@careerwisecolorado.org.

Learn More at TSD Career Fair

TSD is hosting a fall career fair on September 20th from 4:30 – 6:30pm at Loveland High School. In addition to over 40 businesses attending the fair, CareerWise staff will be present to share more information with interested students and their families. We are actively seeking current sophomores interested in joining our first cohort of apprentices in fall 2019.

About CareerWise Colorado

CareerWise Colorado is building a statewide system of youth apprenticeships that create pathways for students to access high-demand, high-paying careers at leading Colorado companies. Student apprentices work toward high school graduation and earn postsecondary credit, industry credentials or both in their chosen career path. Established by the Business Experiential-Learning (BEL) Commission created by Gov. John Hickenlooper and chaired by Noel Ginsburg of Intertech Plastics, CareerWise Colorado is launching in school districts in metro Denver, Larimer County, and the Western Slope. 20,000 youth apprentices, or about 10 percent of Colorado students in their last two years of high school, are expected to participate by 2027. More information about CareerWise Colorado is available at www.careerwisecolorado.org.

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