



Yampa Valley RISE

Project Overview & Outcomes

January 2021 - September 2022

Yampa Valley RISE

Project Overview & Outcomes

Letter from District Board Presidents

The vast and diverse landscapes of the Yampa Valley occupy more than 1.5 million acres, with roughly half as agricultural land. There is a rich and unique western heritage of agriculture and ranching, juxtaposed with a resort economy. Despite the historical tradition, many families in our bedroom communities rely on these tourism jobs and fewer than 20% of students and their families live on ranches or farms. What once felt like a thriving ranching and outdoor recreation hub, now sees the harsh realities of a broken food system incapable of meeting regional demands, imminent loss of jobs due to closures of local coal mines, and overreliance on year-round tourism that now faces an uncertain future.

Providing and sustaining access to high-quality innovative learning experiences has been a well-known challenge for Hayden and South Routt School Districts and families. Our small rural districts collectively serve under 700 students. The RISE Education Fund presented an opportunity for our districts to collaboratively realize the vision of leveraging the region's natural beauty, existing assets, and historical way of life to build and expand relevant learning opportunities for kids.

In an age of technology, there is great opportunity in enabling every student to know how to raise, grow, produce, harvest and process their own food. This opportunity teaches our students the skills necessary to fulfill the most basic needs of feeding themselves, while also providing a sense of purpose, relevance in learning, and a connection to the land and to each other. Further, lab-based education across numerous relevant pathways prepares tomorrow's workforce for the most in-demand jobs.

The nearly \$2 million in funding leveraged helps make the Yampa Valley a leader in education as well as economic innovation and revitalization. Together, we are investing in the next generation who will shepherd our communities through the unknown future that lies ahead. This type of education taps into the knowledge of our older community members who want to see students lead fulfilling, successful lives in their rural, tight-knit community.

The RISE project has been an exceptional way for students, staff, and community members to collaborate and share resources to create impact and opportunity for all. We sincerely thank all those who have contributed to its success over the last 1.5 years, including many partners and donors. We are thrilled to share this recap of the work and the outcomes we are seeing in our schools and communities.

With gratitude,



Tammie Delaney, Board President
Hayden School District



Kristi Schalus, Board President
South Routt School District



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Hayden and Soroco FFA Chapters
Attending the State
Career Development Event

Section 1:

Project Overview

Project Background

RISE Education Fund

In late 2020, Governor Polis launched the Response, Innovation, and Student Equity (RISE) Education Fund to create sustainable innovations to improve student learning, rethink the school experience, and address equity gaps. Priority was given to rural learning providers and communities.

Design Process

Hayden and South Routt School Districts received a design grant from the Gates Family Foundation & Gary Community Ventures and were matched with a design support partner to conduct stakeholder engagement, create a shared vision, and develop a high-quality RISE application. As a result, in early 2021 the districts received \$1,050,000 for their innovative and collaborative project.

Vision Statement

Collaboratively leverage the region's natural beauty, existing assets, and historical way of life to expand career-connected learning opportunities and create sustainable, relevant, and adaptable pathways of the future.

RISE VIDEO FEATURING STUDENTS & STAFF

...

Stakeholder Interviews During the Project Design Process

In response to, "What is your ultimate vision for students and the community?"

- *Community-driven solutions centered on innovation to increase outcomes for next generation of students.*
- *Building a homegrown workforce – expanding programs, adding more trades, getting more certificates.*
- *Increase community understanding of their role in education and the economy.*



Key Project Components

Past, Present, & Future of the Yampa Valley:

- Stakeholder interviews reiterated the importance of preserving and retaining a connection to the land and the skills and values that go along with that way of life
- Framing is a unique approach that engages multi-generational families and community members, employers, school districts, and students in shaping the next chapter of their history
- An opportunity to revitalize the region's roots and leverage existing momentum while exploring diverse and relevant pathways of the future

Collaborative Approach:

- Innovative solutions for high-quality learning experiences cannot be realized alone given size, capacity, and location of each school district
- Value of collaboration and partnership between Hayden & South Routt is evident and can serve as a pilot model for other regional partnerships and projects
- Existing and new resources as well as learnings can be shared to maximize impact for students and the community

K-12 Career-Connected Learning:

- New academic curriculum and hands-on learning opportunities across the full continuum of learning to be implemented, including K-5 DIGS curriculum with exposure in the early years and exploration throughout middle school aligned to the high school career-connected pathways
- New infrastructure to support hands-on learning labs (greenhouses, kitchens, tech)

Career Pathways Model:

- Based on survey data from parents and students, the need for diverse learning opportunities is clear - a pathways model allows Hayden & Soroco to maximize offerings across interconnected disciplines supporting the overall “past, present, future” vision

Parent & Community Engagement:

- Clear awareness that innovation and sustainability are needed in the region, however, more stakeholder engagement will continue to shift longstanding mindsets and barriers around change
- Parents desire greater participation in the education experiences, through opportunities such as a parent committee, more school-based events, adult learning opportunities, and receiving more information generally



Key Project Components

Key Partners:

- **Hayden School District:** Lead applicant with fiscal responsibility to the state and partners; Primary implementation partner
- **South Routt School District:** Primary implementation partner
- **Colorado State University:** Secondary implementation partner; Will support PK-8 DIGS curriculum, design/implementation of food processing kitchens, and provide thought partnership on applicable curriculum and learning experiences
- **Colorado Succeeds:** Secondary implementation partner; Supported project management, design/implementation support, change management coaching, community engagement, and communications and evaluation.
- **Education Stakeholders:** Many other partners have been engaged through this project including higher ed partners, community partners, school boards, parents, industry partners, local leaders, and philanthropy to ensure the success and sustainability of the project.

Budget:

- **Equipment:** Supplies and materials for hands-on learning labs, including commercial kitchens, greenhouses, business storefront, welding and construction, and upgraded technology.
- **Curriculum:** Aligned exposure curriculum for elementary students developed and piloted by Colorado State University, including curriculum, materials, training, and technical assistance.
- **Personnel & Professional Development:** Creation of a shared project coordinator role, additional Career and Technical Education staff, and professional learning opportunities and training to implement new programming.
- **Design & Implementation Support:** Continued partnership with design support partner, Colorado Succeeds, to support overall project management; as well as resources for community engagement, outreach, and marketing.

\$2.26M

**2 rural
school
districts**

**1.5 school
years**

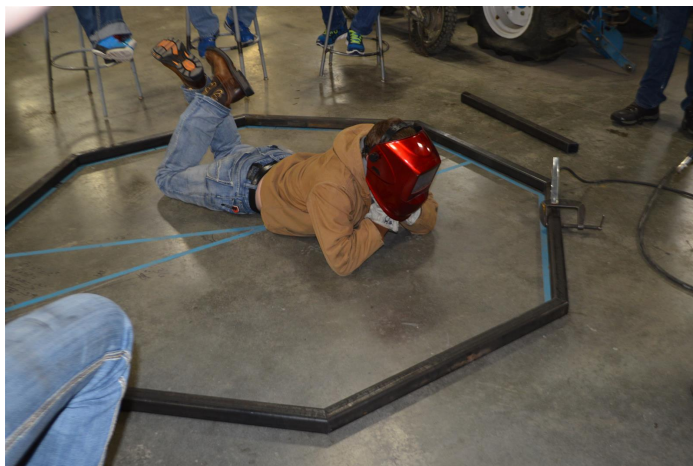
**~700
students**





Section 2:

Progress & Impact



K-12 Career-Connected Learning

A pathways model, new course offerings for middle and high school students, an exposure curriculum for K-5, and hands-on learning experiences aligned to relevant pathways across all grades K-12.

Pathways Model:

Students were surveyed about their interests across three potential pathways - Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources; Business, Hospitality, & Technology; and Skilled Trades & Technical Sciences. Within each, students were most excited about and/or felt the following were most applicable to future career opportunities:

Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources:

Animal Sciences, Land Management, Food Production & Processing, Food Science & Safety, and Sustainable Agriculture

Business, Hospitality, & Technology:

Digital Arts & Design, Entrepreneurship, Hospitality, Marketing & Communications, and Management & Operations

Skilled Trades & Technical Sciences

Welding, Architecture & Construction, Engineering, Auto Mechanics, and Electrical

The districts utilized RISE funding and technical assistance, as well as leveraged additional resources to build out the foundation components of these pathways, which will be built upon year over year moving forward.



The pathways model includes new course offerings aligned to the state's career and technical education (CTE) model as well as hands-on learning opportunities through new Learning Labs.



K-12 Career-Connected Learning: New Courses

Pathways Courses Aligned to CTE:

Staff across both districts collaborated to create complementary course offerings, building on existing classes and bringing new opportunities to students. All courses are aligned to both CTE and certification opportunities (scaled over time) to maximize postsecondary and career options as well as support the sustainability of the work through state-funded reimbursements.



★ = Concurrent Enrollment / Certifications

Impact Indicators (SY 21-22):

- 58% of SRSD students and 56% of HSD students enrolled in one or more pathways classes
- 50% of SRSD students and 33% of HSD students participated in concurrent enrollment opportunities through Colorado Northwestern Community College (CNCC) - offered in-person, online, and at no cost to students
- 60 students across both districts received credentials or certifications
- More than 70% of high school students at both districts are enrolled in the ag pathways program for SY 22-23

• • •

Aligned offerings have also been integrated at the middle school level, including Leadership Skills, Intro to Ag, Metal Fabrication, and Engines & Equipment.



"The welding program at Hayden has jump started my future in the industry. I have obtained 28 certifications and haven't even graduated yet. This program is helping to market me as more employable right after graduation or will accelerate my postsecondary experiences."

-Hayden Student (12th grade)

"Through the Soroco Ag program I have had the opportunity to participate in shop and metal fabrication courses. These skills are helping me pursue my future goals -I've obtained two certifications that secured employment with a local welding company. I am also able to continue my work through our school-based internship program."

-South Routt Student (12th grade)



K-12 Career-Connected Learning: Elementary Exposure

In partnership with Colorado State University (CSU), the districts piloted a new K-5 curriculum, integrating career exposure and literacy skill development, and aligned to the high school pathways.

Elementary Pathway Exposure: “DIGS”

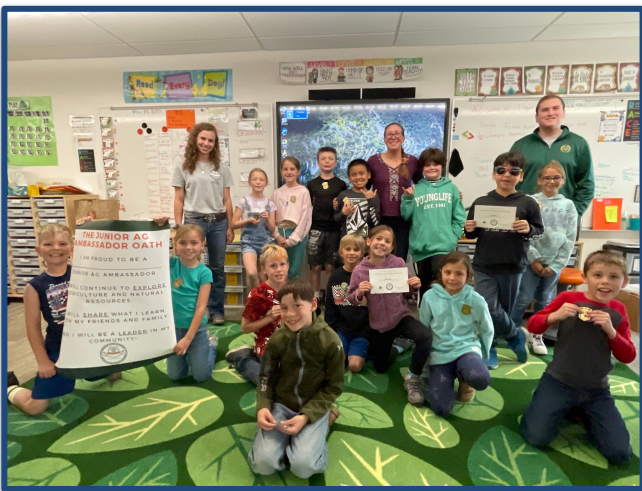
Developing Individuals and Growing Stewards

Implementation Details:

- Integrates career exploration in all 6 ag pathways with standards-aligned literacy for younger students (e.g., animal and plant sciences, natural resources, food processing, business, power/energy/construction)
- Curriculum developed as stand-alone activities, stacking lessons, and for both in-classroom and virtual capabilities.
- Eight units with 3 lessons per unit for each grade level and structured as (a) Intro/Exposure, (b) Colorado Context, and (c) Hands-On Learning.
- CSU provided materials and training to staff as well as implementation and evaluation supports.

Impact Indicators (SY 21-22):

- 100% of all students K-5 received DIGS lessons
- Nearly 160 Junior Ambassador Ag Badges were earned, representing 50% of elementary students across both districts
 - 100% of all South Routt students earned badges
 - 100% of 4th graders in Hayden earned badges



Third graders from Hayden Valley Elementary receive their Junior Ag Ambassador Badges



K-12 Career-Connected Learning: Learning Labs

Key to career-connected learning is hands-on, real-world exposure. Hayden and South Routt are bringing the pathways to life through six aligned “learning labs” - new spaces, equipment, and technology for students to explore pathways of interest in meaningful ways.

Natural Resources & Plant Sciences Labs:

New greenhouses at both campuses will provide a year round opportunity for students to learn all systems of plants; as well as identify, plant, and grow species that can later be sold through the business lab and student storefront. Additionally, both districts now have soils labs to further student understanding of native and introduced grass species, soil content, and land management.

- 25'x50' greenhouses for year round use
- Students will be able to identify plant systems and types
- Horticulture class will allow students to plant and grow flowers for resale to the community
- The soils labs built within the classroom help foster connections between science calculations and physical attributes
- Students are able to use the natural landscape around both campuses to learn environmental and natural resource systems within their ecological locations

Food Products Lab:

Full Scale commercial kitchens have been designed and implemented at both districts to instruct students in the process of food production and handling. Through new technology infrastructure, districts will teach collaboratively to leverage the instructor's expertise, complementary course offerings, as well as participate in college courses through CMC, CNCC, and CSU.

- Students will learn all aspects of meat science
- Students will have access to top of the line honey processing equipment to learn the growing industry
- Students will get certified in food handling services (22 ServSafe certifications in 21-22)
- All products produced by the students will be sold through their storefronts

Trades Lab:

The trades are responsive to both student and economic demand, creating many opportunities for student pathways after high school. The pathway extends beyond traditional ag and helps develop a future talent pipeline, including in engineering, autocad, electrical processes, welding, and construction trades. This pathway and hands-on learning lab also provides several opportunities for students to earn certifications and postsecondary credentials, making them highly employable during high school and post-graduation.

Business Lab:

Business Labs - or student-run storefronts and learning areas - now offer a space for students to focus on leadership, management, operations, communications, and marketing. Aligned coursework cuts across all pathways of interest and will strengthen foundational skills and entrepreneurial spirit, while also marketing and selling homegrown goods to the community (e.g., flowers, food products, metal fabrication, etc.)





Officers from both Chapters receiving a check from the Rotary Club of Steamboat Springs

Section 3:

Aligned Strategies & Sustainability

Student & Stakeholder Engagement

Student Voice & Engagement Opportunities

In order to truly build student-centered learning experiences and education-to-career systems and pathways, student voice and engagement is critical. The districts have done this in numerous ways through the project, including:

- Student engagement (through surveys) during the design process
- Student participation on the Advisory Committee
- Student leadership and engagement through Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- Student presence and voice at community and stakeholder events
- Student-driven communications and marketing for the project
- Student feedback collected ongoing for continuous improvement



The FFA Officers from South Routt and Hayden made valuable connections with business leaders throughout the Yampa Valley. Connections that will allow for work based learning opportunities and program sustainability.

Future Farmers of America (FFA):

Nearly 60 students participate in South Routt's long standing FFA program, with more than 50 already participating in Hayden's first ever chapter. Impact indicators include:

- FFA Career Development Event hosted at CSU. Members competed in Meat Science, Ag Mechanics, Floriculture, Vet Science, Livestock Evaluation, and Horse Judging.
 - *Hayden had 18 students participate in 5 events, and South Routt had 15 students participate in 4 events. The South Routt livestock team won and will represent CO at Nationals in Oct 2022.*
- Thirty-six students across both chapters participated in the 4-day State Convention in June 2022.
- Both chapters hosted their much-anticipated Annual Banquets, convening many families and community partners to celebrate achievements and install new officers.
- Annual District Leadership Conference was hosted at Hayden with 70 students from all 9 schools. Students engaged in leadership activities, speaking contents, and other showings of skills & competencies. Teachers, families, and community members all convened to show their support.
 - *There were 8 state-level winners in proficiency from South Routt, and, notably, 3 of 8 district officers represent Routt County.*
- FFA Week was held and highlighted agriculture within the school and community through various activities over the course of a week. South Routt hosted a "Past, Present, and Future of Ag in the South Routt Valley" event, and Hayden hosted a Chili Cook-Off for the community.
- Middle school recruitment & mentorship was executed through activities such as members having lunch with 8th graders to talk about the program and opportunities for growth and leadership within it.



Student & Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder Engagement

Another critical factor to success is diverse stakeholder engagement to ensure the new vision for the future aligns to both student and economic needs - the *educonomy*. Key highlights from stakeholder engagement include a hands-on advisory committee and numerous engagement events that resulted in new community partnerships.

Advisory Committee

Members of the advisory committee were strategically selected to provide feedback and guidance as the program was developed and implemented. Meetings were convening quarterly, and updates sent weekly. Members represented all six pathways and offered high levels of experience and knowledge. Each district also had two student representatives.

Members: Colby Townsend, Monica Case, Lane Iacovetto, Sarajane Snowden, Todd Hagenbuch, Dave Long, superintendent Dr. Christy Sinner, superintendent Mr. Rim Watson, Ciara Bartholomew, instructors Jay Whaley, Reece Melton, and Eric Wellman; student representatives Alaina Wille, Dylan Zimmerman, Carmen Anarella, Jed Kirby; and project managers Jeannie Jo Logan and Madison Knapp.

Community Engagement Events

- Donor luncheon, in partnership with Yampa Valley Community Foundation, featuring student and teacher voice and more than 30 potential partners. The event galvanized momentum for the launch of the capital campaign.
- Presentations to Rural Action Network statewide funders and the Rotary Club of Steamboat Springs, yielding a grant opportunity with the Daniels Fund and being selected as the annual Rotary fundraiser beneficiary.
- Two-day team retreat facilitated by Colorado Succeeds and Colorado Education Initiative. The time was spent realigning around a shared vision; engaging students, teachers, and stakeholders; and talking about the skills, competencies, and mindsets they envision for learners. The retreat strengthened project goals and momentum.
- As part of the retreat, a stakeholder event was hosted and more than 80 key partners invited. Attendees represented both communities, including school board members, industry partners, and local leaders - amongst students and teachers. Partners had the opportunity to provide feedback on the shared vision and key priorities.
- Participation in an exclusive roundtable discussion with Senator Hickenlooper, a huge opportunity to get in front of a large regional office that resulted in budding partnerships across new sectors.
- The Ag department, in partnership with CSU's meat science department and CSU extension, hosted a "Meat Field Day" in Hayden with many community members in attendance.



Aligned Strategies Leveraged for Sustainability

Capital Campaign *in partnership with the Yampa Valley Community Foundation*

- Allowable uses for the RISE funding prevented the districts from fully realizing their vision through necessary construction and building modifications.
- In partnership with the Yampa Valley Community Foundation, the districts established the shared Yampa Valley RISE Fund to house donations to the capital campaign and ongoing program costs.
- The Craig-Scheckman Family Foundation kicked off the capital campaign with a \$200k matching challenge.
- The budget gap of \$900,000 was met through various individual, business, and private foundations during a 6-month capital campaign. An additional \$100k anonymous matching campaign closed the final budget gap.

Other Funding & Policy Levers

- The districts were also able to leverage several grant opportunities to bring additional resources to the work, including:
 - [Perkins Innovations in CTE](#) - \$249,915 for SY 21-22 to support aligned work to create and expand CTE pathways
 - [Daniels Fund](#) - New funder relationship, support for capital costs
 - [Next Generation grant from the Dept. of Ag](#) - Funding to support capital costs
- State policies were also leveraged to enhance implementation, including the [Career Development Incentive Program](#) (CDIP) and [Innovative Learning Opportunities Program](#) (ILOP). These offer a mix of incentives, funding, flexibilities, and sustainability.

Strategic Planning

- Hayden and South Routt launched an aligned strategic planning process to further formulate long-term goals and outcomes and sustain the work brought to life through the RISE project.
- As part of this process, the districts conducted stakeholder listening sessions and are developing a student-centered graduate profile - both of which were initially outlined as potential work in the RISE application.
- The Colorado Education Initiative, an existing partner to the districts for their ongoing coaching and systems change work, is leading the strategic planning process.

Yampa Valley Partnership for Students, Stewardship & Sustainability (YVS3)

- Convened by the nonprofit Lyra Colorado and Empower Schools, the districts engaged in a year of collaborative conversations with other districts in the region, Steamboat Springs & Moffat, to explore a regional approach to new student experiences and stakeholder engagement.





Thank You for Your Support!

Adrienne & Steven Southworth
Allen Custom Metal Service
Alpine Bank
Amy & PJ Wharton
Amie Knox & Jim Kelley
Anonymous Contributions
BlueStem Fund
Boettcher Foundation
Bryson Braden
Bruce Caplowe
Carol & Russell Atha
Central Park Management
Charles Kurtz Family
Claudia & Fred Taylor
Colorado Community College System
Colorado Department of Agriculture
Craig-Scheckman Family Foundation
Cummings Christensen Family Foundation
Dana & Matt Tredway
Daniels Fund
Elaine & Doug Wilwerding

Gary Community Ventures
Gates Family Foundation
Gilson Family Foundation
Jack Dysert
James Moylan
Jennifer Hamann & Mario Boschi
Joe Tecce
Judy & Richard McGinnis
Kelly Latterman & Harry Murray
King Creek Ranch
Kurtz Family Foundation
Maddie & Nick Kelley
Melissa Gibson
Mountain Valley Bank
Pam & Steven Williams
Paula Cooper Black
Rocky Mountain Asphalt

Routt County CEO Board
Schoewe Family Foundation
Soroco FFA Alumni
RISE Education Fund
Rotary Club of Steamboat
Springs
The Steamboat Group
Transwest Truck Trailers & RV
Vectra Bank
Yampa Valley Bank



www.haydenschools.org
www.southroutt.k12.co.us





Additional Resources

More Information

District Information:

- **Hayden Schools:** www.haydenschools.org
 - Eric Wellman, Agriculture Teacher ewellman@haydenschools.org
- **South Routt:** www.southroutt.k12.co.us
 - Jay Whaley, Agriculture Teacher jwhaley@southrouttk12.org
 - Reece Melton, Agriculture Teacher rmelton@southrouttk12.org

Media Clips:

- **Colorado Succeeds:** [Press Release] [Yampa Valley School Districts Awarded \\$1M RISE Grant](#)
- **Colorado Sun:** [Agricultural Education in Routt County](#)
- **Steamboat Pilot:** [RISE Grant Helps Students Guide the Future of Agriculture](#) [also featured in Today newspaper]
- **Steamboat Pilot:** [Career and Technical Education Expanding in Hayden, South Routt](#) [also featured in Today newspaper]
- **Steamboat Pilot:** [\[Student\] Corrals Soroco's First FFA National Honor](#)
- **Yampa Valley Community Foundation:** [Quarterly Blog Feature](#)

Program Resources:

- **Grant Information:** [Governor's RISE Education Fund](#)
 - [Round 1 Winners](#)
 - [Round 2 Winners](#) [Hayden & South Routt]
- **Design Process:** [RISE Planning & Design Support, Gates Family Foundation](#)
- **RISE Video:** [Student & Staff Voices](#)
- **Career & Technical Education:** [Colorado CTE Cluster Model](#)
- **Other Programmatic Levers:**
 - [Career Development Incentive Program](#) (CDIP)
 - [Opportunities Program](#) (ILOP)



*Soroco FFA State Champion
Livestock Evaluation Team*



Insights from the Community

139 respondents

REPRESENTING HAYDEN & SOUTH ROUNTT

CURRENT & FORMER PARENTS/GUARDIANS (63%)

WORKING (75.5%), UNEMPLOYED (6%), & RETIRED (9%)

BACHELOR'S DEGREES (42%), TRADE/ASSOCIATE'S (14%),

SOME COLLEGE (12%), HIGH SCHOOL/GED (9%)

PRIDEFUL OF:

SCHOOL DISTRICT STAFF

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & SCHOOL FACILITIES

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Majority believe the primary focus of the districts should be:

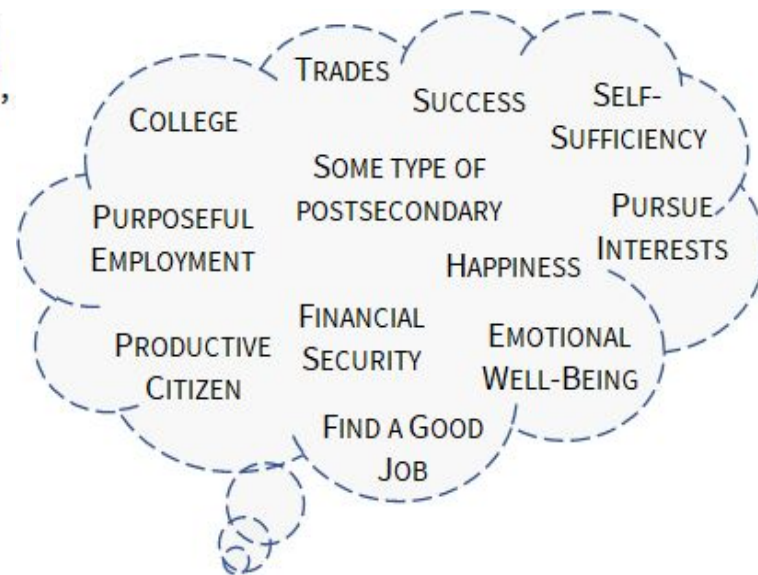
IMPLEMENTING MORE PROGRAMS AND EXPERIENCES

THAT PREPARE STUDENTS FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL (52.5%)

&

PROVIDING A SAFE AND CONSISTENT LEARNING ENVIRONMENT (32%)

HOPE for their student's future:



Top 2 challenges to achieving these goals:

RECRUITING/RETAINING HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS & STAFF (78%)

&

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT (36%)

Respondents expressed high interest in more actively participating in the student experience:

PARENT/COMMUNITY EVENTS AT SCHOOL
(engage in student projects, adult learning opportunities)

PARENT/COMMUNITY MEMBER COMMITTEES
(academics, partnerships, events, communications)

MORE GENERAL INFORMATION SESSIONS
(on academics & postsecondary opportunities)

Top 3 BARRIERS to student success:

AFFORDABILITY OF HIGHER EDUCATION
(university, community college, trades)

BARRIERS DUE TO COST OF LIVING
(especially in mountain community)

LACK OF REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE/SKILLS BEING TAUGHT IN SCHOOL

***From survey conducted in November 2020**



Insights from Students

IMPACT OF SCHOOL

Things learned at school are:

EXTREMELY INTERESTING (2.5%)
QUITE INTERESTING (26%)
SOMEWHAT INTERESTING (44%)
SLIGHTLY INTERESTING (19%)
NOT AT ALL INTERESTING (8.5%)

Current learning is preparing me for life after high school:

EXTREMELY WELL (4%)
QUITE WELL (29%)
SOMEWHAT (39%)
SLIGHTLY (20%)
NOT AT ALL (7.5%)

Students reported primarily talking to the following people about options after high school:

MOTHER/FEMALE GUARDIAN
FRIENDS
FATHER/MALE GUARDIAN
GRANDPARENTS & SIBLINGS

(40% or less reported talking to a teacher or school counselor)

Top 3 ACTIONS towards future goals:

GOT A JOB & SAVING MONEY
RESEARCHED COST OF POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS
RESEARCHED POSTSECONDARY OPTIONS

When asked what they want to learn most:

LIFE SKILLS

PERSONAL FINANCE & COOKING

121 respondents

REPRESENTING HAYDEN (57%) & SOUTH ROUTT (43%)

8TH GRADE (15.5%)
9TH GRADE (27%)
10TH GRADE (16%)
11TH GRADE (16.5%)
12TH GRADE (25%)

Career-connected experiences to date:

WORK EXPERIENCE (50%)
HANDS-ON LEARNING THROUGH SCHOOL (32%)
NONE, BUT WOULD LIKE EXPERIENCES (32%)
JOB SHADOW (18%)

PLANS after high school:

GET A JOB (47%)
COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY (41%)
LICENSE OR CERTIFICATE (24%)
ASSOCIATE'S OR TRADE (22%)
NOT SURE YET (22%)

*From survey conducted in November 2020

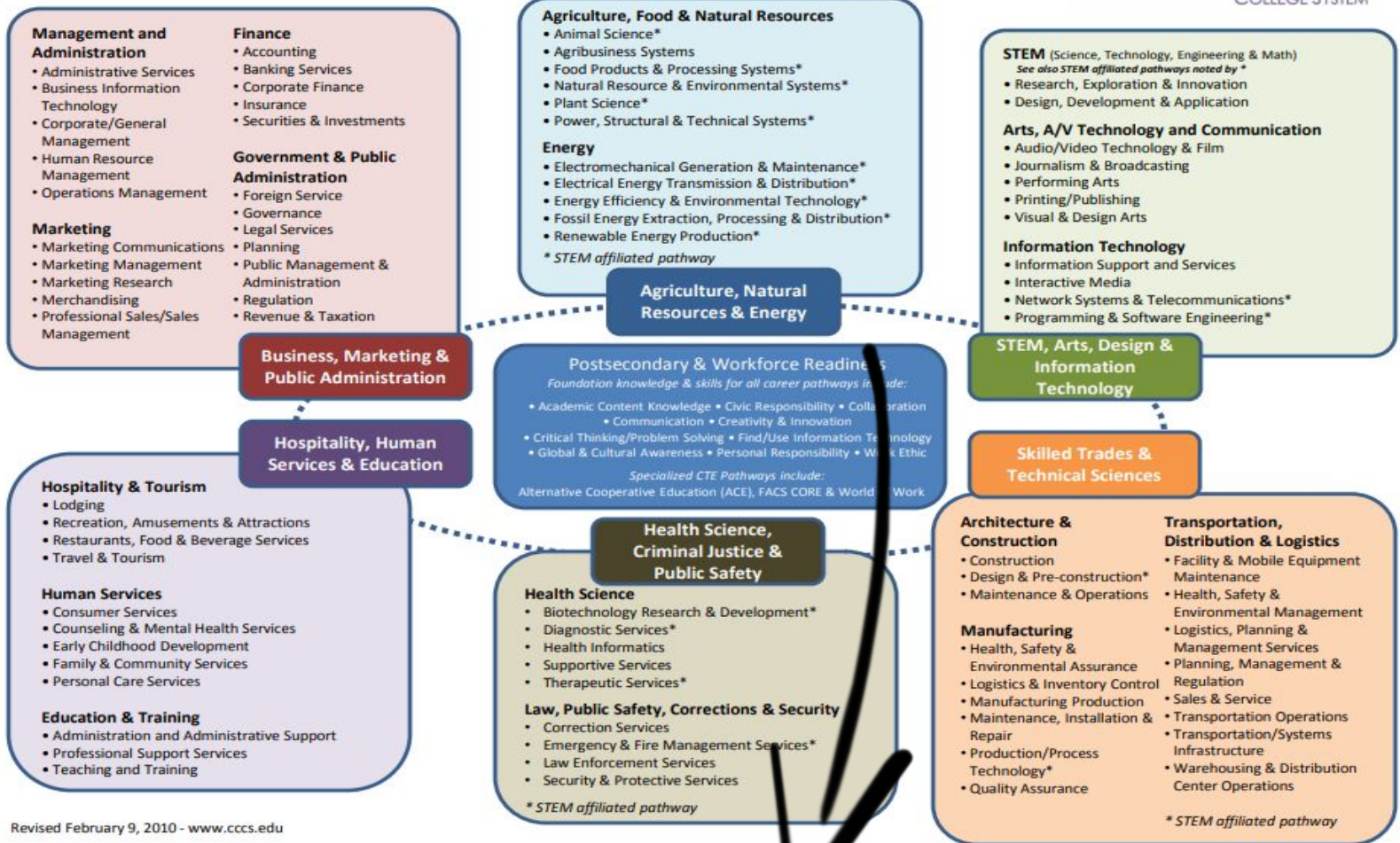


CTE in Colorado

Colorado Career Cluster Model

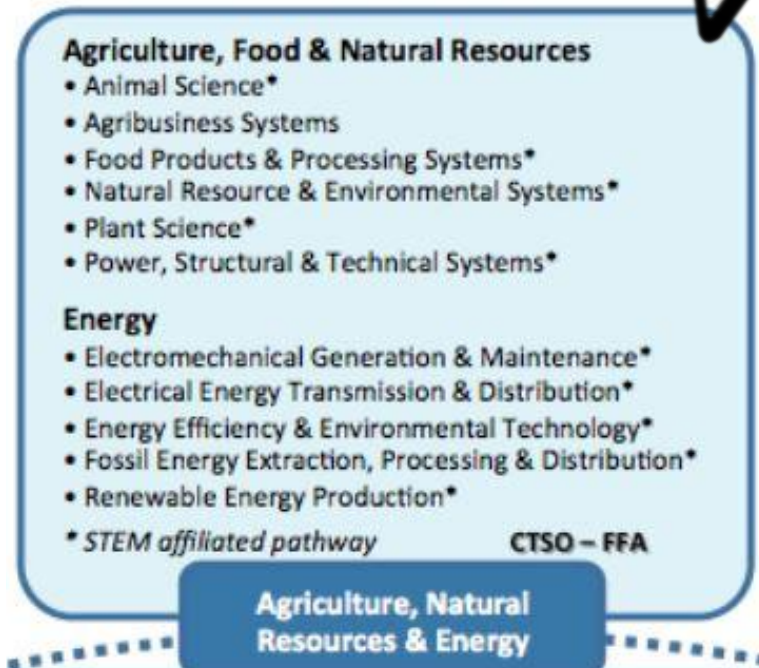


COLORADO COMMUNITY
COLLEGE SYSTEM



Revised February 9, 2010 - www.cccs.edu

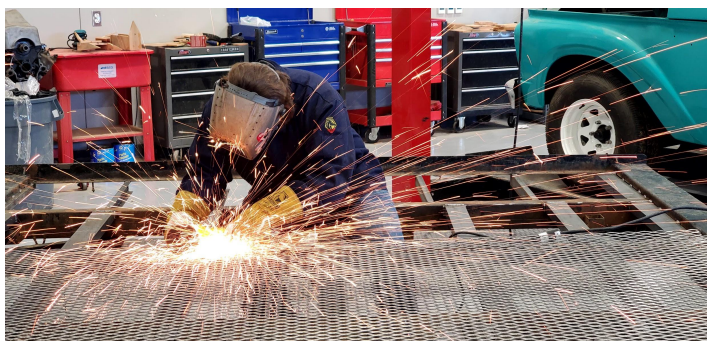
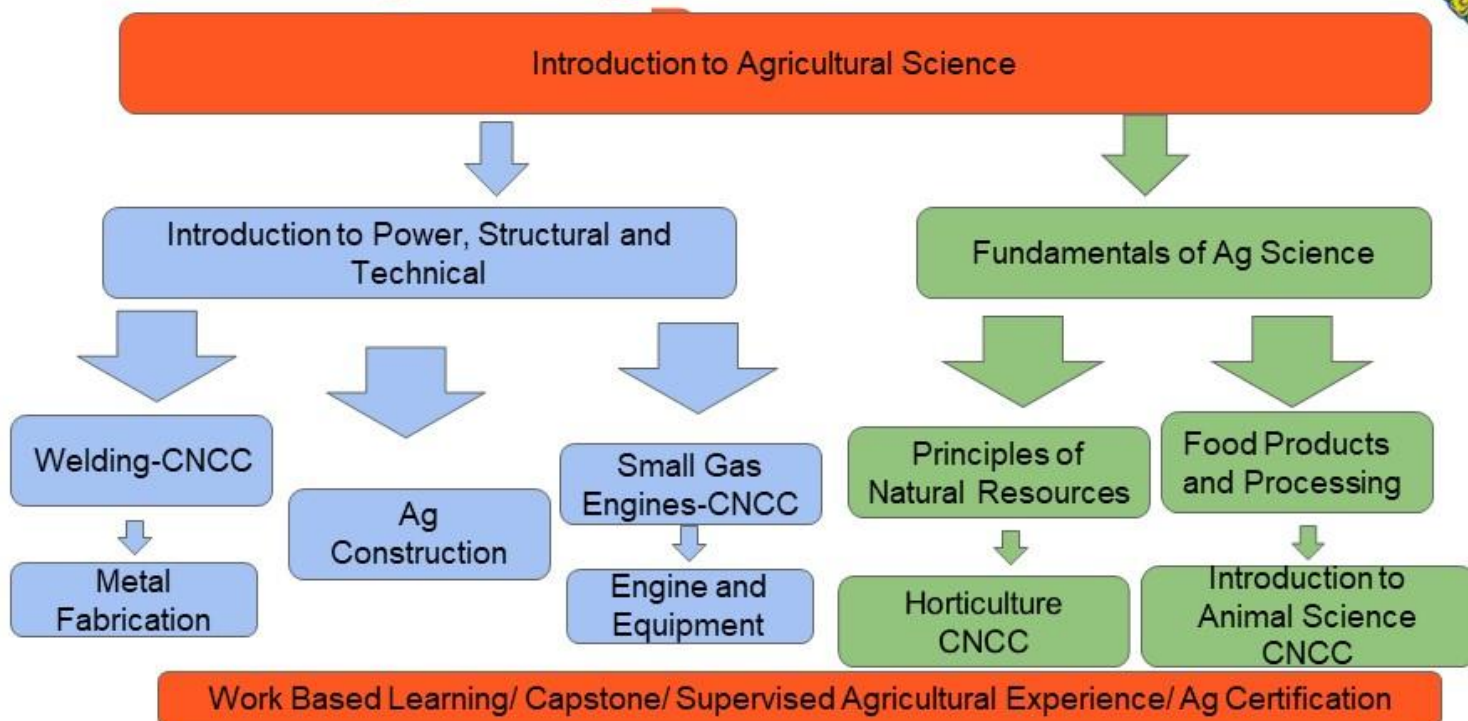
<https://www.cde.state.co.us/postsecondary/cte>



Hayden Ag & CTE Pathways



Hayden Agricultural Education



Soroco Ag & CTE Pathways



SOROCO HS/MS

Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources

7th/ 8th Grade Middle School, CTE

Leadership, Intro to Shop



Intro to Agricultural Sciences

Plant Science

Power Structural/Technical-Safety/Tool ID

Natural Resource

Ag. Business

Animal Science

Food Products

FFA /SAE

Food Products

Intro to Plant Science
HLT 100/Greenhouse

Natural Resources,
Range, water, wildlife
and forestry

Fund. Welding AME 151
Sm. Gas Engines ADE 135
or

Animal Science ANS 100

Ag. Business
SAE/Store Front

Power/Energy/Construction

Computer Apps

Intro. to ag not a prerequisite
Req. for Ag. Cert.

CNCC Hybrid Concurrent offered: Farm and Ranch Management, Intro to Equine Science

Work Base Learning

CNCC Internships Capstone to CTE, Seniors class.

Yampa Valley RISE

Executive Summary



Vision Statement

Collaboratively leverage the region's natural beauty, existing assets, and historical way of life to expand career-connected learning opportunities and create sustainable, relevant, and adaptable pathways of the future.

\$2.26M

**2 rural
school districts**

1.5 school years

~700 students

K-12 Career-Connected Learning

A pathways model, new course offerings for middle and high school students, an exposure curriculum for K-5, and hands-on learning experiences aligned to relevant pathways across all grades K-12.

- **Pathways Model:** Three primary pathways have started to take shape based on student and family feedback – *Agriculture, Food, & Natural Resources; Business, Hospitality, & Technology; and Skilled Trades & Technical Sciences*. Through RISE, the Ag pathway, crosscut with business and skilled trades opportunities, has been implemented. Other areas of interest will be the focal point of expansion in years to come.
- **New Courses:** Staff across both districts collaborated to create complementary course offerings, spanning from Ag I & II and Animal and Plant Sciences, to Food Processing, Natural Resources, and AgriBusiness. All courses are aligned to both CTE and certification opportunities to maximize postsecondary and career options as well as support sustainability through state-funded reimbursements.
- **Elementary Exposure:** In partnership with Colorado State University (CSU), the districts piloted a new K-5 curriculum, integrating career exposure and literacy skill development, and aligned to the high school pathways. All students K-5 received “DIGS” lessons, with nearly 160 Junior Ambassador Ag Badges earned, representing 50% of elementary students across both districts.
- **Learning Labs:** Hayden and South Routt are bringing the pathways to life through six aligned “learning labs” - new spaces, equipment, and technology for students to explore pathways of interest in meaningful ways. Natural Resources, Plant Sciences, Food Products, Trades, and Business Labs have been built out at both campuses, and through new technologies, staff will be able to engage students across district lines.
- **Work-Based Learning:** The districts have also begun expansion on work-based learning opportunities, including job shadowing, internships, and through Future Farmers of America (FFA) Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) requirement. Sixty students engaged in one or more of these activities over the last school year.

Nearly 60% of students at each district enrolled in 1+ pathways classes

60 students received credentials or certifications

After just one year of implementation:
80 Hayden students and **73** Soroco students – *more than 70% of high school students* – are enrolled in the Ag program for 22-23.

Student & Stakeholder Engagement

Students and key stakeholders were engaged throughout the entire project from design to implementation. Successful strategies include the Future Farmers of America (FFA) programs, an Advisory committee comprised of business and community leaders, and numerous community engagement events.

Sustainability

- **Fundraising:** To close gaps in capital costs uncovered by state dollars, the districts jointly raised \$900K.
- **Partnerships:** New partners have brought expertise and resources to the table, including the Craig-Scheckman Family Foundation, Yampa Valley Community Foundation, the Daniels Fund, Rotary Club of Steamboat Springs, and CSU.
- **Programs/Policies:** The districts leveraged several aligned programs and policies to sustain efforts long-term, including the Perkins Innovations in CTE grant, Career Development Incentive Program, & Innovative Learning Opportunities Program.

FFA: Nearly 60 students participate in Soroco's long standing program, with already more than 50 participating in Hayden's first ever chapter. Engagement included a career development event, State Convention, Annual Banquets, and the Annual District Leadership Conference to name a few. Several students won county and state-level competitions and will represent Colorado and the region at Nationals (Oct 2022).