
The region's educational landscape is undergoing purposeful change, and those changes could mean a better-prepared workforce. In a growing number of communities, to include Colorado Springs, nontraditional educational opportunities have expanded conventional learning, which has been criticized for turning out students with a vast array of basic knowledge but few applicable, real-world skills.

Some experts say allowing students to “self-identify” career pathways leads to more engaged learning and allows for highly specialized coursework that can begin in high school — and sometimes even earlier.

“Students have to have a four-year plan in place when they start their ninth-grade year,” said Dan Hoff, Director of Career and Technical Education with Colorado Springs School District 11. “Not because we want them to lock in for four years. They’re not making a four-year commitment, but now they’re reflecting on … how to be best prepared for success — whether that’s employability or a post-secondary [education].”

For the rest of the story: http://www.csbj.com/2015/11/03/workforce-demand-shapes-innovative-learning/

KOAA, channel 5
Hundreds attend Construction Career Day
By Andy Koen
COLORADO SPRINGS -
More than 500 high school students from across Southern Colorado and parts of New Mexico got to sit in the drivers seat of a career in the construction industry Thursday. Local trade groups and business owners gave the teens hands-on demonstrations of their daily jobs during the 8th Annual Southern Colorado Construction Career Day.

Linda Champlin-Franks, president of the career day foundation said American construction workers are getting older.

"Most of construction workers are aging out, they’re in their 50's and 60's and we are trying to interest the young people and show them that they can have a viable career and make money in construction industry," she said.

Some predictions suggest the industry will need around 250,000 new workers a year to just keep up with growth.

The El Paso County Contractors Association, National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) and Colorado Springs Utilities sponsored the event.

The various demonstrations included lessons in operating backhoes and scissor lifts, crimping copper pipe and wiring electrical circuits as well as pouring and paving concrete.
On 21 November during the Family & Consumer Sciences Division luncheon, Kelly Gauck from Holmes Middle School, Colorado Springs District 11 was presented the 2015 Outstanding Contributions to FACS Award. She was selected for this award for the numerous projects and activities she has completed over several years as a teacher.

Kelly taught Family & Consumer Sciences for over 25 years, beginning her career in Indiana. After 9/11, her husband was called back to active duty. This brought her to Colorado Springs along with the family. She has a passion for teaching and desired to change lives. She loves making learning “real” and fun. Her enthusiasm and dedication is recognized around the school and district.

In 2010, she began Holmes FCCLA Chapter, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. The students involved learn essential life skills and form great memories while working on school and community service projects as well as individual projects. Several Holmes FCCLA members have competed at state and national levels and developed leadership skills. It pleases Kelly to see young students step out of their comfort zone and make a difference in their family, classroom, school and community.

During the ACTE VISION 2015 Conference, held in New Orleans, LA, November 19-22, over 4,000 educators, administrator and supportive businesses were in attendance. The leadership sessions and EXPO covered a broad spectrum of Career & Technical products and educational tools. Various awards were given by each division the CTE reaches.

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) is the nation’s largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers. ACTE represents educators, administrators, researchers, guidance counselors and others involved in all levels of career and technical education. ACTE is committed to excellence in providing advocacy, public awareness and access to resources, professional development and leadership opportunities.

I found this web site geared towards women and computers. I just wanted to pass it along. http://dotdiva.org/passion.html

I used it in my keyboarding class today. Maybe someone can use it in their classes too.

Have a great day.

Janny Jarvis, MAteD
English and Career and Technical Education Teacher
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"To imagine, to create, to learn..."

Students from Christina Owino’s (ECHS FACS Instructor) catering class prepared breakfast for the RJ Wasson Principals Meeting.

Congratulations to Bryan

Please congratulate Bryan for receiving his website design certification through Doherty’s web program, IE Class, Inc.

Molly Bonville
Doherty High School
Business, Technology, Video Production

Pictured: Karl (Bjiou) and Taylor (Coronado), both Education Career Pathway students from the RJWAC promote careers in teaching at the Career Fair.

Pictured: D11 Family & Consumer Science teachers work together to promote & publicize their programs!

Culinary students in ProStart and Catering courses baked, filled and served delicious cream puffs to 8th and 10th grade students at the Career Fair.

Pictured: students from Early College, Mitchell, Palmer, Tesla, and Bijou High Schools and the Transition program.

Twenty Early Childhood Education students in the Career Pathway program began their internship experience on Monday, November 16th. The students will complete fifteen hours observing and working in a childcare center or preschool classroom in addition to their coursework to be eligible for college credit at Pikes Peak Community College.
Palmer High School students ignored their runny noses, numb fingers and shivering bodies Thursday as they measured, cut and lifted wooden beams and plastic panels. They were able to put aside their physical discomfort because their thoughts were on spring, and the leafy green plants that will emerge from their fall labor.

"It's going to be good for Palmer," said senior Hector, a student project manager. "We've gotten to do some hard work, and the kids that come after us will get to enjoy it."

Fifty students in Leslie Wolken's alternative cooperative education classes, which focus on teaching employable skills, are building a large greenhouse in the courtyard at Palmer. They have help from parents, neighbors and 17 Home Depot volunteers.

"There's nothing like excited young people," said DeRoy Skinner, department supervisor of flooring at the Home Depot on Woodmen Road and Academy Boulevard. "They've been real energetic and eager to learn."

Not only are the juniors and seniors learning about the construction process, the students' efforts also will launch a new business at the downtown school, Wolken said. "I want the kids to walk away from this experience understanding all the work that goes into budgeting and the sweat and labor of starting a business and marketing it to be successful," she said.

The project started this semester when Wolken told students she wanted the class to use a defunct greenhouse in the Palmer quad to grow seedlings and sell the mature plants to the school's chef training program. Students familiar with the decrepit structure told her it would need some improvements first. "Little did they know what they were getting into," Wolken said.

Skinner's grandson, who is in Wolken's class, asked his grandpa if he could borrow tools to see if he and some other students could fix up the old greenhouse. When Skinner found out why the students needed tools, he asked his boss if he and other Home Depot employees could lend a hand.

The project grew from having the students do a simple remodeling job to building a whole new greenhouse, said store manager Kyle Reynolds. That's often the case with community projects, he said. "We've done veteran's houses where we plan to re-do one room and we do six," he said.

Reynolds praised the students for their willingness to get in there and get 'er done. "They've been awesome, very receptive," he said.

Students have worked for weeks to select a design, propose materials needed, create a budget using spreadsheets, learn about advertising and marketing and make other business decisions.

Construction should be finished this week. The greenhouse will feature two 8-foot-by-8-foot buildings side-by-side with 4-foot clear Plexiglas, a corrugated roof and a ventilation system.

"We're walking them through how to build this, and the students are doing the actual construction," Skinner said. "It gives the kids a chance to learn how to do something a little different."

Students have started growing herbs and vegetables from seed in an empty space inside the school and will move the operation to the greenhouse.

Claudia, a Palmer Senior, said she wanted to learn about starting a business because she plans to attend cosmetology school and open a salon. "The class helped me learn how to budget and about debt and how to manage what I'm spending, and what's important and what's not," she said.

Claudia also is filming the project and will produce a video. Another student is composing original music to accompany the film. "It's a good class," she said, "and it's so cool so many people came out to help us."

In addition to the Home Depot volunteers, a parent contributed a stack of Plexiglas, Tuff Shed donated trusses, Pioneer Sand gave 2 tons of gravel for the greenhouse floor and the school pitched in $1,300 from a grant. Jersey Mike's Subs and Einstein Brothers Bagels donated much-appreciated food.

"Out of the goodness of their hearts people have contributed and volunteered to show the kids how to do things and help make this successful," Wolken said. "We couldn't have done it without them."
Shelby Morgan
Doherty DECA Alumni

October 30, 2015

To Whom It May Concern;
Graduating high school in the spring of 2015 was not just an accomplishment in the sense that I finished my primary schooling, but also in the sense that I gained vital experience throughout my time in high school as well as discovered things about myself and my future through my school’s DECA Organization. My name is Shelby Morgan and I am a recent Thomas B. Doherty and DECA alumni. I am now attending the University of Colorado at Boulder working towards a marketing degree from the Leeds School of Business as well as a media design degree from the College of Media, Communication and Information, however, I never would have discovered the path I should take with my secondary schooling and my life if it weren't for Doherty’s DECA Organization and the faculty that supported my vision. As a junior in high school I enrolled in a marketing class without the knowledge that becoming a DECA member was a requirement; however, due to my involvement in this program I have never regretted my decision. There was hesitation towards the competitions, but after completing my first role play scenario, a rush of adrenaline overcame me and I knew that I wanted my future endeavors to include similar situations. That year I got to compete at the Colorado DECA State Competition as well as attend ICDC for a leadership conference. I got the opportunity to meet other dedicated DECA members and advocates as well as make connections I never would have made otherwise. The following year I applied to be the Executive Director of Communications; this is the position within the program that truly influenced my future. I created the advertisements and got to market all DECA sponsored events. Creating numerous commercials and flyers throughout the year made me realize that marketing and advertising was exactly what I wanted to do with my life. My instructor, Bruce Cole, constantly encouraged my visions for certain ads and events; he gave me constructive criticism while also giving me freedom to design and market how I sought best. I never would have found my passion had it not been Mr. Cole's guidance, encouragement and inspiration. Doherty’s DECA Organization helped shape my educational career into what it is today and I'm sure it will continue to shape my future. The faculty and students I’ve had the opportunity to meet throughout my time as a DECA member taught me about my future aspirations as well as ways to be an effective leader and team member. This organization isn't just about giving students business style experience but also shaping students into the future business leaders of our generation. Thomas B. Doherty's faculty has developed its DECA organization into much more than an extracurricular activity, it has influenced my life immensely as I'm sure it has others and will continue to do in the future.

Sincerely,

Shelby Morgan