

From Colorado, for Colorado:

Investing in a sustainable future for the state's students, communities and workforce.

Colorado's economy is strong, but many organizations resort to importing talent from other states, creating challenges for long-term sustainability. What are employers doing to solve that problem?



Eighty-five percent of students say they go to college to get a better job.* But what are universities doing to help them achieve that goal?

The Classroom to Career Hub at Metropolitan State University of Denver answers these questions by connecting students and employers, facilitating real-world learning experiences and upskilling homegrown talent for Colorado's workforce pipeline.

More than a traditional career center, the C2 Hub innovatively strengthens students' academic and professional acumen through strategic and robust partnerships with local industries and communities to ensure an equitable and prosperous future for all Coloradans.

* "The American Freshman: Fifty-Year Trends 1966-2015" from the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles.

How MSU Denver does it

Public-private Partnerships

When industries and universities work together, Colorado wins. MSU Denver is already a leader in partnering with industry to create relevant curricula and real-world learning experiences that prepare students for careers in Colorado. The C2 Hub scales these partnerships with the aim of impacting each of the University's 19,000 students.

Holistic Approach

Setting students up for career success is not a one-size-fits-all endeavor. The C2 Hub recognizes that students engage in career planning in all aspects of their college experience and lives: in courses, clubs, community service and many other areas. The C2 Hub connects these experiences, meeting each student where they are in their career development and helping them create a tailored plan to reach their goals. The Hub also guides students in balancing technical and essential skills so that they grow as well-rounded, critical-thinking and career-ready graduates.



Why it matters

Grow Your Own

MSU Denver is the university best positioned to answer workforce demand: 96% of our students come from Colorado, and 80% of our graduates stay in Colorado upon graduation. Upskilling local talent results in less cost for companies and better career outcomes for students and local communities. Students who have enriching engagements through work-based learning feel a strong sense of connection to their employers, making them more likely to have a long-term, sustained impact on the company or industry.

Diversifying the Workforce

Colorado companies are clamoring for a more diverse workforce because diversity translates to innovative ideas and reflects the global culture. At MSU Denver, 56% of undergraduates are first-generation to go to college and 46% are students of color. We have a thriving LGBTQ community and more than 1,000 student-veterans on campus. Through the C2 Hub, companies have a direct line to a future workforce that reflects Colorado, and all students have greater career opportunities.

Case Studies



Daisy Corso
Cheltenham Elementary School
Internal Marketing Campaign

Cheltenham Elementary School

Last year, students in a communication design class created an internal marketing campaign for Cheltenham Elementary school. The campaign positioned academic subjects as superpowers as a means of exciting youth about their studies. Through this learning experience, MSU Denver students got to sharpen their skills by working with a real client, and a struggling local school got an ad agency to work on its campaign.



Rubi Solis
Lockheed Martin Space Systems
Co-op Program

Lockheed Martin Co-op Program

Students in the program work 20 to 25 hours each week for two full semesters in areas such as 3-D printing, electronics and even spacecraft testing. More intensive than a traditional internship, the program gives students more responsibility and treats them as members of the team. The outcome: 80% of the students who participate get hired full time when they graduate.

Help MSU Denver scale its impact

We are looking for partners from any industry who are willing to share ideas, explore opportunities or invest in this revolutionary new approach to higher education.

Contact

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