

# Aligning...

Colorado Division of  
Vocational Rehabilitation

Colorado School-to-Career Partnership  
*Connecting Communities, Classrooms and Careers*

## Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

This agency assists eligible people whose disability results in barriers to employment or independent living to attain a level of functioning that will enable them to enter, reenter or maintain employment and enhance skills necessary for independent living.

## Colorado School-to-Career Partnership

*Connecting Communities, Classrooms and Careers*

This statewide effort assists local schools and communities in developing a K-16 learning system which promotes attainment of high academic standards, career development and workforce preparation for every student. Academic, career development and occupational education are integrated into classroom and worksite experiences, and align with academic content standards and assessment.

## Vocational Support ...

## Creating a System for All Students

Vocational Rehabilitation aligns with School-to-Career by providing support to adolescents and adults as they prepare to exit school and access employment. Youth with disabilities often need specific assistance to access a full range of career opportunities. The partnership between Vocational Rehabilitation and School-to-Career can improve post-school employment outcomes for students with disabilities.

## School-to-Career Components

Vocational Rehabilitation can enhance the options for youth with disabilities through their involvement in the following School-to-Career system components.

- ★ **School-based Learning**  
Vocational Rehabilitation providers can support education development that links the classroom to the workplace. Their expertise will indirectly assist all youth toward enhancing their career development. Eligible youth with disabilities are their primary focus.
- ★ **Work-based Learning**  
Connecting youth with the workplace and assisting employers with strategies to meaningfully include youth with disabilities are areas of expertise for rehabilitation providers. The involvement of rehabilitation through assisting individual students and participating on taskforces and work groups will enhance the development of the School-to-Career system.
- ★ **Connecting Activities**  
Vocational Rehabilitation provides a wealth of services that connect eligible youth with disabilities to postsecondary education, training and employment. Rehabilitation counselors provide medical and/or vocational assessment and counseling which assist in the development of a strong career plan for youth with disabilities.



## Benefits . . .

### Connecting Vocational Rehabilitation & School to Career . . . What are the Benefits?

#### Partnership Benefits

Partnerships will benefit by having access to highly trained professionals that have extensive expertise in the components of School-to-Career. These individuals can provide information that will support comprehensive system development as well as suggest specific strategies for youth with disabilities. With rehabilitation input, the School-to-Career system will recognize diversity and accommodate the unique needs of all youth.

#### Rehabilitation Benefits

As students progress through the School-to-Career system, their career needs will be addressed and less support will be needed when they enter the rehabilitation system. This will increase the effectiveness and reduce the cost of rehabilitation services in Colorado through enhanced employment outcomes.

#### Students and Families Benefits

Youth with disabilities and their families benefit through increased career options and access to services that will enhance employment opportunities.



#### Employer Benefits

Employers will have access to a qualified labor source of persons with disabilities. Additionally, no-cost assistance is available from vocational rehabilitation to support employers in meeting special needs or providing accommodations for workers with disabilities. The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation providers have the knowledge, experience, and a network of services to support employer efforts to hire qualified workers.

## Customers . . .

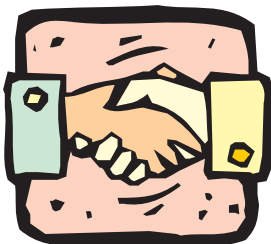
### How do Persons with disabilities Benefit? Rehabilitation customers benefit by . . .

1

Securing gainful employment

2

Increasing independence and self-direction



3

Increasing self-esteem

4

Improving quality of life

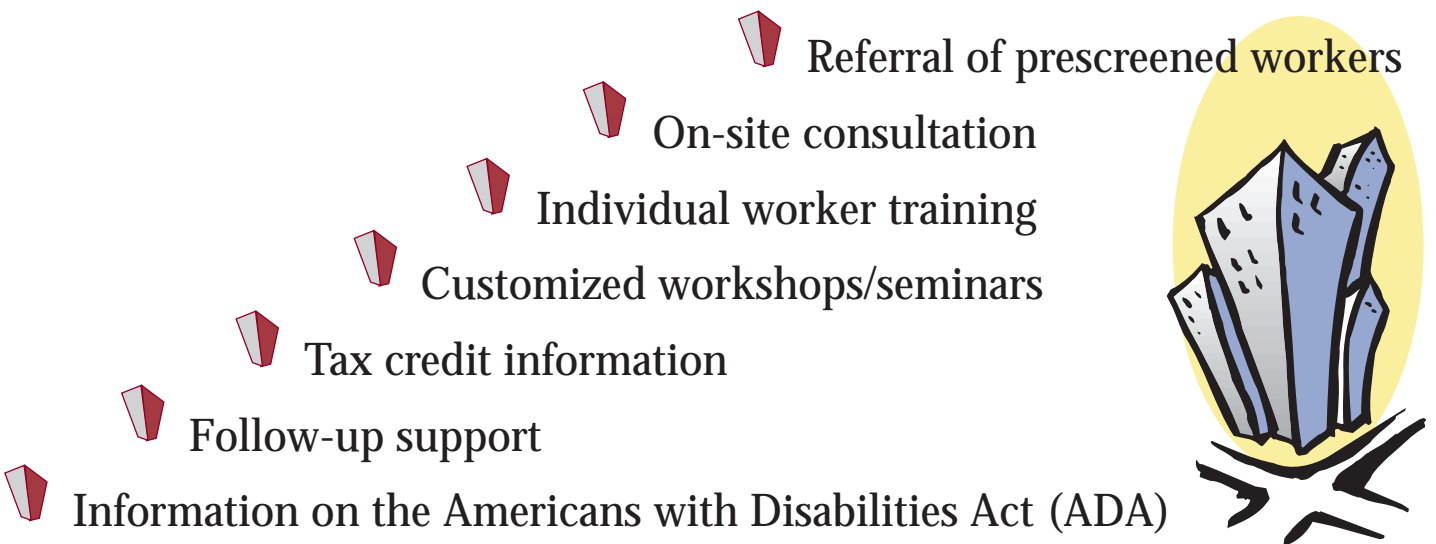
## Services . . .

### Services to Persons with Disabilities

What services are provided? Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation provides necessary goods and services to assist eligible individuals with disabilities to secure and/or retain employment. In addition to vocational services, it provides grant support to Centers for Independent Living and provides independent living services in cooperation with these centers.

### Services to Employers

Designed to connect companies with qualified workers at no cost . . .



## How to Participate . . .

How Should the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation be Included in the School-to-Career Partnership?

- ★ Required members of the local partnership
- ★ Representation on regional councils, local steering committees, taskforces and work groups
- ★ Involved in developing and implementing the local School-to-Career plan and system
- ★ Consultants to work groups addressing the School-to-Career components
- ★ Trainers of staff and employers on how to include youth with disabilities in work-based learning experiences
- ★ Direct service providers for youth with disabilities in vocational assessment and planning, career counseling, job placement and training, and other supportive services.





## For More Information About Vocational Rehabilitation In Your Community Contact:

### **The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation**

110 16th Street  
Denver, Colorado 80206  
303/620-4152 (voice phone & TDD)

## For More Information About The School-to-Career Partnership In Your Area Contact:

These regional resource centers represent 81 Local School-to-Career Partnerships across Colorado including 144 of K-12 school districts with the potential to impact 90% of all students, plus community colleges and universities statewide.

### **Region 1 - Northern Colorado**

#### **Connie Long**

Aims Community College  
Corporate Education Center  
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(Counties: Larimer, Weld, Morgan, Logan, Sedgwick, Phillips, Washington, Yuma, Elbert, Lincoln, Kit Carson, Cheyenne)

### **Region 2 - Denver/Metro**

#### **Alice Potter**

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### **Region 3 - Central Colorado**

#### **Ed Bowen**

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### **Region 4 - Southern Colorado**

#### **Julie Sumpter**

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(Counties: Crowley, Kiowa, Otero, Bent, Prowers, Baca, Las Animas, Huerfano, Costilla Alamosa, Conejos, Rio Grande, Mineral, Sagauche)

### **Region 5 - Southwestern Colorado**

#### **Barbara Milicevic**

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(Counties: Delta, Gunnison, Montrose, Ouray, San Miguel, Dolores, San Juan, Hinsdale, Montezuma, La Plata, Archuleta)

### **Region 6 - Western Colorado**

#### **Darla Bennett**

STC Resource Center  
504 27th St.  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601  
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e-mail: [darla\\_bennett@ceo.cudenver.edu](mailto:darla_bennett@ceo.cudenver.edu)  
(Counties: Moffat, Routt, Jackson, Grant, Summit, Eagle, Lake, Pitkin, Mesa, Garfield, Rio Blanco).



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School-to-Career Partnership  
Connecting Communities, Classrooms & Careers



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Colorado Department of Education

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