



**Dear Partners in Education,**

We are excited that you have joined us for the inaugural NoCO IgnitED summit! Together we can spark entrepreneurship in education through collaboration. We truly believe teachers and educational leaders are superheroes in our communities and we recognize the demands of your time. Likewise, business and community partners will employ the next generation workforce and grow our community in countless ways. Regardless of your role in Northern Colorado, we are committed to delivering an experience like no other, where you will leave feeling inspired, challenged and reinvigorated to continue spreading entrepreneurialism.

Our goal for bringing you all together is to connect educators, community, and industry to spark entrepreneurial education in Colorado. This immersive and hands-on event will provide educators and business leaders with real examples of innovative learning environments in Northern Colorado and challenge participants to discover their own inner entrepreneur.

You will leave with inspiration as well as actionable ideas. This isn't your standard conference with sit and get keynotes and presentations. Do not be surprised if your brain is running on overdrive after the first day's disruption activity, site visits and networking. Day two will offer multiple opportunities to synthesize what you are learning then discover the frameworks and tools you need to create your plan for action. Whether you are an educator looking to connect your students with authentic experiences, or you are part of the business community seeking volunteer opportunities or looking to enhance skills in the talent pipeline, NoCO IgnitED is the place for you.

We want you to examine the site visits and breakout sessions through multiple lenses. First through your usual lens as an educator, employer, entrepreneur or philanthropist. In addition, we want you to experience the ecosystems as a learner. As an education leader, you will notice how students are engaging with learning and the underlying pedagogy of instruction. As a business leader you may be seeking evidence of the workforce readiness skills you look for in hiring and how students are practicing those skills in preliminary stages. What you see in these different environments depends on your experience, and your perspective is valuable. When we bring our individual ideas about possibilities together into a larger conversation, that is when we will spark change and ignite collaboration across sectors. What ideas, solutions or systemic conditions do you witness in Northern Colorado that best enable learners to develop agility and thrive in the future of work? We expect you to experience NoCO IgnitED through both lenses and plan to share ideas in conversations with attendees outside your usual circle.

**We ask that you come ready with an open mind.** This experience has been curated to challenge what you know and believe to be true about education. We have brought together compelling leaders from both education and industry as well as interactive sessions to keep you on your toes and energized throughout the two days.

**We ask that you come prepared.** To support you in making the most out of this experience, we have created this guidebook to provide background understanding about the site visits and sessions. In addition to the valuable information, we have identified our hopes for your learning, as well as provided space to take notes and reflect on action you might take because of these new learnings. Bring this guidebook with you on your site visits and to the breakout sessions on day two.

**We ask that you leave ready to make an impact.** As part of your commitment to continuous improvement, and to honor the partners who provided this experience, you are encouraged to share your new learning with your colleagues. Commit to implementing at least one new idea and collaborate with at least one co-worker to find success. You have a tremendous opportunity to shape the future of education in our region and we are eager to come alongside you on your journey.

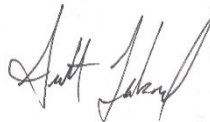
Thank you again for being part of this one-of-a-kind event and we look forward to a great couple of days! Together, we can unleash an entrepreneurial mindset in young people that creates lasting and impactful change.

With Gratitude,



Linda Crum

OtterCares Foundation  
Executive Director



Scott Laband

Colorado Succeeds  
President



Kellie Lauth

MindSpark Learning  
Chief Executive Officer



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# General Information

<b>Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>: The Summit Windsor</b> 4455 N Fairgrounds Ave, Windsor, CO 80550	
8:15 AM – 8:30 AM	Arrival and Check-in
8:45 AM – 8:55 AM	Opening Welcome
8:55 AM – 9:45 AM	Disruption Activity
9:45 AM – 10:00 AM	Load Buses
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Travel to and From Site Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bamford Elementary School</li> <li>• Colorado Early Colleges Fort Collins High School</li> <li>• Future-Ready Innovation Lab</li> <li>• Loveland High School</li> <li>• Martinez Elementary School</li> <li>• Windsor Charter Academy Elementary School</li> <li>• Windsor High School</li> </ul>
12:00 PM – 12:45 PM	Lunch at The Summit
12:45 PM – 1:00 PM	Load Buses
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Travel to and From Site Visits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bamford Elementary School</li> <li>• Colorado Early Colleges Fort Collins High School</li> <li>• Future-Ready Innovation Lab</li> <li>• Loveland High School</li> <li>• Martinez Elementary School</li> <li>• Windsor Charter Academy Elementary School</li> <li>• Windsor High School</li> </ul>
3:15 PM – 4:00 PM	Closing
4:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Optional Happy Hour

**Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>: Nancy Richardson Design Center (CSU Campus)**  
522 W Lake St, Fort Collins, CO 80523

8:15 AM – 8:30 AM	Arrival and Check-in
8:45 AM – 8:50 AM	Welcome and RDC Team Introductions
8:50 AM – 9:30 AM	Disruption Activity
9:45 AM – 11:00 AM	<p>First Round of Breakout Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Sustainable Cross-Sector Partnerships: A Working Session for Educators &amp; Industry Partners (RDC121)</li> <li>• Entrepreneur in Disguise: Learn to Unlock Your Inner Entrepreneur (RDC212)</li> <li>• Future Ready: How Entrepreneurship &amp; Design Thinking Help Students Change the World (RDC120)</li> <li>• Design Thinking as a Tool for Community-Based Projects (RDC312)</li> </ul>
11:00 AM – 11:15 AM	Break
11:15 AM – 12:30 PM	<p>Second Round of Breakout Sessions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building Sustainable Cross-Sector Partnerships: A Working Session for Educators &amp; Industry Partners (RDC121)</li> <li>• Entrepreneur in Disguise: Learn to Unlock Your Inner Entrepreneur (RDC212)</li> <li>• Future Ready: How Entrepreneurship &amp; Design Thinking Help Students Change the World (RDC120)</li> <li>• Design Thinking as a Tool for Community-Based Projects (RDC312)</li> </ul>
12:30 PM – 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:30 PM – 2:15 PM	Design Sprint
2:15 PM – 3:30 PM	Work Time
3:30 PM – 4:00 PM	Closing

## **Acknowledgements**

NoCO IgnitED has been more than two years in the making. It began in early 2019 with a simple question... What gaps exist in entrepreneurial education that we could work strategically to fill?

But as with most simple questions, there wasn't a simple answer. Guided by Gina Montesanti and Matt Evans from the Otter Products Innovation Team, the OtterCares staff undertook a yearlong project to research education and uncover those unmet needs using the Blue Ocean Shift process. They not only showed us how to use the process, but also got their hands dirty, helping with countless hours of research. Altogether, we conducted more than 40 interviews with education stakeholders including principals, teachers, students, business leaders, youth program providers and more.

Out of this research one of the key themes that emerged was the need to create a stronger network of educators and business leaders working together to enhance entrepreneurial mindsets in education. And so, the idea of an event that would bring these stakeholders together was born. Colorado Succeeds and MindSpark Learning enthusiastically accepted an invitation to partner and lend their expertise in creating an exceptional event.

Thank you to Scott Shrake and Hope Parker from the CSU Institute for Entrepreneurship, who participated in this work from the start of Blue Ocean Shift all the way through the execution of NoCO IgnitED. Your partnership in entrepreneurial education has been invaluable.

Thank you to more than 50 educators representing public school districts, charter schools and nonprofit partners that gave input during the comprehensive listening tour. The thoughtful feedback you provided has been incorporated at every step along the way.

Thank you to our NoCO IgnitED Steering Committee, a powerhouse group whose expertise shaped this event from the ground up: Erin Bley, Alexa Giannoni, Jan Harrison, John Howe, Dawn Krueger, Anna Leer, Courtney Luce, Andrew Minor, Irene Nissen, Hope Parker, Mike Pintaric, CJ Renaud, Mark Schreiber, Angie Shaler, and Collin Turbert.

Thank you to the school sites hosting visitors and the breakout session facilitators. There is immense value in the work you are doing now to make an impact on the future of education. The next generation is already benefiting from your collaboration, innovative ideas and action plans. We are grateful for your willingness to share your secret sauce with others.

Thank you to the team at CSU's Nancy Richardson Design Center. It has been a privilege to work with the RDC staff and we are excited for attendees to experience their unique space and to be exposed to new ways of thinking away from their typical daily environment.

Finally, thank you to everyone who is attending NoCO IgnitED. Thank you for carving out time to be here, for coming into this experience with an open mind, and for the work you will continue after our two days together to make education better in Northern Colorado.

# Attendee Information

## Sponsor Organizations

### **Colorado Succeeds**

*Colorado Succeeds believes great schools are good business. We are a movement of business leaders who are invested in improving schools, changing educational outcomes for kids, and shaping the future of Colorado's workforce. Together, we support the educators who are innovating in the classroom and the policymakers who are changing the system.*

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### **MindSpark Learning**

*Education is the greatest and most foundational problem-solving mechanism that exists in society. MindSpark programs deliver extraordinary professional learning experiences for educators, the community, and industry partners who then take their new skills back to the classroom and beyond.*

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## OtterCares Foundation

*We believe one young and inspired mind can change the world. The OtterCares Foundation inspires students to become entrepreneurs and philanthropists who create lasting and impactful change in their communities. Nancy Richardson founded OtterCares to invest in education and empower youth to create lasting change through philanthropy and entrepreneurship. Since 2009, we have equipped kids, classrooms and communities to recognize their true potential to make a difference by Igniting Tomorrow Today.*

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## Additional Attendee Contact Information

Located in the back pocket of the print version of the guidebook, we have included the most recent list of attendee contact information. Contact [info@ottercares.org](mailto:info@ottercares.org) with any follow up questions.



# Day One Overview

When planning for NoCO IgnitED began, one of the things we heard loud and clear from stakeholders was that they did not want to attend another typical conference. They didn't want to sit in cold meeting rooms and eat boring food while hearing from speakers who had a great message to share but left little room for ideation and implementation.

Born out of this feedback was the structure for day one of NoCO IgnitED. Attendees start the day at a fun location, designed to inspire creativity and then travel out to sites that showcase and highlight all that is great in education across Northern Colorado. Each attendee will have the opportunity to visit two school sites that exemplify entrepreneurial mindset, design thinking and student-led learning.

The following pages contain a summary of each of the school sites and what visitors will learn. We encourage you to read about the sites you will visit on your way to the school, and to spend time reading about the other sites later as time allows. Each school offers a unique perspective and one-of-a kind programs that we are excited to share.

Some things we hope you will keep in mind during your visits:

**Site visits are designed to be aspirational, not instructional.** Rather than thinking “how can I recreate this idea” we encourage you to think “how would this idea show up in my environment?” True value comes not from replicating others' ideas but learning from their processes to create your own ideas.

**The physical building itself is not the site visit.** The school buildings we are visiting range from brand new to more than 70 years old, and everything in between. It's not the building itself or the equipment inside it that creates innovation. It's the people, strategy and culture.

**There are lots of ways to peel an egg!** You might see something on your site visit that does not fit your personal definition of innovation. Please keep an open mind and challenge yourself to learn something from each location you visit.

**As you utilize the notes pages during your visits, consider the questions below:**

- What could this look like in my school or business?
- What challenges and barriers exist here?
- What partners do I need around my table?
- What resources do we have, and what do we need to accomplish this?

# Bamford Elementary School

6055 Travers Stakes Way, Loveland, CO 80538



## Who They Are:

Bamford Elementary, Poudre School District's newest elementary school, serves students in PK-5<sup>th</sup> grade and opened its doors in August 2021. Taking input from architects, district leaders and classroom teachers, the building itself was designed to intentionally foster collaboration between staff, students, families, and the community. The school was named after Gary Bamford, a beloved leader who served as a principal and assistant superintendent in the district for two decades. Gary is described by those closest to him as a leader and mentor, but more importantly, a friend. He made everyone around him feel valued and deeply appreciated. Bamford Elementary carries on his legacy through strong relationships, positive culture, a love for learning, and humility.

Bamford Elementary's Purpose Statement is "Together we inspire and empower the minds of today to make a difference in our world tomorrow." They promise to:

- Create an environment where everyone knows they belong, are accepted, and loved
- Value, model and foster kindness and empathy
- Be a place where students can be curious and take risks as we search for solutions
- Maintain high expectations while fostering independence, allowing students to take ownership and lead their learning

## What They Do:

Using a problem-based learning (PBL) model, Bamford Elementary encourages students to learn by solving real-world challenges. A robust network of community partners from business, nonprofit and government support the school by sharing challenges for students to tackle. At the end of each PBL unit, students present their ideas to a panel of community partners for feedback, input and sometimes even implementation.

Bamford is incorporating giving back into their PBL model through a pilot program with OtterCares to become a Project Heart School. Tapping into every child's innate desire to give, Project Heart is a philanthropy education program that teaches young people that they have the power and ability to create real, lasting change in their communities and around the world.

**What We Hope to Learn:**

- What problem-based learning is and how it positively impacts the student experience
- How to recruit community partners and engage them in work at your school
- How to incorporate philanthropy and entrepreneurship into student learning
- The importance of building a climate and culture that fosters collaborative experiences

**Who We Will Hear From:**

This site visit will be led by Alissa Poduska, Bamford Elementary Principal.

**Additional Resources:**

- Learn more about Project Heart: <https://myprojectheart.org/>
- Learn more about Problem-Based Learning: <https://www.educationcorner.com/problem-based-learning-guide.html>

**Notes:**

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# Colorado Early Colleges Fort Collins High School

4424 Innovation Dr, Fort Collins, CO 80525



## **Who They Are:**

Colorado Early Colleges Fort Collins High School (CECFC) opened its doors in 2012 as a tuition-free, open enrollment public charter high school. As an early college, their academic program is designed to allow students to earn an associate degree, 60+ college credits, and/or industry certifications at no cost to families. Students earn a combination of high school and college credits while they pursue a high school diploma, an associate degree, and/or an industry credential. CECFC partners with nine different colleges to make this happen with both on-campus college courses at CECFC and the opportunity for students to take courses on their college partners' campuses.

## **What They Do:**

Whether a student is pursuing a career as a lawyer, wants to be a car mechanic or is interested in running a business, CECFC ensures that students have what they need to reach their post-secondary goals. It starts with career exploration; students need to know what is out there and have a realistic picture of the various career fields to make informed decisions about their education. From there, CECFC helps students create an individual plan to reach their goals, while maintaining flexibility to pivot that plan if a student changes their mind. Because so many careers involve entrepreneurship and so many CECFC students want to run their own business someday, the entrepreneurship program has high participation. From supporting an agriculture student that needs the skills to run their family farm to fostering the next tech giant, the CECFC entrepreneurship program is there to make it happen!

## **What We Hope to Learn:**

- That entrepreneurship is truly cross-curricular, and how to connect it to other subject areas and programs throughout a school
- Lessons learned by the CECFC staff while building out these innovative programs
- How to connect entrepreneurial learning to college credit and industry certifications

**Who We Will Hear From:**

This site visit will be led by Collin Turbert, Head of School, and supported by Alexa Giannoni, business/entrepreneurship teacher. Visitors will also hear from the school's leadership team, a former student, and drop in on a few current classes to see students in action.

**Additional Resources:**

Precious Plastics Program – One of CECFC's innovative programs that connects STEM, Manufacturing, Environmentalism, Entrepreneurship and so much more!

<https://youtu.be/8Y4696Lu8Lc>

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# Future-Ready Innovation Lab

The bus is coming to us!  
Homebase: 33 Quail Rd, Longmont, CO 80501



## **Who They Are:**

The ST. VRAINNOVATION Future-Ready Innovation Lab is a high-tech, flexible classroom on wheels. An extension of the St. Vrain Valley Innovation Center, it provides cutting-edge technology in a mobile environment, emphasizing virtual reality, augmented reality, robotics, design-thinking, aeronautics, as well as STEM and early learning experiences that will excel students' learning and extend public education beyond the classroom.

At the Innovation Center, students and educators are seen as a catalyst for innovation throughout the district. They embrace strategic risk-taking while supporting educators throughout the district in their implementation of innovative ideas and programs.

## **What They Do:**

What if instead of researching the ocean floor, students could travel there? Or instead of studying the chambers of the heart, students could manipulate one virtually and explore every fiber and vessel? Technology has the power to transform, and St. Vrain Valley Schools is transforming public education by giving all 33,000 students in the district access to the world and beyond.

St. Vrain Valley Schools is advancing public education for our communities, state and nation. They are preparing our students for their future by giving them a strong competitive advantage that will empower the advancement of our world. They do this by cultivating extraordinary opportunities for students to access technology, connect with industry, and catalyze design-thinking and solutions-focused learning. The Innovation Center offers high tech classes to high school students and programming for students in K-12. Working with business partners they provide connections with mentors, internships, and work opportunities for students in STEM fields.

## **What We Hope to Learn:**

- How to take innovative learning and design thinking on the road to support wider exposure for schools/classrooms that may not otherwise have access
- Why leveraging partnerships is essential to success in this work
- What strategic district-wide initiatives are in place that allow the Mobile Lab to be effective



# Loveland High School

920 W 29th St, Loveland, CO 80538



## **Who They Are:**

Founded more than 125 years ago, Loveland High School is the oldest high school in Thompson School District, boasting a long tradition of excellence in academics, activities, and athletics. The LHS student body, which is 1,600+ students strong, live in Loveland, Fort Collins and other outlying communities that encompass the Thompson School District. Loveland High School has a dynamic and innovative Career and Technical Education (CTE) program that has been the starting point for nationally recognized and pioneering programs that integrate Math and traditional Industrial Tech. This has inspired other teachers in the building to continue to Reimagine Education and encourage students to take ownership of their school and learning.

## **What They Do:**

Loveland High School offers two contextualized Math and Industrial Technology programs that have integrated geometry with construction and algebra with traditional shop skills. "Geometry In Construction" and "AMPED on Algebra" were created by entrepreneurial teachers at LHS and are now taught in hundreds of classrooms around the country. These programs exemplify a culture of entrepreneurial mindset and student-led learning that exists throughout the school.

In recent years, Loveland High School has been on a mission to improve the physical appearance of its aging school building through multiple student-led and designed classroom renovation projects. This includes converting a traditional 1960's drafting room into an Innovation Classroom, flipping a metal shop into a cutting-edge robotics room, renovating an unused computer lab into a podcasting studio, and removing lockers in the hallway to create a learning space for students to collaborate. Each of these projects (and additional ones in the pipeline) have put students in the driver seat, allowing them to realize that great ideas can be brought to life with a little elbow grease and entrepreneurial spirit.

## **What We Hope to Learn:**

- Teaching innovation and an entrepreneurial mindset does not require a brand-new building or millions of dollars of equipment and upgrades
- How to identify pain points in your school/district and think creatively about inspiring students to help solve them
- Why you can and should dream big and roll up your sleeves to accomplish great things at your school/district



**Who We Will Hear From:**

This site visit will be led by Mike Pintaric, LHS robotics/computer science teacher and 2019 Thompson School District Educator of the Year. Visitors will also hear from LHS Assistant Principal, Jeanette Ryan, and several LHS students who have been involved in innovative programs and projects.

**Additional Resources:**

Geometry in Construction and AMPED resources: [www.contextualc.com/](http://www.contextualc.com/)

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# Martinez Elementary School

341 14th Ave, Greeley, CO 80631



## **Who They Are:**

Billie Martinez Elementary School is a neighborhood school in the Greeley-Evans School District that serves approximately 450 students in PreK-5<sup>th</sup> grade. Home to a culturally diverse student population of Latino families and multi-language learners, about 95% of the school's students qualify for free or reduced lunch. The school was once in danger of closing due to low test scores, but under the leadership of Principal Monica Draper has completed a transformational change over the last several years and was recognized in 2019 as a PBL World Champion School by PBL Works.

Martinez Dedicated - Children Educated - A Better Future Created

## **What They Do:**

An Innovation School focused on STEAM, Billie Martinez Elementary uses Project Based Learning as the primary instructional model. The school provides all students with opportunities to learn through hands-on experiences which develop critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration skills, for an ever-evolving future. They know that Project Based Learning creates enthusiasm and engagement by involving students in their own learning.

As part of the Greeley-Evans School District 6 Innovation2020 strategic plan, Martinez Elementary received a SmartLab in 2019. The SmartLab is a student-centered learning space that allows students to engage in Project Based learning as they utilize a variety of technologies, both physical and digital. SmartLabs allow students to take ownership of their learning. Exposing learners to advanced technology from a very young age is vital in preparing them for our modern world. With students coming from diverse backgrounds and many not having access to technology in their homes, it is crucial to provide equitable access at school. Leveraging technology increases engagement, initiative, innovation, and opens up opportunities that would otherwise not be possible. SmartLabs allow students to engage in curriculum-based learning, meeting Colorado State Standards, while also developing soft skills needed for their future success.

Last year, second grade students at Martinez developed a project around hunger in the local community that was built upon personal experience with hunger and food insecurity in their very own school. The project received national recognition and is a part of the PBL Works learning series for equity in education. Martinez makes a difference!

**What We Hope to Learn:**

- How the SmartLab, centered around design thinking, enhances and develops students' abilities to think outside the box, think critically, and think about the world in a different way
- How work in the SmartLab connects to the classroom, and how this work has impacted the entire building

**Who We Will Hear From:**

This site visit will be led by Monica Draper, Martinez Elementary Principal.

**Additional Resources:**

- Hunger Project Video: <https://youtu.be/GBSIDgA70v4>
- Read the SmartLabs program brochure in the guidebook appendix

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# Windsor Charter Academy Elementary

680 Academy Ct, Windsor, CO 80550



## Who They Are:

Windsor Charter Academy is an award-winning charter school in northern Colorado. In 2001, the school's founding families had a vision to create a Core Knowledge school focused on academic excellence, 21st century skills, and educating the whole child. Today, the WCA halls are filled with students who achieve academically, thrive socially, and are becoming global citizens.

Windsor Charter Academy provides students with a solid academic foundation through a K-8 Core Knowledge curriculum and a rigorous 9-12 early college high school curriculum. The WCA School culture empowers students to achieve academic excellence through critical thinking, character development, and a love for lifelong learning.

## What They Do:

Windsor Charter Academy offers a unique educational approach that combines the foundational philosophies of Core Knowledge along with STEM principles, AVID, and character development.

**Core Knowledge** WCA's elementary and middle schools utilize the Core Knowledge curriculum. The Core Knowledge curriculum provides students with a broad base of knowledge, encompassing language arts, mathematics, science, history, geography, fine arts, and physical education.

**STEM Principles:** As educators prepare students to be global citizens, students must have creative opportunities that utilize technology in their learning. Meaningful technology integration enriches student learning, facilitates enthusiasm, increases student engagement, and fosters innovative thinking.

**AVID:** Schoolwide AVID implementation at the elementary and secondary level allows all students to thrive in an environment where academic expectations are high; inquiry-based pedagogy and collaboration are evidenced in all classrooms; systems and structures focus on the needs of students; and campus leadership cultivates a culture of post-secondary and workforce readiness and success for all students.

**Character Development:** While academics are essential at Windsor Charter Academy, character education is of equal importance and promotes valuable life principles by guiding students in developing confidence, staying motivated, fostering creativity, engaging in teamwork, and developing leadership skills.

WCA encourages kindergarten through fifth grade students to embrace the philanthropic mindset by using their **time, talent, and treasure** to support diversity, encourage positivity, and be helpful throughout the school and community. Our goal is for students to share with others how they create, innovate, and grasp the ideas that might someday become their story of innovation. While these views are shared school-wide, they are emphasized and highlighted daily in our Innovation Lab.

**What We Hope to Learn:**

- How an isolated technology/keyboarding program evolved into a school-wide culture that promotes entrepreneurialism, philanthropy, and the 21st century skills
- Why robust business partnerships are essential and what resources those partnerships provide to WCA students
- How the Innovation Lab is leveraged to integrate STEM & AVID with foundational Core Knowledge principles to create a powerful combination

**Who We Will Hear From:**

This site visit will be led by Angie Shaler, Elementary Innovation Lab Teacher and Courtney Stone, Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Innovation. Visitors will also hear from Jessica Wilson, Director of Elementary School Education.

**Additional Resources:**

Find robust information about Windsor Charter Academy's curricula and programs in the appendix of this guidebook.

**Notes:**

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# Windsor High School

1100 Main St, Windsor, CO 80550



## **Who They Are:**

Windsor High School is a comprehensive public 9-12 school in the Weld Re-4 School District, serving approximately 1,500 students. Home of the Wizards, WHS is celebrating over 100 years of tradition and excellence in Northern Colorado. In 2018, WHS opened an Innovation Center after completing a \$35 million dollar renovation.

At Windsor High School, students become life-long learners empowered to pursue success in their personal, academic, and professional lives. Aligned with the Colorado Career Clusters Model, the educational experience at Windsor High is designed to build the skills and knowledge students will need to ensure success in their future professions. Students can choose from courses and career pathways in agriculture, business, visual and performing arts, communications, information technology, STEM, skilled trades, health sciences, and public safety.

## **What They Do:**

Windsor High School's vision is to Inspire Innovation and Empower Success. They achieve this vision through a variety of programs supporting academic excellence and workforce readiness. Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs include Industrial Design and Technology, Family and Consumer Sciences, Agricultural Sciences, Business, Information Technology, and Alternative Career Experience. The CTE programs are now integrated into a larger vision of supporting an innovative school-based enterprise. Their "non-traditional" school store is opening this fall and will feature various products and services provided by CTE students.

This brand-new school-based enterprise has been brought to life over the past year by a hardworking and diverse group of Windsor High School students. Representing all CTE Pathways and various grade levels, the School Store Advisory Team led the charge to create a unique store that fits the culture and needs of the WHS student body.

## **What We Hope to Learn:**

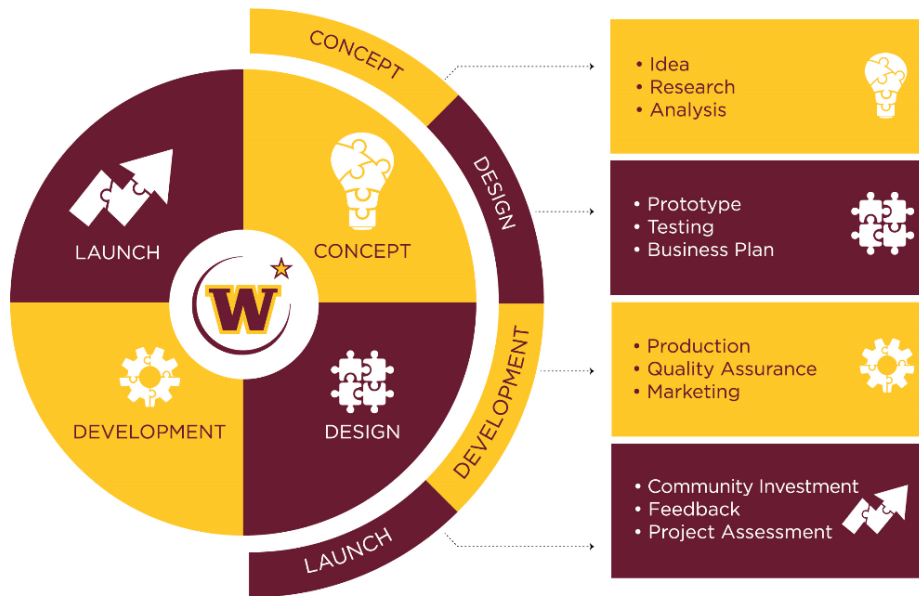
- How using the Entrepreneurial Cycle led to the development of a non-traditional school store
- Why incorporating student voice is important and how to leverage student advisory teams
- How to use a school-based enterprise (SBE) as a focal project for CTE programs

**Who We Will Hear From:**

This site visit will be led by Michelle Scallon, Windsor High School Principal, and Kevin Copher, Windsor High School Assistant Principal. Visitors will also hear from CTE department educators, the district CTE and Community Outreach Coordinator, and students from the School Store Advisory Team.

**Additional Resources:**

**Windsor High School Entrepreneurial Cycle**



**Notes:**

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# Day Two Overview

When planning for NoCO IgnitED began, one of the things we heard loud and clear from stakeholders was that they did not want to attend another typical conference. They didn't want to sit in cold meeting rooms and eat boring food while hearing from speakers who had a great message to share but left little room for ideation and implementation.

This desire for ideation and implementation informed the structure of day two. Attendees will spend the day at CSU's interdisciplinary makerspace focused on Design Thinking, the Nancy Richardson Design Center. The facility itself exemplifies the goals of NoCO IgnitED. The RDC aspires to bring together everyone – from any major, discipline and age – through design thinking and modern technologies to solve problems facing the world today.

A kick-off session will be led by Laura Malinin and Sarah Badding of the RDC team. Attendees will then attend two breakout sessions intended to provide actionable content including tools and frameworks that can be used to create a plan right away. The following pages contain breakout session descriptions and locations. Due to capacity restrictions, attendees have been pre-assigned to sessions. If you are interested in speaking with a facilitator whose session you were unable to attend, please feel free to let us know so we can connect you.

After lunch, MindSpark Learning will guide attendees through a Design Sprint to synthesize learnings from the past day and a half into new and exciting ideas. The day will conclude with a work session providing time to further develop plans and ideas in collaboration with fellow attendees.

The goal is for you to leave NoCO IgnitED with a new network of partners and actionable learnings that can be put into practice right away. We hope that the conclusion of these two days is not the end of a conference, but instead just the beginning of our work together.





## **Building Sustainable Cross-Sector Partnerships: A Working Session for Educators & Industry Partners**

**Facilitators:** Shannon Nicholas and Madison Knapp, Colorado Succeeds

**Session Description:** Interested in starting career-connected learning efforts? Want to partner with a school or business, but don't know where to start? Or do you want to take your existing partnerships to the next level? The team at Colorado Succeeds will walk you through a design session that will help you articulate your need, identify partnerships, leverage local and state policies, and land your value proposition. You'll walk away with tangible next steps for launching or scaling cross-sector partnerships and the support to do so.

**Location:** RDC121

**Assets:** [Slide deck](#)

## **Entrepreneur in Disguise: Learn to Unlock Your Inner Entrepreneur**

**Facilitators:** Hope Parker, CSU Institute for Entrepreneurship and Anna Leer, YouthBiz

**Session Description:** Are you struggling with everyday obstacles in your classroom, community and beyond and wish you had solutions? Being entrepreneurial is the secret ingredient you have been waiting for! Viewing the world through this lens can be extremely helpful to infuse creativity, resourcefulness, resilience, and more into everyday problem solving. In this session, we will explore ways to shift into an entrepreneurial mindset and uncover the entrepreneurial strengths you already have! We will make the case for why an entrepreneurial mindset is so transformative in the classroom/workplace and connect participants with tools and resources they can implement immediately. Participants will leave the session with the beginnings of a working plan to address a pressing challenge of their own, using their newly discovered entrepreneurial skills, mindset, and tools.

**Location:** RDC212

**Assets:** [Slide deck](#) and [resources](#)

## **Future Ready: How Entrepreneurship & Design Thinking Help Students Change the World**

**Facilitators:** Dr. Eric Chagala, Christian Ludwig and Kim Kriedeman, Vista Innovation & Design Academy

**Session Description:** The Vista Innovation & Design Academy (VIDA) is a public middle school located in northern San Diego. Simply referred to as VIDA, which means “life” in Spanish, the school is a model of true school transformation. Setting out to help defeat generational poverty in the neighborhood, VIDA’s transformation was based on creating a pedagogy of creativity, rooted in Design Thinking. As part of the school’s development, we worked closely with local entrepreneurs to create a model of entrepreneurial learning – not for the sake of selling, but for the sake of essential future-ready skill development. Learn from two of VIDA’s expert teachers as they walk through their efforts in both a stand-alone Entrepreneurship Elective class and the integration of social entrepreneurship into core academic content. In addition, learn about the VIDA Incubator where they help students by providing time, space & resources for: Hatching Ideas, Creating Value, and Building Confidence.

**Location:** RDC120

**Assets:** [Slide deck](#) and [school website](#)

## **Design Thinking as a Tool for Community-Based Projects**

**Facilitator:** Katie Malone, Compass Community Collaborative School

**Session Description:** Meaningful, real-world challenges are complex and messy. By empowering students and community members to tackle these issues through a structured process, we have the capacity to make big, positive changes to our community. In this session, participants will work through a collaborative and fast-paced design sprint. We will look at some of the defined policy goals for the City of Fort Collins and use design thinking to determine possible solutions. Participants will leave this session with the confidence to connect their project-based classroom with the community while fostering meaningful engagement for all. A digital toolkit with resources to replicate this exciting work with your own organization and community partners will be provided.

**Location:** RDC312

**Assets:** [Slide Deck](#)

# Appendix

[Colorado Succeeds: Vision 2030](#)

[Colorado Succeeds: Agility Explained](#)

[About Colorado Succeeds](#)

[About MindSpark Learning](#)

[MindSpark: Professional Development](#)

[Greeley-Evans District 6: SmartLabs](#)

[Windsor Charter Academy: Additional Information](#)