



February 25, 2022

Dear Current and Prospective CEC Windsor Families:

Colorado Early Colleges (CEC) has been educating students for 15 years and currently serves 5000 students in the state! Seeing young people do more than we could ever imagine brings such deep joy. This year, our high schools in Colorado Springs, Fort Collins, Parker, Aurora, Castle Rock and Inverness will be graduating nearly 100% of their seniors with an associate degree and/or industry certifications all at **zero cost** to the families. This is exciting work and shows the determination and resilience of the students to achieve remarkable outcomes during a pandemic. These students have a head start on furthering their academics or in joining the workforce upon graduation. CEC takes seriously the charge to graduate ALL students “regardless of background or skill level” postsecondary and workforce ready!

As CEC looks to the future, there are two projects that are of high priority to address *educational flexibility and individualization* in the CEC Network. One being the focus of a statewide, online school and the other is the expansion of the CEC Windsor (CECW) college and career pathway opportunities to students in **6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades**.

Fall 2022, CECW will expand its College and Career Pathways to include the following opportunities for full-time and part-time 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and middle school students when ready:

- Start on the CEC Windsor campus to take your college preparatory and general education college courses then transfer to Aims CC or Front Range CC to earn your associate degree.
- College ready? Become a College Direct student and attend any of the Aims CC campuses, Front Range CC or Snow College Online to earn your associate degree. CEC pays for tuition, fees, and books!
- Snow College to Arkansas State Online Program: Earn a mastery-based associate degree through Snow College by your sophomore year and seamlessly transfer to Arkansas State University online to earn your bachelor's degree in one of 9-degree programs. (On a fun note, CEC has an 8<sup>th</sup> grade girl who will start with Snow College this summer and plans to complete her bachelor's degree by her junior year!)
- Earn a Commercial Drone certificate. Commercial applications for drones have grown rapidly in recent years. Photography and videography for agriculture, real estate, roof inspections, firefighting, and search and rescue are just a few. There will be an added drone course and opportunities to race competitively! At the age of 16, our students will have the opportunity to enroll in courses at Aims CC to earn their UAS Basic Operator Certificate. Their courses will also prepare them to take the FAA Part 107 Small UAS certification.
- CEC Windsor is now offering an independent study lab overseen by a quality instructor to help our students graduate with both a high school diploma and a no cost industry credential of their choice. Graduating with both will jumpstart your career or college success. You could gain a credential in career pathways such as IT, game design, business operations and creative fields like graphic design. Workforce-ready skills while in high-school increase your career or college opportunities after graduation.

## **Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management**

Whether you are starting a bakery or launching the next billion-dollar startup, a certification in Entrepreneurship and Small Business validates a students' understanding of core business principles, including the essentials needed to launch and maintain a successful business. [Job Outlook for Business Professionals](#)

## **Unity Certified User**

Whether it's a desire to create games and apps or build new worlds in AR and VR, the Unity Certified User certification enables students to get started in interactive content creation for industries such as gaming, entertainment, automotive, XR, and AEC (architecture, engineering, and construction). [Job Outlook for Web Developers](#)

## **Microsoft Certifications** (CECW students have been earning this credential for the past two years!)

No matter which career path you are pursuing Microsoft Office proficiency is a valuable skill. In fact, Microsoft Office was the leading software package called out within the top 20 skills across representative occupations in seven countries, coming in at number 3 on the IDC research list. Help your students stand out in a crowd of applicants and put them on a path to a brighter future with Microsoft Office Specialist certification. [Job Outlook for Business Managers](#)

## **Adobe Certified Professional**

Start your career in graphic design! Become an Adobe Certified Professional to show you're ready to bring ideas to life using the world's most powerful creative desktop apps. [Job Outlook for Graphic Designers](#)

## **A+ Certification CompTIA**

This certification confirms the skills needed for entry-level IT jobs. CompTIA A+ candidates are better prepared to troubleshoot and problem solve a wider variety of issues, ranging from networking and operating systems to mobile devices and security. [Job Outlook for IT Specialists](#)

## **Autodesk Certified User**

Learn AutoCAD (computer-aided design) software. You'll develop skills such as creating or plotting drawings, editing objects, working with layouts, etc., preparing you for careers in design, drafting and modeling. [Job Outlook for Architectural Drafters](#)

To sum up the expansion of the offerings at CEC Windsor for fall 2022, *full- and part-time* high school students in grades 9-12 (and middle school students when ready) will have options to:

- Enroll in college prep courses (includes exemplar music, art, STEM, and robotics programs) and general education college courses on the CECW campus.
- Enroll in industry certification programs.
- Enroll in off campus courses at Aims or Front Range Community Colleges.
- Enroll in online courses through Snow College (and maybe ASU 😊) or Aims CC.

As always, students can adapt their schedule to leave early for sports or work, tutoring is offered, and all CEC students learn employable soft skills necessary for the workplace!

Please reach out to Kelly Smith with any questions at [Kelly.smith@coloradoearlycolleges.org](mailto:Kelly.smith@coloradoearlycolleges.org).

With gratitude and appreciation,



Sandi Brown

Chief Executive Administrator, Colorado Early Colleges Network of Charter Schools