

# **The Arapahoe Campus of the Boulder Valley School District** *formerly the Boulder Technical Education Center*

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2008, the Boulder Technical Education Center (Boulder TEC), acting as the area career technical school for the Boulder Valley School District, had 44 CTE instructors and an enrollment of 367 students.

In 2008, while retaining its staff and programs, the Boulder TEC merged with neighboring Arapahoe Ridge High School to become the District's "Arapahoe Campus," a place where current CTE operations will be significantly expanded.

The Arapahoe Campus is using Perkins funding to:

- Integrate Technical Writing into CTE Classrooms and Labs
- Develop Standards/Competency Based Grading and Skill Attainment
- CTE Program Modernization
- Non-Traditional Outreach
- Advance CTE Student Intervention (including CTE student Plans of Study and Advanced Credit Pathways)

## **KEY INNOVATION(S)**

By merging its Technical Education Center with the neighboring high school the District is progressing on a larger initiative to provide intervention services to students who most need them in an effort to ensure their success and help close the achievement gap (e.g., alternative students). For example, the current restructuring includes modifying buildings to accommodate programs such as a teen parent program with a nursery. The merger has been a catalyst for the academic and CTE components of the District to work together to bring students the best opportunities available.

The collaborative restructuring of the CTE program with administrative support will give it a significant edge on creating the most up-to-date facilities possible and to be able to offer additional programs to students. One new program being considered as an addition to the CTE roster of programs is **Water Science**. The CTE team has a contagious level of enthusiasm and confidence that their ideas will be implemented because of the support they have District-wide.

The District is hiring a counselor, using a grant award they successfully sought and won, to move students into careers. They have also hired a community liaison to help their efforts.

The District has developed and is continuing to create articulation agreements with local community colleges.

The District welcomes adults to complete its programs. This is a great initiative to keep students active in the CTE program. A Lifelong Learning class meets once a week and adults can also participate.

## KEY FACTORS TO IMPLEMENTATION

The District believes there is strong need and excitement for expanding the District's operations to include new programs.

The new principal of the new Arapahoe Campus has dedicated her career to meeting the needs of non-traditional students. Her experience and excellent interpersonal skills are just a couple of the many assets that will benefit her as the CTE center and the high school are merged. The new principal states, "All of us at this new combined campus are excited about the work to be done in Career and Technical Education." With a new team and new ideas, the CTE and academic components of the school district are working to bring students the best opportunities available.

The District has invested six months in a visioning process for CTE and has involved Front Range Community College and other local educational partnerships in it.

A CTE consultant is assisting the CTE director creating a CTE office with collaboration for best practices with CTE and the academic administration.

The Arapahoe Campus is very conscious that all CTE areas are kept up-to-date with technology so that students leave completely prepared for the equipment and technology they will meet in the world of work.

## RESULTS

A substantial amount of the District's Perkins funding went toward modernizing its CTE programs. Specifically, the Family Consumer Sciences, Technology and Industry, Cosmetology, Auto Collision and Repair, Construction, and Health Occupations programs benefited from this effort.

The instructional labs give evidence of the effectiveness of Perkins funding for modernization of CTE programs. The Cosmetology and Auto Repair instructors are especially excited with the updates within their facilities and the relevant outcomes of being able to prepare students for employment.

The two-year Cosmetology program has some students returning after completion of the hair program to take the esthetician and/or nail programs. The Arapahoe Campus encourages adults and high school graduates to return to complete programs. The Cosmetology instructor proudly shows the recent modernization of areas provided through Perkins funding. The Construction Trades program is expanding to teach students plumbing and electrical in addition to wood design and finishing. The popularity of the District' Automotive Collision and Repair program exceeds current capacity. Students are encouraged to take Auto Mechanics to engage them in this

program. Perkins monies have been invested in the auto repair lab to create an industry-approved paint room and students are encouraged to use their talents to complete the auto repair projects.

In addition to the physical modernization of programs, professional development is also a major priority for the District's Perkins funding. Such professional developing is focusing on: curriculum development; transition to a standards/competency based grading system and competency based instruction; Career and Technical Student Organization activities; ESL tutoring; extra duty hours for the development of instructional videos; and, more.