Why are we doing this work?

To help students and their families overcome rural poverty

What is the challenge?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Schools</th>
<th>Employers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pathway Definitions</td>
<td>Ensuring ROI if they invest in student training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Readiness</td>
<td>Lack of: Understanding of law around internships</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student/ Family Awareness</td>
<td>Understanding around Explorer Programs</td>
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<td>Ready-made investment program</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Why is this the right work for rural education?

- Gives students access to internships, jobs, and post-secondary education that otherwise would not be accessible
- Medical careers are a viable way to make a living in rural America
- Cost of living is less in rural America
- Demand is high (see Governor’s Plan 2.0)
  - Fast Growing Sector/Known Shortages
  - Skills are Transferrable
- Diversity of jobs in the field has broad appeal
- There are already 54 sector partners
- 45%+ minority students (SC & SFT BOCES)
- 19%+ students in poverty (SC & SFT BOCES)
- Rural college enrollment rate 27% less than metro or suburban areas

Theory of Change:

Middle School STEM Exposure ⇒ High School Academic Prep via district & employer engagement ⇒ Early College/Internships/Explorer Programs/CTE Course Credential Acquisition ⇒ Job Placement & Continued Education

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Next Steps:

1. Map out what is happening across the state and what could lend to this effort at the Rural Summit.
2. Secure funding for program development.
3. Assign AmeriCorps staff (August 2017)
4. Clarify law around student internships and explorer programs for sector partners.
5. Create sponsorship program for sector partners with student requirements to mitigate risk
6. Map pathways in SFT and SC BOCES geography and fill-in gaps with higher ed, CO Digital Learning Solutions, etc.

Expected Outcomes:

❖ 30-40 students (10% of combined graduating class) from the SFT and SC BOCES obtain a medical credential and are earning a living-wage job and meeting the needs of medical employers
What is already happening across Colorado?

Breakout Session Notes
## Student Opportunities:
- Soft skill development
- Internships
- Apprenticeships
- Bio-Med program through PLTW
- Career classes
- CTE courses
- Agriculture education
- Adams State Nursing Scholarships (San Luis Valley)
- World Language Day
- Pathways with Pueblo CC
- Vocational Cert for HS students on 5th day (location?)
- USFC Internships local contractors
- AHEC Career Exploration Day
- CU Pre-Health Day
- On-line Licensure
- I-CAP
- Community College partnerships
- Workforce Development Council
- Concurrent Enrollment

## Challenges for students:
- Soft skill development
- Essential skills
- Not knowing local workforce needs
- Problem-solving skills
- Clear pathways/opportunities

## Employer Opportunities:
- CCE courses with 9-12 HS instructors
- Econ Development Council
- Life-skills
- Web-based learning
- Job search assistance
- Arkansas Valley Manufacturing
- Physics
- Businesses come to visit schools and interact with students

## Challenges for employers:
- Differing vocabularies - Internships and onboarding
- Reaching youth/schools to fill needs
- Digital literacy challenge
- Reconciling investment & ROI
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>The Valley</th>
<th>How Do We Bridge the Gap?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Adams State University Internships Service learning guest speakers and job shadowing</td>
<td>• Apprenticeships and Internships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Reach your Peak - CMC and NWCC and Colo Mesa U</td>
<td>• Real life Experience in career fields</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Teacher Prep</td>
<td>• Sector partnerships</td>
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<tr>
<td>• FFA program Welding and Animal Husbandry</td>
<td>• Colorado Workforce Council</td>
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<td>• Family members contribute</td>
<td>• I-CAP</td>
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<td>• Essential skills taught by Job Corps to build community relations</td>
<td>• Community College enrollment</td>
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<td>• Hiring Career Ed course for HS</td>
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