

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Colorado Space Business Roundtable Launches PROPEL Colorado Workforce Development Initiative

Denver, Colorado – January 22, 2026 – The Colorado Space Business Roundtable (CSBR) today announced the launch of PROPEL Colorado (Promoting Realtime Opportunities for Professional Education and Learning), a new statewide initiative to strengthen Colorado’s aerospace workforce. With support from the ZOMA Foundation and SyncUp Colorado, PROPEL Colorado expands access to careers in one of the state’s highest-growth and most mission-critical industries by partnering with employers and educators to prepare underrepresented and aspiring workers with the skills required to succeed.

Colorado is the nation’s second largest aerospace economy, yet companies across the supply chain continue to face talent shortages that limit growth and competitiveness. Meanwhile, jobseekers statewide are seeking stable, well-paying careers, but often lack a clear entry point into the industry. PROPEL Colorado is designed to close that gap by ensuring training programs are aligned with real hiring demand and lead directly to job opportunities.

“Colorado’s aerospace leadership depends on a strong, diverse, and job-ready workforce,” said Debra Wilcox, Chair of the Colorado Space Business Roundtable. “PROPEL Colorado supports both industry competitiveness and economic mobility by connecting learners with the skills and opportunities employers are hiring for today.”

Program activities include:

- Statewide industry roundtables to define priority hiring needs, skill gaps, and emerging workforce trends
- Identification and enhancement of existing curriculum, micropathways, and credential programs to ensure alignment with real employer requirements
- Expansion of work-based learning opportunities, including internships, externships, and industry engagement
- Launch of an aerospace workforce portal to connect employers, educators, and jobseekers with available programs and opportunities
- Public outreach campaigns, informational events, and media content to expand awareness of aerospace career opportunities
- Support for pathways into security-cleared positions essential to sustaining Colorado’s national-security workforce

PROPEL Colorado will operate in close collaboration with the new Colorado Space Institute at Arapahoe Community College, educational institutions across the state, industry partners, and state agencies. Through this initiative, CSBR is expanding its role as Colorado’s dedicated aerospace workforce intermediary – a central organizer for employer input, credential alignment, and long-range talent development.

“This is an investment not only in Colorado’s workers, but in the health of our aerospace ecosystem,” said Carolyn Belle, Program Manager for PROPEL Colorado. “We are honored to

receive two years of funding to accelerate this effort and look forward to partnering with employers, educators, and communities across the state.”

Stakeholders interested in sharing their workforce challenges, contributing to curriculum development, offering work-based learning opportunities, or supporting career awareness initiatives are encouraged to connect with the program team.

Contact: [info@propelcolorado.org](mailto:info@propelcolorado.org)

#### About the Colorado Space Business Roundtable

The Colorado Space Business Roundtable formed in 1993 to unite aerospace stakeholders from industry, government, and academia for collaborative discussions. Our mission is to strengthen, nurture, and expand Colorado’s dynamic space economy, ensuring the state remains a leader in the global aerospace marketplace.