

Five Years of **IMPACT**



Dear Friends and Supporters,

Five years ago, AdvanceEDU launched with a bold vision: to ensure that family income is no longer predictive of a student's college and career success. Together, we set out to make Colorado the first state to level the playing field for students juggling work, caregiving, and financial barriers. Real change takes persistence—and through a global pandemic, shifting policies, and economic uncertainty, our commitment has never wavered.

Your support has been transformative. Every collaboration, donation, and word of encouragement has fueled our mission to provide innovative, affordable pathways to in-demand careers and financial freedom.

In this report, you'll see the impact you've made—through numbers and stories like Kodi's. A mother of three, Kodi once felt stuck, doubting she could succeed in college. Today, with AdvanceEDU's support, she's just months from earning her bachelor's degree and has doubled her income. She shared:

"I've gone from feeling like I was in concrete shoes to earning two promotions. I know now that I have the power to advance my career at any time—and that I belong."

Stories like Kodi's prove what's possible when we build deeply supported pathways to high opportunity careers with the needs of underrepresented students at the forefront.

The next phase of our work is even bigger. This year, we're launching a **first-of-its-kind partnership with the Colorado Community College System**, expanding our geographic reach with a **new location in Pueblo**, and deepening employer collaborations with groups like **Colorado Thrives, ensuring our learners have priority in hiring pipelines.**

Thank you for believing in this work. Thank you for Five Years of Impact.

With gratitude and enthusiasm for what's ahead,



Lauren Trent

Chief Executive Officer
AdvanceEDU

Vision

Closing Colorado’s college and career opportunity gaps so that all Coloradans can build thriving futures.

Mission

To support college students in innovative, affordable paths to in-demand careers and financial freedom.

Program Model

AdvanceEDU is a College and Career Accelerator where students are supported and empowered to own their career journey.

Student Profile

We serve the “New Traditional” learner—the silent majority of learners reshaping higher education while balancing work, family obligations, and financial responsibilities. Typically ages 18–34, they are deeply connected to their families, sometimes as caregivers, and rely on financial aid while remaining loan-averse and skeptical of higher education’s value. They value strong social and co-curricular opportunities. New Traditional learners often face stress from trying to manage across realms and benefit from both coaching and mental health support.

AdvanceEDU College and Career Accelerator

AdvanceEDU Seminar

AdvanceEDU provides a risk-free college preparation period that includes in-depth exploration of potential career pathways and related certificates and degrees.

Financial Support

“Advancers” receive comprehensive FAFSA assistance and our proprietary Financial Source Exploration (FSE) service, which helps students identify additional funding opportunities—including last-dollar scholarships from AdvanceEDU.

Success Coaching

Success coaches provide personalized guidance tailored to New Traditional students, which is focused on navigating academics, career planning, mental

health advocacy, and financial sustainability. Coaches can deploy wrap-around resources like emergency grants, technology, and free mental health services.

Community

We create a supportive network where students connect through leadership opportunities, social events, study sessions, and our Advancer Community Events (ACEs). With on-demand support and Slack engagement, we foster belonging and shared success.

Career

We provide career coaching, exploration, and job search support to help students confidently navigate their professional paths. Through readiness training and transition support, we prepare them for meaningful employment and long-term success.

Key Partners

Colorado State University Global
Colorado Community College System
Community College of Aurora
Front Range Community College
Colorado Thrives
Colorado Succeeds

Opportunity Now
Walton Family Foundation
Bloomberg Philanthropies
Thiry O’Leary Foundation
Colorado Health Foundation
Anschutz Foundation

Daniels Fund
Gary Community Investments
Denver Foundation
Denver Broncos Foundation
Public Education & Business Coalition
CrossPurpose



320 learners served

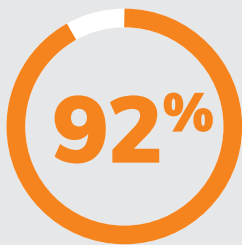
- › 80% from low-income households
- › 86% first-generation
- › 82% students of color
- › 69% aged 18-30
- › 72% working
- › 40% caregiving

4 high-demand pathways

- › Healthcare
- › Business
- › Technology
- › Public Sector

\$27.03 average wage

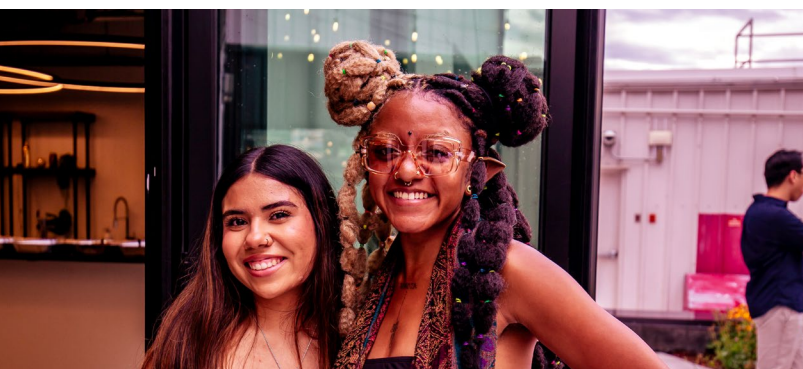
upon program completion—a **35% increase during the program**, and between **9% and 32% higher than the Colorado state median**, depending on credential type (certificate, associates, bachelors)

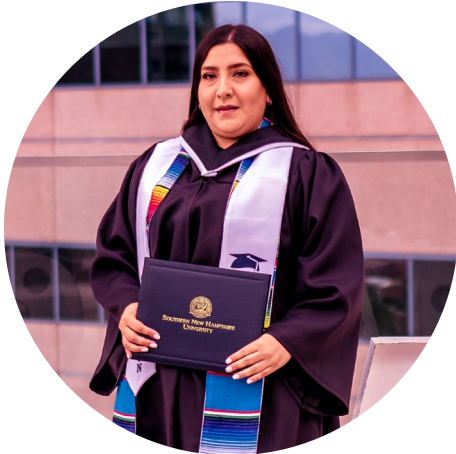


92% college retention rate



90% of AdvanceEDU-supported learners are pursuing a degree completely debt-free





Marissa

When she started at AdvanceEDU, Marissa was working as a clinic lead at a healthcare organization. After three years and earning her associate's degree in Healthcare Leadership, she is now a practice manager, resulting in a 120% salary increase. "Having a full time job and the support of AdvanceEDU helped me a lot. My success coach Michelle was able to meet with me after hours, like around 7:00, which really worked because I had an hour commute from work to home," says Marissa.

Kodi

Kodi, who is a working mother, was employed as a dental hygienist at a children's dentistry office. After several years at AdvanceEDU, she has nearly earned a bachelor's degree in Healthcare Admin & Management. She is now a practice manager at a large hospital group, resulting in a 100% salary increase. "There has never been a time where I felt alone in this journey because of the support of AdvanceEDU," says Kodi.



Albert

Albert is a recent high school graduate who wasn't sure which career path would be a good fit. After significant career coaching, he decided to pursue a tech pathway and enroll in a Cybersecurity bachelor's degree program. Albert's path wasn't always linear—he encountered many of the zig zags that New Traditional learners often do: school breaks to take care of life needs and a college transfer, for example. Now he's on track to graduate by this summer and has already secured his first full-time career role as a service desk technician. He's on a clear path to a family-sustaining wage in his home town of Denver, and AdvanceEDU will be there to support him every step of the way.



Looking Ahead

New Partnership with the Colorado Community College System

We're pleased to share that we'll be introducing a partnership with the Colorado Community College System to create innovative, debt-free educational pathways that increase access and success for low-income, working, and caregiving learners. As a first step, AdvanceEDU and Community College of Aurora (CCA) are jointly launching a new Behavioral Health Pathway this summer to help income-qualifying students pursue careers in behavioral healthcare. This initiative, developed in partnership with healthcare providers, higher education faculty, and leaders, aims to address workforce shortages and increase diversity in behavioral healthcare across Colorado.

First Geographic Expansion

This summer, we'll also be launching in our first satellite location: Pueblo! For the past five years, we have primarily served students in the Denver metro area, operating from our Student Support Center in downtown Denver. We have always had ambitions to expand outside of Denver and are excited to be launching our first satellite office in Pueblo. Our services will follow the AdvanceEDU model but be customized to the Pueblo region, including our first Pueblo-based staff who will be building relationships with Pueblo-based partners. This will greatly increase our ability to serve students in southern Colorado and allow expansion into rural areas.



Governance

AdvanceEDU's Board of Directors includes some of the most respected changemakers in the state.



Kent Thiry

AdvanceEDU Founder, Former DaVita CEO and Board Chair



Susana Córdova

Education Commissioner for Colorado



Bill Kurtz

Founding CEO for the Denver School of Science and Technology charter network



Meg Lafave

Former Chief People Officer for Envision Healthcare



Donna Lynne

CEO of Denver Health, former Lieutenant Governor of Colorado

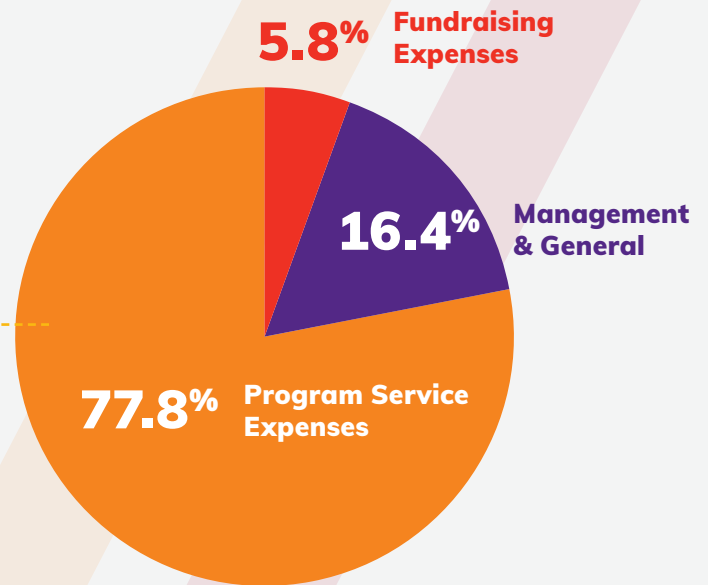


Rosemary Rodriguez

Public Servant and former Executive Director of Together We Count Colorado

Financial Sustainability

Approximately 65% of AdvanceEDU's revenue comes from private donors and foundations. Over the next five years, we aim to reduce our reliance on philanthropic funding to 30% by increasing the share of our budget supported by more sustainable revenue sources—such as contracts with colleges and employers, and publicly funded initiatives.



Our FY25 expense budget is \$2.3 million. The vast majority 78%—is directed toward the programs that serve our community every day. We keep administrative and fundraising costs lean so your dollars go further.



Join the movement!

Our Five Years of Impact campaign will fuel the next phase of growth and outcomes. Here's the kind of impact YOU can create with a tax-deductible donation to AdvanceEDU:

- › **Friend – \$1,000:** Support one learner in personalized career coaching for a year

- › **Supporter – \$5,000:** Provide free mental health services for 10 learners for a year

- › **Champion – \$10,000:** Provide emergency grants for 40 learners

- › **Leader – \$25,000:** Provide free computers for 60 income-qualified learners

- › **Visionary – \$50,000:** Support AdvanceEDU Community Events (ACES) benefiting 200 learners in one year

- › **Benefactor – \$100,000:** Support the launch of a first-of-its kind partnership with the Colorado Community College System; gain recognition in our AdvanceEDU Student Support Center with a plaque in your honor

- › **Patron – \$250,000:** Support 150 learners in 1:1 weekly success coaching for a year; gain naming rights to our Student Support Center for five years



**You can also give at
our website:**
myAdvanceEDU.org

Or send a check to:

AdvanceEDU
2215 Market Street
Denver, CO 80205

