



www.SouthernColoradoBusinessPartnership.com | 6 South Tejon, Suite 700, Colorado Springs, CO 80903

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Contact: Randy Scott, 719-213-3923 | randylscott1@msn.com
Dave Csintyan, 719-575-4309 | dave@cscs.com
Linda Mojer, 719-232-3561 | info@scwcc.com

Pilot “Boot Camp” Program for Young Job Seekers set to launch in October

Details Online at: <http://www.southerncoloradobusinesspartnership.com/engagingyouth.html>

September 1, 2011 | Colorado Springs, Colorado: The first *Engaging Youth Boot Camp* will launch at the University of Colorado, Colorado Springs on **October 15**, followed by similar programs in five added Southern Colorado markets. Funded by the Colorado Workforce Development Council and the Workforce Investment Act, the innovative approach emphasizes “soft skills” and on-the-job training for young job seekers.

At UCCS’ Dwire Hall, youth between 17-24 will complete a full-day job readiness program that will cover professional conduct expectations for successful employment, career exploration, job search/interview skills, communication with employers and co-workers, post-secondary education options and business etiquette. The program is designed to address issues of work readiness among younger employees, who – while well-trained and educated – seem to struggle with “soft skills” in the workplace.

Later matched with area business leaders for paid internships, youngsters will socially transition into a full-time work environment, by immersion and interaction with co-workers, teams and colleagues. Employers will be proactive in shaping the community’s workforce, while youngsters will develop new skillsets to make it easier to enter the job market effectively. The 16-hour internship will be completed in a three-week period, capped by a second boot camp session to de-brief, evaluate the program and discuss results.

September 30 is the registration deadline for BOTH host employers and youth.
Find full program details and contact information at SouthernColoradoBusinessPartnership.com

The Southern Colorado Business Partnership leads the project, along with the Southern Colorado Higher Education Consortium (CSHEC) and regional Workforce Centers, represented by the Pikes Peak Workforce Center (PPWFC) in the initial Colorado Springs market launch. Over the two-year grant cycle, 20 boot camps are expected to reach up to 720 youth, at sessions hosted by Lamar Community College, Otero Community College, Pikes Peak Community College, Pueblo Community College, CSU-Pueblo, Trinidad State Junior College and UCCS.

The Southern Colorado Business Partnership (SCBP) is a 501(c)(6) non-profit which brings together over a dozen area organizations - which join 4000+ businesses, representing over 140,000 employees - to work collectively in the pursuit of regional betterment, with a shared voice, mission and focus.

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