



# Denver Education Attainment Network (DEAN)

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL AND ECONOMIC OUTCOMES FOR DENVER STUDENTS

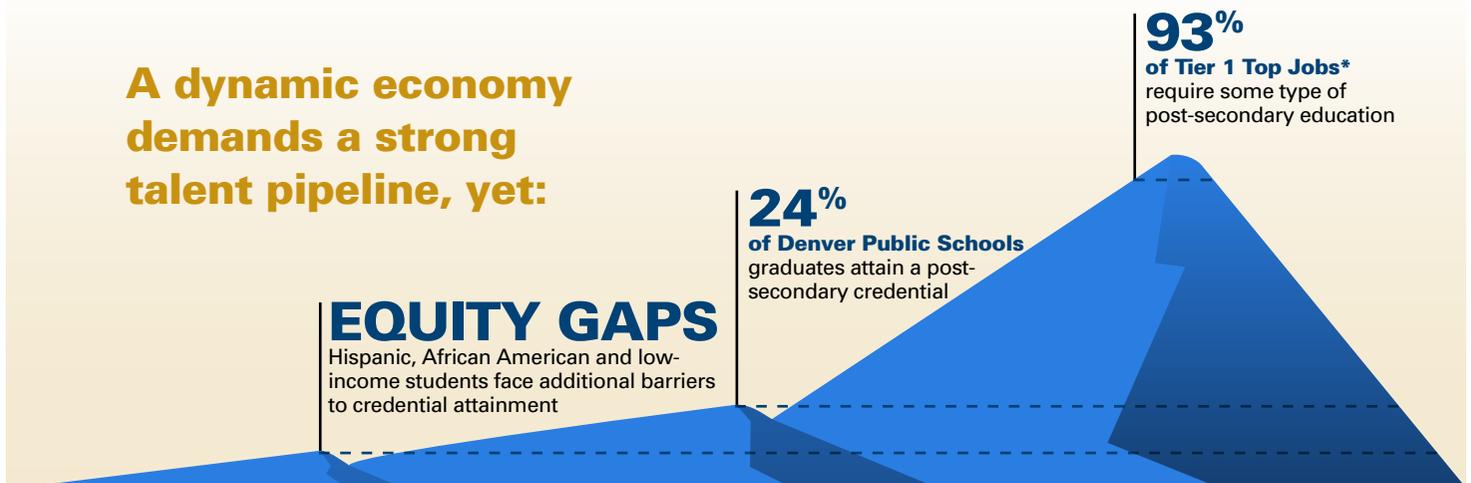
CLEAR PATHS. BRIGHT FUTURES.

## DEAN is a collective impact initiative focused on two goals:

- **increasing educational attainment** to better access workforce opportunities
- **closing equity gaps** for low-income and minority students

DEAN works in the space between institutions and organizations, connecting work to change systems to better support students.

**A good job is the key to economic opportunity.** Almost all jobs in high-growth industries that pay a family living wage require some type of postsecondary education (certificate, 2-year, 4-year degree). The equity gaps among Denver's low-income and minority students are unsustainable. DEAN is working to close these gaps and increase educational attainment and workforce opportunities.



Active engagement of DEAN partners is essential in driving systems change work. We rely on key staff from partner organizations to apply their deep knowledge and experience in developing a collective strategy, and implementing collaborative, cross-institutional plans to achieve improved outcomes at scale.

DEAN partners: the City and County of Denver, the Colorado Department of Higher Education, business and community organizations, Denver's four public institutions of higher education and Denver Public Schools.

No single policy, program, or organization can solve the complex problems of educational attainment and social mobility alone — we must work together.

DEAN's work advances two collaborative initiatives: Denver Direct Pathways, a nationally recognized, cross-institutional pathways design and college completion process and Bridging the Gap, a training event that directly connects high school and community partners to the college information and resources needed to help ensure student success.

[DenverEdNetwork.org](http://DenverEdNetwork.org)

\* 2017 Talent Pipeline Report: Tier 1 Top Jobs have high growth rates, high annual openings and pay a living wage for a family of three. 93% typically demand some level of postsecondary education or training.

# DENVER DIRECT PATHWAYS



## Denver Direct Pathways (DDP) is nationally-recognized, cross-institutional pathways design process that earned Denver recognition as a Talent Hub.\*

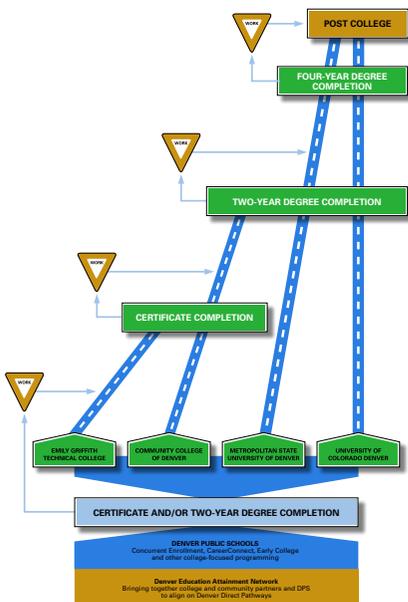
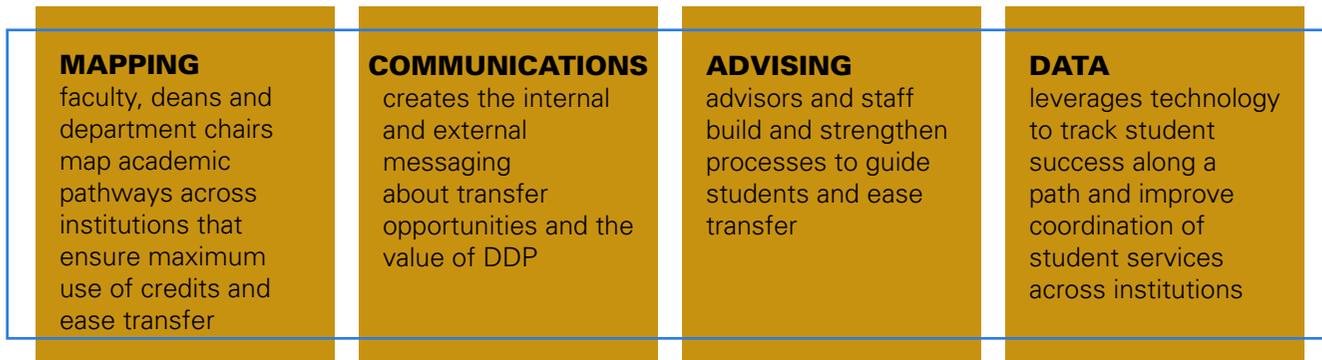
DDP is a college completion and equity strategy that employs structured academic and career pathways to increase attainment rates, close equity gaps, and connect students to better workforce opportunities.

DDP represents a partnership between Denver’s four public institutions of higher education and the K-12 school district.



DEAN also partners with the Colorado Department of Higher Education, the City & County of Denver, and community non-profit partners who share a focus on college attainment for underrepresented students.

### DEAN leads four cross-institutional teams as part of the DDP work:



### DDP Intended Outcomes

- Better serve low-income and underserved minority students
- Make a complex system more easily navigable
- Smooth transition points
- Decrease barriers to enrollment, persistence and completion
- Increase student success
  - o Reduce average time to degree
  - o Reduce average credit accumulation upon degree completion
- Increase student credential completion

DEAN is connecting Denver students to economic opportunity through educational attainment.

This collective work will change the system to work better for all students.

\* The Talent Hub designation, which Lumina Foundation awards with support from The Kresge Foundation, indicates a community has shown the capacity and ability to significantly increase the numbers of residents with college degrees, certificates, or other credentials beyond a high school diploma.