

Who We Are

Established in 1982, the Center for Work Education and Employment (CWEE), is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that has assisted more than 12,500 low-income single parents overcome the constraints and disparities of poverty, cultivate self-supporting families, and optimize collaborative partnerships. CWEE was the first program in Colorado dedicated to helping low-income women gain employment as means to transition off of public assistance. Our mission is to foster personal and professional transformation for low-income single parent families through confidence building, customized skills training, and career advancement. CWEE's integrative program is a solution that reduces poverty in our community through cultivating an educated and skilled workforce and creating self-supporting families.



2015 Accomplishments

- CWEE served 616 participants this year, more than twice the number that were served last year
- CWEE experienced a 62% increase in the number of individuals who gained employment from last year
- CWEE's average starting wage for full-time and part-time positions combined was \$10.55. The average starting wage for full-time employment was \$11.36
- CWEE increased staff from 19 to 26, and added one new classroom
- CWEE's scope of services expanded to include a greater focus on the family (dual-generation approach)
- More men entered CWEE's program
- CWEE began serving two-parent households

"From start to finish, CWEE helped me grow and create a better understanding of how to gain stability for my family."

*-Krytiseya
CWEE Participant*

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CWEE'S INTEGRATED PROGRAM



CWEE operates as an integrated education and employment program that includes comprehensive services to help parents sustain employment long-term. Through an innovative career readiness curriculum, CWEE's instructors focus on retaining participants and advancing them through classes, while individualized case management provides participants with support and resources. Participants are referred to CWEE from Arapahoe and Denver counties, and attend CWEE's program Monday-Thursday, 9AM-4PM with the goal of becoming self-supporting through employment.

CWEE's participants are enrolled in the program for an average of three to six months. CWEE's program includes three phases: Empowerment/Soft Skills, Computer Training, and Career Preparation. The phases are followed by two pathways, Education and/or Employment.

COLLABORATION

Working together by collaborating with community partners, CWEE is the key to providing participants with quality resources that help reduce barriers to employment. Examples of community partnerships include:

- 12 official non-profit partners in the Denver Metro area who leverage shared resources and collaborate programmatically
- More than 150 businesses and corporate partners who employ our participants
- Eight members of the Employer Advisory Council who share human resource best practices
- 17 prominent individuals who serve on CWEE's leadership board who provide expertise, skills and donations to support the program
- Board of Directors who are responsible for fiduciary oversight and governance, to ensure organizational soundness
- More than 75 volunteers who assist throughout the year
- State and local policy makers who represent the needs of our participants

1st IMPRESSIONS BOUTIQUE

CWEE's on-site boutique provides participants, both men and women, with business casual and professional attire. The boutique items build the self-esteem of our participants and give them pride in their appearance so they may obtain long-term employment. CWEE delivers a fresh and modern feel to the boutique and a first-rate shopping experience. All clothing, accessories and hygiene items in the boutique are donated and are provided at no-cost to CWEE participants and alumni.

Boutique high-need items: Maternity Clothing, Plus Size Clothing, Hygiene Products

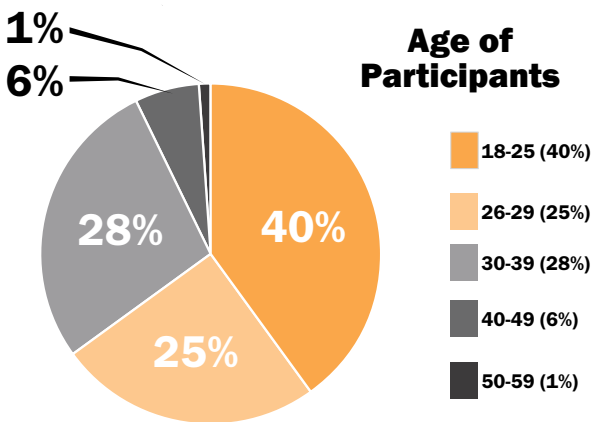
"I want to be a counselor for troubled teens because I've been there. My goal in life is to make someone else's life a little easier, like CWEE does."

*-Kiersten
CWEE Participant*

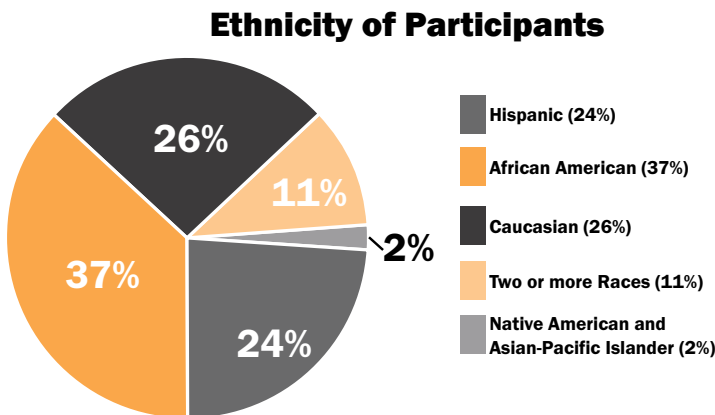
POVERTY IN COLORADO

- 39% of all families living in poverty in the United States are single-mothers ¹
- The poverty income level for a family of three is \$20,090/year. Full-time minimum wage in Colorado is \$8.23/Hr. or \$17,118/year ²
- Colorado is one of the least affordable states for center-based, fulltime childcare, costing an average of \$12,736 per infant and \$9,619 per preschooler per year ²
- More than 430,000 working-age Colorado adults lack a high school diploma or the equivalent, representing nine percent of the total population in our state ³

PARTICIPANT DEMOGRAPHICS



- 100% of all participants were living below the Federal Poverty Line
- 34% of participants reported experiencing relationship abuse either currently or in the past
- 65% of participants are between the ages of 18-29
- 91% of participants are women
- 86% of participants are single parents
- 31% of participants do not have a high school diploma or equivalency
- 31% of CWEE's participants were pregnant at time of enrollment



1. State of Working Colorado, 2014
2. Colorado Center on Law and Policy, Self-Sufficiency Standard for Colorado 2015
3. Tapping the Potential: Profile of Adult Education Target Population, Colorado, U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational and Adult Education accessed Jan. 24, 2014

Become Involved with CWEE

DONATE FUNDS

- CWEE needs your support
Donations \$250+ are eligible for a 25% Enterprise Zone State Tax Credit
- Donate monthly
- Donate one time

LEAVE A LEGACY

- CWEE accepts bequests or willed gifts, stocks, bonds, donor-advised funds and donations from trusts and family foundations

VOLUNTEER

- Lead an employer panel or workshop
- Provide career coaching
- Organize and sort clothing in the 1st Impressions Boutique
- Assist staff members with responsibilities

HOST A DRIVE

- Hygiene products, career-ready clothing, accessories, holiday toys, books



“Until CWEE, I have never learned such valuable information in such a short amount of time.”

*-Elaina
CWEE Participant*

EVENTS

- Sponsor CWEE’s Annual Luncheon in the Fall, or Extraordinary Mother’s Month in the Spring

aspire **ACT** achieve

Extraordinary
Mothers

- Donate an item to CWEE’s silent auction
- Attend a CWEE Open House to learn more about our program

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

If you are interested in becoming a member of one of the following please contact CWEE:

Employer Advisory Council, Events Committee, Leadership Board, Development Committee, Board of Directors

We appreciate your interest and support

Contact Brandi Miller, Director of Development and Communications

at bmiller@cwec.org or 303.892.8444 X324.