Education Design Lab Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education



February 2024

Year-to-Career Initiative. As we continue moving through our 5-phase design process, we are making connections between existing program curriculum and the technical and durable skills local employers are seeking in both career-ready and trainable talent. We have one foot in the understand phase and the other in design, continuing to assess the current landscape while engaging employers and mapping curriculum for our micro-pathway programs.

Understand Phase²

Learn + collaborate with micro-pathway practitioners, and kick-off the cohort

Tools + touchpoints:

- Micro-pathway model presentations
- Community of Practice Resources
- Learner Engagement Framework

WE ARE HERE

While we continue engaging employers through T-Profile sessions, we will also connect with other CCGE colleges and get an introduction to the Data Collaborative our data collection strategy.

Design Phase³

Deep dive into employer needs, institutional processes and micro-pathway models

Tools + touchpoints:

- Design sessions
- Employer skills profile sessions
- Model deep dives
- Baseline + Post Program Surveys
- Credential Engine Mapping

Building Capacity: A System Level Approach

To streamline our micro-pathway design and implementation, we are honing in on some critical elements:

Standard Curriculum + Language

Common Admissions Process

Marketing Strategy

Program Stackability + Transfer Articulation



The shared vision for our Year-to-Career micro-pathway work is to collaboratively design and market pathways to increase the value of career-connected, workforce education and training across the state of Montana by streamlining our ability to connect our students to pathways that lead to industry recognized credentials that result in sustainable wage jobs.

Year-to-Career in the News

Rural ed's existential crisis: Can it keep up?

Montana Higher Education Tries to Keep up With Changing Workforce Needs

Switching Careers, and Curricula, in Rural Montana