The Washington Center

CSU PUEBLO

COLLEGE TO CAREER BOOTCAMP

November 6–8, 2026 | Pueblo, CO

Friday, November 6: Launching Your Career Journey

8:30am – 9:00am **Breakfast**

9:00am – 9:15am **Program Welcome & Orientation**
This orientation is a quick introduction to the program, outlining the goals, schedule, and key facilitators while setting expectations for participation and professionalism. Participants are guided through the day's agenda and upcoming sessions, along with the skills they will develop. Orientation also empahsizes engagement, peer connection, and practical career readiness outcomes to maximize the program experience.

9:15am – 9:25am **Morning Briefing: Framing the Day**

9:30am – 10:30am **Career Preparation for Today's Workforce**
Kick off the College to Career Bootcamp with a panel of accomplished leaders from a variety of industries who will share insights from their professional experiences and career journeys. Through a dynamic discussion, panelists will explore what it takes to succeed in today's workforce, from mastering the professional habits that set individuals apart, to building strong workplace relationships, adapting to evolving work environments, and creating opportunities for growth. This session will provide practical strategies and real-world perspectives to help participants confidently navigate the transition from college to the workplace.

Speakers:
Mike Cafasso – CEO, CommonSpirit St. Mary Corwin Hospital
Leslie Shepard – CEO, SunWest Credit Union
Heather Graham – Mayor of Pueblo

10:45am – 12:00pm **Understanding and Leveraging Your Strengths**
Gain a clearer understanding of the strengths you bring to the table and why it's important to find employment that maximizes those strengths. You will also learn how to articulate and share your strengths during your job search. Prior to the session, you will receive instructions for accessing the Colorado Career Advisor tool and should complete the assessment before the workshop.

12:00pm – 1:00pm **Lunch**

1:00pm – 2:15pm **Professional Branding & Establishing Your Reputation**
In today's world, everyone is a brand. Whether applying for a job, asking for a promotion, or pursuing personal goals, success often depends on how effectively you communicate your value. This session provides guidance to build an authentic personal brand and includes an interactive mind mapping activity to define the reputation you want to cultivate. Reputations can develop organically, but they can also be intentionally shaped through career marketing materials.

2:30pm – 3:30pm **Public Speaking & Effective Professional Communication**
Learn and practice techniques for presenting and public speaking with confidence. Whether you're preparing for academic presentations, professional pitches, or simply want to articulate your ideas with greater clarity and power, this interactive session will provide you with practical strategies and personalized feedback to transform you into a confident and engaging speaker.

Featuring Dr. Alegría Ribadeneira – Distinguished Professor and Chair, Department of English and World Languages, CSU Pueblo

3:45pm – 5:00pm **Networking 101**
Discover how to develop effective networking strategies to enhance your professional growth. This workshop explores the perceptions and realities of networking, emphasizes building genuine connections, and provides practical tools to maintain professional relationships. Participants will also practice creating a personalized pitch to strengthen their networking skills.

5:00pm – 7:00pm **Networking Event (Optional)**
Join TWC Alumni, CSU Pueblo Alumni, and CSU Pueblo Employer Partners for an evening networking reception. Build connections, practice your new networking strategies, and learn from professionals who have launched successful careers.

Saturday, November 7: Building Your Professional Toolkit

8:30am – 9:00am **Breakfast**

9:00am – 9:50am **Designing Your Resume**
A hands-on, interactive session where participants will work at their own level — whether starting from scratch, refining a finished resume, or constructing a federal resume. Walk away with a polished, ready-to-send document.

10:00am – 10:50am **Writing Cover Letters**
Practical guidance on crafting effective and compelling cover letters tailored to specific job opportunities. Learn how to articulate your interest, align qualifications with job requirements, and demonstrate knowledge of the organization.

11:00am – 11:50am **AI in the Workplace**
As artificial intelligence becomes more integrated into daily work, participants will explore its limitations and best practices for responsible use. This session includes strategies to effectively and appropriately incorporate AI into professional tasks.

12:00pm – 1:00pm **Lunch**

1:00pm – 2:30pm **Hitting the Job Boards and Organizing Your Job Search**
Launch your job search with a strategic and organized approach. In this interactive session, participants will explore major job boards such as LinkedIn, Indeed, Glassdoor, and Handshake, learning how to effectively find opportunities, navigate application systems, and leverage keywords to improve visibility in AI screening tools. Participants will also develop practical strategies for setting job search goals, tracking applications, staying organized, and adapting their approach to maximize success. By the end of the session, attendees will have the tools and confidence to manage an efficient, targeted, and effective job search.

2:30pm – 2:45pm **Break**

2:45pm – 3:30pm **Growing Your Network by Leveraging LinkedIn**
Discover strategies to unlock LinkedIn's full potential for expanding your professional network and creating a standout profile. Includes hands-on practice and practical tips to showcase your skills and build meaningful connections.

3:30pm – 5:00pm **Crushing Your Interview**
Prepare to ace your next interview with confidence! This hands-on workshop dives into the art of excelling in interviews. Through engaging activities and real-world scenarios, participants will learn to craft compelling STAR (Situation, Task, Action, Result) responses, highlight key competencies, and navigate challenging questions with ease. You'll practice delivering concise, impactful answers, receive personalized feedback, and explore techniques to authentically showcase your strengths. This session offers practical tools and insights to help you stand out and leave a lasting impression.

Sunday, November 8: Preparing for Long-Term Success

8:30am – 9:00am **Breakfast**

9:00am – 10:30am **Negotiating Salary and Benefits**
In today's competitive job market, knowing how to effectively negotiate your salary and benefits can significantly impact your career trajectory. This interactive workshop is designed to empower participants with the skills, strategies, and confidence needed to navigate these crucial conversations. Whether you're negotiating your first offer, seeking a promotion, or exploring a new opportunity, this workshop will provide practical tools and actionable insights to help you secure a compensation package that reflects your worth.

10:45am – 12:00pm **Generations in the Workplace**
Today's workplace is more dynamic and diverse than ever—especially across generations. This interactive session helps you strengthen essential professional skills like resilience, initiative, and the ability to receive and apply feedback, while also exploring how generational perspectives shape communication, values, and work styles. Through engaging scenarios and reflection, you'll learn practical strategies to adapt, collaborate effectively, and grow in any team environment.

12:00pm – 12:30pm **Final Reflections and Program Closing**
Wrap up the program with guided reflections on lessons learned and next steps. Participants will identify personal action items to carry forward into their career journey.

