



# Keep Calm and Find Your Path

## Homegrown Talent Initiative

*By Sharlynne McKown, Homeschool (8th/9th)*

Clear Creek High School (CCHS), Red Rocks Community College and community leaders are coming together to support our students in finding their passions and developing skills for their future. This will happen through a program called the **Homegrown Talent Initiative** (HTI). HTI is facilitated by both **Colorado Succeeds** (CS) and the **Colorado Education Initiative** (CEI). By encouraging community collaboration to support students, HTI aims to provide a better and brighter view for their future.

The goals of this project are to help CCHS students find their interests and strengths, provide exposure to different career pathways and give them opportunities to gain actual work experience. "It's all about improving opportunities for our students, which is the point of public education," stated Mitch Houston, the school board president.

Clear Creek School District was selected to participate in Phase One (design) of HTI. Already, the design team has begun testing ways to expand career exploration. Career Panel Discussions and Career Talks have been organized at CCHS, including interaction with local FBI Special Agent, Retired, John Lipka. He talked about what it takes to be in the FBI and how to prepare for the future. Also as a result of HTI efforts, there are plans to install "**Project Bike Tech**" at CCHS; a high school elective that will be technical and experiential. Using the bicycle as a platform, students study math, geometry, physics, history, the environment, city planning, life skills and more (go to [projectbiketech.org](http://projectbiketech.org) to learn more).



*Students working on HTI project at CCHS*

A Graduate Profile for Clear Creek High School is being created through this effort. This Profile boasts a list of attributes that students should have when they graduate from CCHS. Community business owners provided input based on qualities they would like to see in young adults. Students provided ideas based on skills they would like to have upon entering the workforce. Qualities on the list include, but are not limited to, Leadership, Adaptability and Problem Solving.

There are many ways HTI will affect students' lives. It will help develop lifelong skills and provide career exposure and exciting opportunities. "I think it all comes back to hope. Let's get students excited about their future," said Laura Robertson, Coordinator for **Mountain Youth Network** (MYN) and on the HTI Design Team. "HTI is 100% in alignment with our work at MYN and our vision for youth in the community; #FindYourPath," says Robertson.

This is an exciting program that will help CCHS students get opportunities for their future. "This is going to be so cool," said one student who wishes to remain anonymous. "All we are learning in school right now is how to take a test, we need something that will help us prepare for real life." HTI should provide that very thing and help students prepare and plan for their future.

Learn More about this program at [homegrowntalentco.org](http://homegrowntalentco.org)

**HUGE THANK YOU!**

**CLEAR** Creek School District  
is so grateful for the many  
business and community  
members who participated in  
the Homegrown Talent Initiative - Business Community  
Gathering held on February  
25, 2020 at the Clear Creek  
Cidery Tavern and Taps.  
We are excited to continue  
building lasting partnerships  
with our community.  
An extra special thank you to  
the Cidery for sponsoring all  
of the beverages for the  
event!

## Community Partner Spotlight

**Each month, a different local business or organization will be highlighted for their collaborative spirit in the community and commitment to supporting youth.**

If you would like to discuss how your organization is involved in the community, please contact us – we'd love to feature you!

**Call Laura Robertson at (303) 670-7539**

# **Partners for Pathways!**

By Emma Sander, CCHS Senior

With amazing Clear Creek County community support for the **Homegrown Talent Initiative** (HTI), it has great odds for success! Community leaders such as elected officials, organization leads and local business owners attended the Community Business Mixer at the Clear Creek Cidery to find out how to build stronger partnerships to support our youth. The HTI is designed to not only support students, but also to serve the needs of business and industry in the local community. Clear Creek School Board President, Mitch Houston, announced, "HTI can definitely affect those who are not students too. It will provide our community workforce with more productive and efficient employees."

A very special community partner stepped up to support a significant work-based learning opportunity. Students in the Clear Creek School District have been asking for hands-on learning experiences that might help them pursue a career in an industry profession (while earning class credits). Thanks to the Homegrown Talent Initiative, Clear Creek High School got connected with **Project Bike Tech** (PBT). PBT is a program that prepares youth for career opportunities through bicycle education. The start-up of the program is a bit costly, however, our local Rotary Clear Creek 2000 generously donated \$5,000 to assist. Robert Smith, president of our Rotary stated, "Rotary Clear Creek 2000 has one main focus, the youth of Clear Creek County. This focus is absolutely critical to our future. By providing avenues of vocational training like Bike Tech, we help shape their future with options." PBT will launch in the fall for the 2020-2021 school year.



**Thank you Rotary Clear Creek 2000!**

Thanks to so many community leaders who have shown interest in this initiative, our youth will end up with numerous resources to guide them on pathways to success. Those in attendance at the mixer and/or offering to get involved include County Commissioners, Clear Creek Fire Authority, Clear Creek EMS, Clear Creek Library District, Clear Creek Metropolitan Recreation District, Clear Creek Economic Development Corp (CCEDC) to name a few.

**Thank you Community Partners!**

