



## Colorado Charter Schools Annual Conference

February 25-27, 2026  
Denver Marriott Tech Center



PRESENTED BY



D|A|**DAVIDSON**  
FIXED INCOME CAPITAL MARKETS

# Partnership in Practice: Leveraging Advisory to Build Durable Skills, Foster Community and Drive Academic Success

**Amy Mallo, Director Of Mental Health And Student Culture  
Rocky Mountain Prep**

**Briana Anderson, Curriculum & Partnership Support Consultant  
nXu**

**Conifer  
February 27, 2026 | 8:30-9:30 am  
Quality: Academics**



“  
The  
conference  
at your  
fingertips.



DOWNLOAD THE APP

Colorado Charter Schools  
Annual Conference  
November 11-12, 2025  
Denver, Colorado



# THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS



PRESENTED BY



DIAMOND



PLATINUM



# Thank you.

**Zone Sponsor**



**Tatonka**  
EDUCATION SERVICES



We make it our priority to **advocate** for high-quality public charter schools across Colorado.



**Be a part of the action.**



# Amy Mallo, LCSW

Director of Mental Health and Student Culture

Rocky Mountain Prep





# Briana Anderson

Curriculum & Partnership Support  
Consultant

nXu



What non-academic  
developmental areas do we  
need to foster in our students  
to ensure they can lead  
thriving lives?





# Partnership in Practice: Leveraging Advisory to Build Durable Skills, Foster Community and Drive Academic Success

FEBRUARY 27, 2026

# AGENDA

- Introductions
- Framing
- nXu Background
- Rocky Mountain Prep Background
- The RMP Model
- Q & A
- Survey

# College Readiness Requires Identity



Rigor +  
Purpose

Belonging  
+ Agency

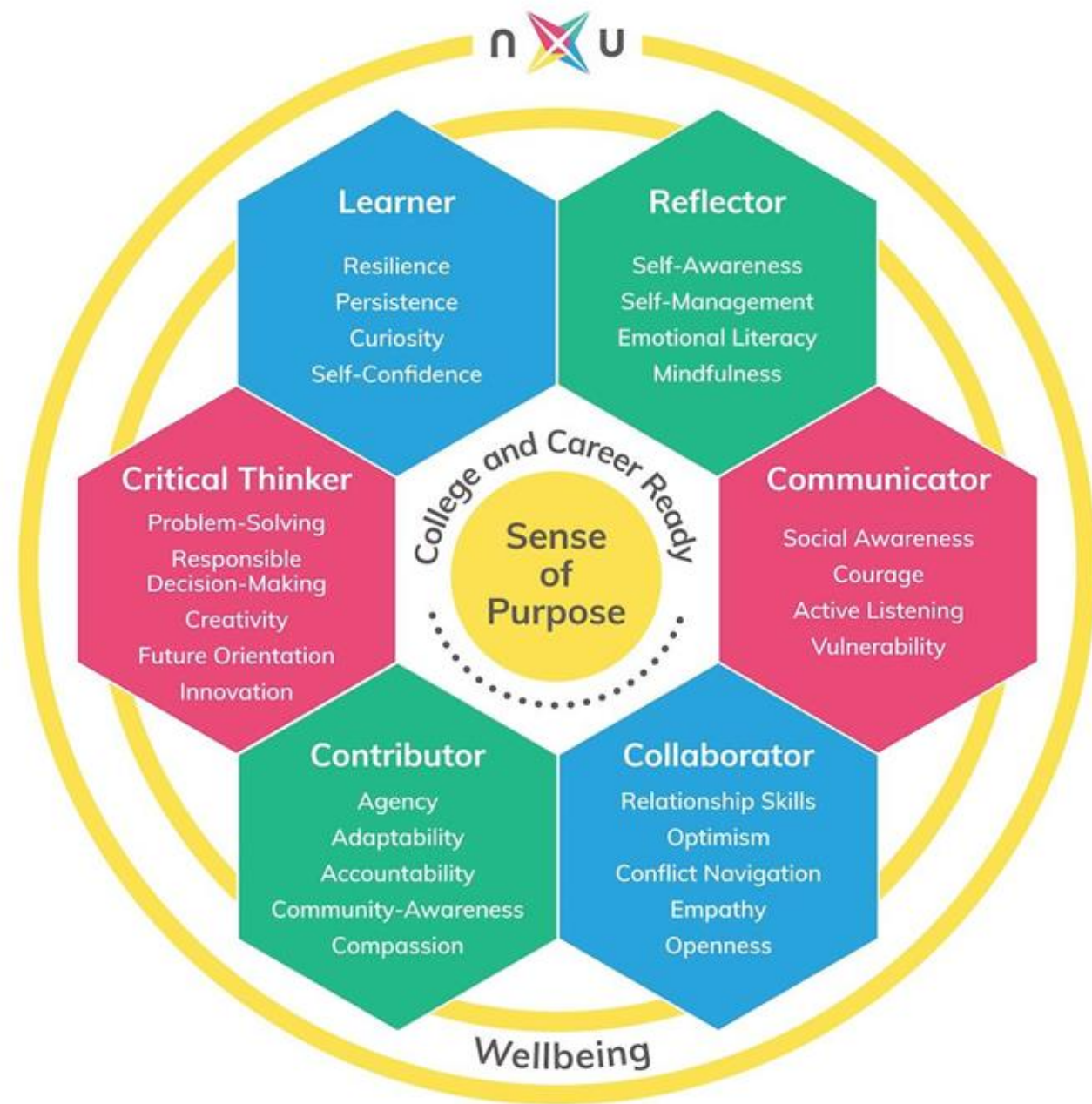
Academics  
+ Durable  
Skills





nXu partners with schools and youth organizations to facilitate development of purpose, durable skills, and wellbeing to ensure students are purpose-driven, and college and career ready.







## Elementary School Curriculum Overview



### KINDERGARTEN

MODULE NAME	THEME	CONCEPT
KNOWING MYSELF	Understanding My Emotions	Learn to notice, name, and manage your emotions to take care of yourself and feel more in control.
	Using My Voice	Use your voice to ask for help, solve problems, and speak up in ways that support yourself and others.
	Our Strengths Are Superpowers	Celebrate your strengths, lift up others, and see how everyone's unique gifts help our community grow.
MAKING FRIENDS	Caring For Others	Learn how your actions can make classmates feel seen, valued, and cared for.
	We Are Different	Explore curiosity, emotions, and unique perspectives to better understand, respect, and appreciate one another.
	Better Together	Learn how working together—listening, problem-solving, and supporting one another—makes your community stronger.

### FIRST GRADE

MODULE NAME	THEME	CONCEPT
HELPING MYSELF GROW	Building a Growth Mindset	Believe you can grow your brain by setting goals, making plans, staying motivated, and celebrating progress—even when it's hard.
	Owning My Learning	Discover how curiosity, wonder, and ownership help you become a more independent learner.
	We All Think Differently	Use creativity and courage to express your learning in ways that help others understand new ideas.
GROWING THROUGH FRIENDSHIPS	Building a Sense of Belonging	Reflect on the power of kindness, community roles, and simple actions that help others feel safe and valued.
	Kindness and Empathy	Deepen your understanding of friendship by exploring what makes a good friend and how kindness and empathy strengthen relationships.
	Working Through Differences	Learn how to respectfully share ideas, listen to others, and navigate moments of disagreement or conflict.

### SECOND GRADE

MODULE NAME	THEME	CONCEPT
WHAT MAKES ME, ME?	Traits and Strengths	Build self-awareness by learning how personal traits shape who you are and influence your strengths.
	Joy-filled Lives	Discover how noticing and using your strengths, traits, and skills can spark joy.
	Challenges Can Bring Joy	Learn that courage, persistence, and planning with purpose can lead to confidence, accomplishment, and lasting joy.
BEING KIND AND HELPING OTHERS	Drawn It, Team It	Build the foundation for strong teamwork and community through trust, communication, empathy, and gratitude.
	Building Boundaries	Learn to identify, communicate, and protect your personal boundaries to build safer communities.
	Working Together	Explore how communities help you grow through challenges, and how you can give back using your strengths.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL LESSONS

MODULE NAME	THEME	CONCEPT
BUILDING HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS	A Foundation of Trust	Identify characteristics of healthy relationships and key elements of trust by reflecting on lived experiences and applying those insights to future connections.
	Setting Boundaries	Explore different types of boundaries and practice using self-awareness to communicate them in ways that support your health and safety.
	Reliability & Accountability	Examine what it means to be reliable and practice self-reflection to take accountability and strengthen trust with others.
	Honoring our Relationships	Analyze the reasons behind our behavior while practicing different ways to support others (avoiding gossip, showing empathy, practicing confidentiality, and listening without judgment).
	BRAVING Connection	Use the BRAVING Framework to set goals to strengthen relationships rooted in trust and connection.
	Emotional Literacy	Explore the nature of emotions, how they influence our bodies and actions, why they're important, and how to express them using precise language.
LISTENING TO OURSELVES	Self-Awareness	Analyze how emotions manifest in our mind and body to identify triggers and proactively plan to cope with them.
	Expressing Emotions	Learn and apply strategies to manage overwhelming emotions, cope effectively, and express feelings in healthy, constructive ways.
	Know Yourself Project	Create a personalized emotions book to reflect on personal goals, understand and express personal emotions, and build tools for self-awareness, coping, and support.
UNDERSTANDING PURPOSE	Exploring Emotions	Play a game to synthesize knowledge of emotions.
	Purpose Defined	Identify the key components of purpose and engage in personal reflection to explore YOUR own sense of purpose.
	Developing Purpose Project	Explore and share your evolving sense of purpose by reflecting on your personal journey, learning from others' experiences, recognizing supportive relationships, and celebrating the purpose of those around you.
	Values, Joys, and Strengths	Identify your core values, joys, and strengths to clarify what matters most and guide future decisions.
	My Right-Now Purpose	Create goals based on your current sense of purpose and plans for the future.
	Defining a Path Forward Project Optional	Identify a vision for personal success and how a future career can be rooted in purpose.
SHAPING MY PATH	Career Options and Fit Project	Use online tools to explore careers by assessing how well they align with your personal criteria and sense of purpose to find the best fit.
	Planning for the Future Project	Describe your ideal job, design a visual roadmap to achieve it, and confidently share your plan with others.
	Setting Ourselves Up for Success	Evaluate your current skills, strengths, and areas of growth to create actionable goals for pursuing a career in the future.

### HIGH SCHOOL LESSONS

MODULE NAME	THEME	CONCEPT
CONNECTING WITH OTHERS	Building Connection Through Vulnerability	Build a strong foundation for community by finding common ground, exploring what it means to connect, and practicing vulnerability as a powerful way to form authentic relationships with others.
	Listening with Empathy and Openness	Strengthen your ability to connect by practicing supportive listening, building empathy, and learning how to interrupt judgment so you can truly understand and respect others' perspectives.
	Storytelling as a Path to Belonging	Foster trust and strengthen community by sharing personal stories, practicing active and supportive listening, and affirming one another to cultivate a sense of belonging.
	The Connection Project Project	Build a strong foundation for community by finding common ground, exploring what it means to connect, and practicing vulnerability as a powerful way to form authentic relationships with others.
STRENGTHS & JOYS	Creating a Vision for My Life	Start envisioning the life you want by exploring your hopes and dreams, engaging in expansive thinking with a peer, and crafting and sharing a 90th birthday speech that reflects your purpose-driven future.
	Building Self-Awareness to Pursue My Vision	Deepen your understanding of self-awareness by exploring what it means, practicing emotional reflection, and using mindfulness to help you stay connected to your vision and values.
	Discovering the Power of Joy	Explore the feeling of joy by recognizing what energizes you, sharing joyful experiences with peers, and reflecting on the deeper meaning behind the activities that bring you happiness.
	Exploring and Defining My Strengths	Discover what makes you feel strong by defining your strengths, gathering feedback from peers and assessments, and crafting a personal strengths statement to own and celebrate who you are.
COMMUNITY PROJECT	Applying My Strengths in Real Life Project	Explore how your strengths show up in everyday life through peer interviews and begin applying them to real-world problems by planning for The Strengths Challenge.
	Collaborating to Solve Challenges with Strengths Project	Collaborate with peers who share and differ in strengths to design, plan, and present a solution to a real teen issue, learning how diverse perspectives lead to stronger outcomes.
	Investing in My Strengths and Joys Project	Develop and present a personal plan to nurture your strengths and joys by interviewing someone new, exploring future possibilities, and sharing your vision with others.
	Understanding What Makes a Community	Explore what defines a true community by reflecting on the groups you belong to, how they're connected, and the reasons people unite around shared purpose and belonging.
COMMUNITY PROJECT	Beginning the Connecting with Community Project Project	Launch your community investigation by selecting a local community, identifying what's in it, and deciding who to interview to learn more about the community's values and purpose.
	Learning Through Interviews Project	Prepare to conduct meaningful interviews by developing thoughtful questions, introducing yourself with intention, and practicing active listening to uncover stories, values, and insights from your community.



## EC.14: Developing New Skills

Facilitator Guide | 25 Minutes



### LESSON OVERVIEW

**OBJECTIVE** Students will list ways they might build skills for the career they are interested in.

**THE WHY** Planning how to build important skills now helps students feel more prepared, confident, and ready for future opportunities.

**COMPETENCY** Contributor

**SKILL** Agency

### LESSON PREP

**BEFORE TEACHING** > Break students up into groups of 3 or 4.

> Skill-building strategies - specific methods and activities to develop new abilities or strengthen existing ones

> Career-relevant skills - abilities that directly connect to success in your chosen field or profession

**KEY CONTENT KNOWLEDGE**

> Agency - taking ownership of your development by actively seeking opportunities to grow

> Skill development timeline - understanding when and how to build different abilities at appropriate times in your education and career journey

### AGENDA

**OPENING** 3 minutes  
Students identify simple ways to build key career skills.

**EXPERIENCE** 18 minutes  
Students will work in groups of 4 to brainstorm ways they can develop skills they need for their future careers.

**CLOSING** 4 minutes  
Students will reflect on how they can start building skills now to prepare for their goals.

## EC.14: Developing New Skills



Objective: Students will be able to list ways they might build skills for the career they are interested in.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



### Opening

> Look at the list of career skills.

Career Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communication</li><li>• Time Management</li><li>• Teamwork</li><li>• Problem-solving</li></ul>

Choose one and answer the following question:

- What are two ways someone could get better at that skill (either in school, at a job, or in their everyday life)?



### Experience

> Complete the Developing New Skills Activity using the steps below.

- **Step 1:** Assign each group member a letter A, B, C, or D.

A: \_\_\_\_\_ B: \_\_\_\_\_ C: \_\_\_\_\_ D: \_\_\_\_\_

- **Step 2:** Person A takes 1 minute to share 2 skills they most want to build.
- **Step 3:** The rest of the group has 3 minutes to brainstorm ways Person A could build those skills while Person A jots down ideas.
- **Repeat Steps 2-3 for Persons B, C, and D**



### Opening

Look at the list of career skills.

Career Skills
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Communication</li><li>2. Time Management</li><li>3. Teamwork</li><li>4. Problem-solving</li></ol>

Choose one and answer the following question:

- What are two ways someone could get better at that skill (either in school, at a job, or in their everyday life)?

Students respond in writing to the following prompt.

- Look at the list of career skills.
  - Career skills:
    - Communication
    - Time Management
    - Teamwork
    - Problem-solving
- Choose one and answer the following question:
  - What are two ways someone could get better at that skill (either in school, at a job, or in their everyday life)?

These everyday opportunities to build skills are what we'll focus on today—finding practical ways to develop the abilities that will matter most in your future career.

# Our Initial Challenge

## Identified Gaps:

1. Advisory varied by adult.
2. No shared language.
3. No vertical coherence.

Universal space, but inconsistent experience.

## RMP Middle School Demographics:

**1510 students across 5  
schools**

- 332 have IEP/504 (19.6%)
- 998 are MLLs (66%)
- 1466 students of color (97%)
- 1233 qualify for FRL (81%)



# Intentional Moves

Schedule

Protect  
morning  
advisory  
(2x/week)

Accessibility

Tier 1 for Every  
Student

Teacher Support

Structured  
Curriculum

# Model in Practice

## nXu in Advisory

1. 2x weekly
2. 25-minute structured lessons
3. All middle school students, regardless of school size

## Implementation Supports

1. Leader PD → Teacher PD
2. Coaching Cycles
3. Facilitation Walkthroughs
4. PEAK Alignment



# Early Outcomes We're Seeing

## Positive Outcomes

1. Shared identity language across campuses
2. Stronger reflection depth
3. Identity-alignment accountability conversation
4. Increased future-oriented thinking

## Refinements

1. Vertical Alignment
2. Belonging and agency data collection
3. Adult facilitation development

# Word on the Street

“The climate feels calmer. When conflict happens, students can name what they’re working on instead of shutting down.”

I didn’t really think about my strengths before. I just thought about what I wasn’t good at.”

“In advisory, students practice language in lower-stakes ways. That carries over into writing and class discussions.”

“When we talk about purpose, it makes school feel less random.”

“I didn’t really connect school to my life before. Now when we talk about goals, I think about why I’m doing the work.”

**“I don’t know exactly what I want to be yet, but I know I want to do something that matters.”**





ROCKY MOUNTAIN PREP

Questions?  
Contact me at  
[amallo@rockymountainprep.org](mailto:amallo@rockymountainprep.org)  
-or-  
[banderson@nxueducation.org](mailto:banderson@nxueducation.org)



**“  
Your  
feedback  
helps us all  
move forward  
together**



**Colorado League of  
Charter Schools**



Each time you take the survey you can enter to win prizes