



APROFLOW

Emerging Trends, Curriculum Support, Industry Partnerships, and Authentic Student Experiences



The web as I envisaged it, we have not seen it yet. The future is still so much bigger than the past. ~Tim Berners-Lee

Project Overview

In partnership with the [Department of Education's Office of Educational Technology](#), the [Colorado Office of Economic Development and International Trade](#), and [COULD BE YOU], this inter-collegiate initiative acts as a critical bridge between participating Colorado universities, students, faculty, and international companies partnered with or invested in Colorado's evolving blockchain technology ecosystem.

What We're Proposing

With **Aproflow**, we're proposing an ongoing, fully-integrated, state/nationwide, industry-influenced program and network focused on the rapidly evolving landscape of the decentralized web and blockchain technologies. This initiative will be anchored upon an **inter-collegiate hackathon and job fair** with potential to extend into tailored research, **ongoing curriculum integration** and programming throughout the year and hosted at multiple partner institutions.



Outline and Considerations

- ❖ **Discovery Sessions** to gauge/drive interest and participation
 - ▶ *Faculty-only*: Cover fundamentals of distributed systems; open doors to broader discussions of **cross-discipline potential**; contextualize for specific institutional cultures.
 - ▶ *Public/Open*: Students and (optionally) outside community to review/hype **distributed systems** and offer a program overview.
 - ▶ **Offered free, at any time, and without commitment!*
- ❖ Semester-integrated **extra-curricular sessions**
 - ▶ Invite **industry thought-leaders** to conduct talks/workshops as supplements to existing curriculum.
 - ▶ Focus on “**soft**” and/or **trade skills** needed to succeed in this industry (**relevance for any audience*).
 - ▶ Opportunity for students to network and **receive mentorship** from experts within the blockchain community, and beyond.
- ❖ **Student Hackathon and Industry Job Fair**
 - ▶ Offered early-September as a kick-off or to seed projects to be worked on all semester, or Mid-November as a capstone project.
 - ▶ Optimal time to receive support, find opportunities to get hired, start a company, or simply learn interactively with peers.
- ❖ Direct connections to [ETHDenver](#) and other **high-exposure events**; attend as participant and/or volunteer to gain event support experience.
- ❖ Alignment with, and potential to influence, K-16 blockchain evolution and programming sponsored by the [U.S. Department of Education](#).
- ❖ **Student opportunities** for industry-expert exposure, paid/free internships, gig/freelance/bounty work, and/or full-time employment.



Why Colorado? Why Now?

State government is **actively engaged** and **highly supportive** of this industry!

- ❖ [Bill signed by Gov. Hickenlooper](#) (and supported by Gov. Polis) for cyber workforce development and research funding
 - ▶ *"...Colorado Springs. With a focus to cybersecurity, blockchain and related technologies, UCCS will receive \$1.8 million for student scholarships, faculty positions and research opportunities..."*
- ❖ With the [Digital Token Act \(SB 19-023\)](#), Colorado legislators have demonstrated a willingness to introduce (and pass) progressive legislation, enabling ongoing, statewide, blockchain innovation.
- ❖ Policy support demonstrated through creation of, and governor-appointed membership to, the [Colorado OEDIT Blockchain Council](#).
 - ▶ A **HigherEd working group** was established as an active partner in this initiative, led by CDHE Executive Director, Angie Paccione.
- ❖ Governor Polis is a [public proponent](#) of making Colorado the "**national hub for blockchain innovation.**"
- ❖ CU students' startup [RadarRelay](#) has gone on to raise **\$10 million in Series A funding**.
 - ▶ *"It was the first company in CO history to receive a state grant from the OEDIT for blockchain technology. The state's investment was for \$250,000...the support RadarRelay is receiving from the state and investors is an indicator that they are here to stay."*



The Opportunity

For those interested in establishing a partnership and becoming active members of **Aproflow**, the following is a list of immediate needs and/or opportunities:

- ❖ Event space allocation, coordination, and marketing.
- ❖ Resources (*human and \$\$*) for ongoing community development and event orchestration and logistics .
- ❖ Relevant faculty, student, and/or administrator network connections.
- ❖ Course-work integration (Blockchain Experts, Betablocks, etc.).
- ❖ Priority access to extra-curricular workshops and ongoing Colorado Blockchain meetups, and events.
- ❖ Exposure to national/global initiatives, events, and evolving policy, legislation, and (de)regulations.



Blurring boundaries between earning, learning, and living