

Peak Education & Myron Stratton

The work of the Seniors Engaged group entered into a collaboration with two local organizations to begin to flesh out opportunities for intergenerational interaction, and what our area's seniors were GENUINELY searching for when it came to technology access and communication.

About Peak Education

Peak Education disrupts the status quo by closing opportunity gaps in our community. We believe that every student deserves to reach for their full potential and that all willing learners can do so. We do this by working to enact change at multiple levels beyond the individual students that participate directly in our program. Our work impacts families, schools, and our city to further access to education as well as social and economic inclusion.

Peak Education works to create change at every level that impacts a student's trajectory. This includes working directly with their families, schools and the greater Colorado Springs community to work toward positive outcomes for our scholars. We do this through 1) social-emotional education and career-readiness development, 2) mentoring programs, 3) service-learning & civic engagement opportunities, and 4) college and scholarship counseling.

Low-income graduates from Colorado Springs high schools are less likely than peers across the state and nation to enroll directly in college. Despite nearly 75% of all careers following high school requiring college or postsecondary training, only 43% of low-income high school graduates enroll in a postsecondary option from Colorado Springs. This is significantly lower than the national (67.9%) and statewide (56%) postsecondary enrollment rates.

Since Peak Education's founding over 23 years ago, we have built off our founder's mission of ensuring that our scholars are empowered to take ownership of their educational journey and receive the support and mentorship to overcome any barriers that may impede them from reaching their full potential. By starting programming in 7th grade, we change a student and family's expectations about what is possible in terms of educational and career attainment. Our high school program prepares students to apply to college and provides them with the skills to be successful when they enroll. Once in college, we provide them with the support to graduate and leverage their degree to begin a meaningful career. All of our programming and curriculum is supported by strong mentoring relationships with our students. (peakedu.org)

The Peak Education Advantage

How do Peak Ed scholars compare to Colorado averages?



of Colorado students graduate from high school.

vs.



of Peak Education scholars graduate from high school.



of all students in Colorado pursue postsecondary education.

vs.



of Peak Education scholars pursue postsecondary education.



of Colorado students who qualify for free and reduced lunch pursue postsecondary education.

vs.



of Peak Education scholars, all of whom qualify for free and reduced lunch, pursue postsecondary education.

Source: Colorado Department of Higher Education, 2019 Legislative Report: Postsecondary Progress and Success of High School Graduates

About Myron Stratton Home

Winfield Scott Stratton was born on July 22, 1848, in Jeffersonville, Indiana and died at his home in Colorado Springs on September 14, 1902. His father, Myron Stratton, was a ship builder in that Ohio River port. Winfield Stratton studied carpentry in his father's shipyards and became an expert draftsman. In 1868, like many other young men in that post-Civil War environment, he traveled west to seek his fortune. Several years later he arrived in Colorado Springs and served an apprenticeship with James D. Raymond, a friend he had known in earlier times. Soon Stratton opened his own carpentry and general contracting business.

By the winter of 1874, Stratton had become interested in prospecting. For the next 17 years he roamed the Colorado mountains looking for gold and silver. During the winters he worked at his regular trade to earn enough money to follow his search for gold. He took time off to educate himself in metallurgy at the Colorado School of Mines and in mineralogy at Colorado College. On the 4th of July 1891, he struck it rich on the south slope of Pikes Peak and filed his claim under the name of the Independence Mine, one of Cripple Creek's richest ore discoveries.

During his lifetime, Stratton was an astute businessman and one of the visionary leaders in the planning and building of Colorado Springs. His trolley company, the Colorado Springs Interurban Railway, is a thing of the past but many other landmarks of the community that came into being through his efforts are still in use today: The Winfield Scott Stratton Post Office, the old City Hall, the former Court House (which now houses the Pioneer Museum), and the Mining Exchange Building.

Stratton always had a strong sense of compassion for the working poor and their families. Those less fortunate knew him for many acts of kindness and generosity even though he very much avoided a public or social life in other ways.

When Stratton died in 1902, he left instructions in his will that nearly all of his fortune was to be used to establish and maintain a home for poor people and named in memory of his father, Myron Stratton. The Trustees, whom he himself selected, carried out his wishes. The Home, which opened in 1913, has operated continuously since that date, and has served literally hundreds of poor elderly and children for more than a century.

The Home will always continue to be his most important legacy. In addition to maintaining and operating the Home itself, The Stratton Home endowment has been preserved and increased; it now exceeds \$100 million. (myronstratton.org)