

# NextGen Employer: Reata Engineering

## TALENT IS A COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE



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Founded in 1993, Reata Engineering is a contract manufacturer specializing in precision machining and assembly. Reata provides prototypes, tooling, production machining and assembly to a variety of industries including aviation/aerospace, medical, semiconductor capital equipment, and optics.

Grady Cope, President of Reata Engineering, launched Reata by putting \$6,000 on a credit card to buy a manual lathe and mill while still working his full time job. In 1994, he hired his first employee. Now, Reata has more than 45 employees and five percent of those employees are CareerWise apprentices. Since 2018, it's hired four youth apprentices and as of the spring of 2021 is actively hiring—and registering—additional positions.

Cope believes that partnering with CareerWise and Cherry Creek Innovation Campus to hire apprentices is how he can develop a consistent pipeline of skilled workers for his company and show young people how manufacturing can provide a good career with endless potential.

**“My experience with the program has shown me that this is a unique value to getting access to young developing talent.”** Cope said **“Youth apprenticeship is a way to access the talent we need to stay competitive in the long term, and provides workforce capacity in the short term.”**

—Grady Cope  
President of Reata Engineering