

WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION • 2026



Dear Colleagues and Partners,

Summer is the time to reflect on the past academic year and, just as important, to plan for the one ahead. Throughout the year, community colleges identify shifts in the economic landscape, often before anyone else. As trusted community partners, we are often the first to identify gaps in services and systemic challenges that the private sector cannot address alone. But it is in these brief months between May and August that administrators and faculty alike have the space to evaluate where to scale, where to pivot, and where to innovate.

That is why it is inspiring to first reflect on what colleges achieved in the last year: a new healthcare clinical placement collaborative in Marin, a public safety training complex breaking ground on the shores of Lake Tahoe, a career passport pilot program, a new AI literacy initiative, and a years-in-the-making semiconductor partnership tied to a \$2 billion private-sector investment.

Our attention is also on what comes next. At the Horizons Summit in Washington, D.C., California's leadership on AI, advanced skills training, and economic mobility took center stage. That same spirit of preparing for the future showed up closer to home, too, at the UDW Summit in Riverside and at our Vision 2030 Regional Workshop in Bakersfield, where district and college teams rolled up their sleeves to align local strategy with statewide goals.

I am so proud of our collective accomplishments and continually inspired by what we can do together. Whether through an apprenticeship pathway, a new training facility, or a student walking into a classroom for the first time in decades, we are planning for our students and building for the future.

Thank you for your continued partnership,

Anthony Cordova

Anthony Cordova
Vice Chancellor, Workforce and Economic Development

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WEDD PROGRAM UPDATES

Access the latest monthly insights, news and progress reports regarding Workforce and Economic Development on the [Program Updates and Newsletters](#) page.



California Community Colleges

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

COLLEGE OF MARIN 2ND ANNUAL CLINICAL PLACEMENT COLLABORATIVE

In June, 40 healthcare and education leaders, 11 clinical partners, and six academic institutions gathered for the 2nd Annual Clinical Placement Collaborative to tackle one of the biggest barriers facing the nursing workforce pipeline: clinical placement capacity.

What made this convening so valuable was the shared commitment to move beyond institutional silos and work collectively toward solutions. When healthcare providers, colleges, and workforce leaders align around common goals, students benefit, employers gain access to skilled talent, and our communities are stronger for it.

One message resonated throughout the day: preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals requires more than strong academic programs — it requires intentional collaboration between education and industry to ensure students have access to the clinical experiences that turn learning into practice.

The Clinical Placement Collaborative (CPC) is continuing its work to strengthen the future healthcare workforce across the North Bay by bringing together regional nursing programs and healthcare partners to improve coordination and expand clinical access.

To learn more, you can watch their inaugural recap video here - https://youtu.be/W8yHcaG4s_0?si=amkb8M2-qQpjTHv7



(PHOTO - College of Marin Clinical Placement Collaborative 2026)

LAKE TAHOE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BREAKS GROUND ON TAHOE BASIN PUBLIC SAFETY TRAINING COMPLEX



(PHOTO -Tahoe Basin Public Safety Training Complex groundbreaking, 2026)

On May 20, Lake Tahoe Community College held a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Tahoe Basin Public Safety Training Complex. The nearly 100,000-square-foot facility is located on-campus and is scheduled to open to students and first responders in fall 2027. The Tahoe Basin Public Safety Training Complex is the first facility of its kind in the region dedicated to training firefighters, forestry professionals, emergency medical technicians, and other first responders.

Until now, students and working professionals seeking similar training(s) have had to travel outside the Tahoe Basin, often to Roseville, Carson City, Reno, or beyond. The new facility will eliminate that barrier for residents of a mountain community where weather, distance, and cost can make travel difficult or prohibitive. Some key features of the complex include: a multi-story training tower for various simulations and a dedicated training tarmac, on-site hydrants and a water reclamation system, 7,000sf of dedicated equipment storage, and support for the fire academy, fire science, forestry, EMS, and search and rescue programs.

The ceremony drew students, elected officials, fire agencies, community partners, and representatives from the California Community Colleges (Chancellor's Office) to the LTCC campus, where construction of the nearly 100,000-square-foot training complex is set to begin. The 14-year project was made possible through strong community support and partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies including CAL FIRE, California

(Continued from page 2...)

Careers In Forestry, California Tahoe Conservancy, El Dorado Community Foundation, Marin Community Foundation, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, and the Tahoe Fund. To learn more, visit - https://www.ltcc.edu/news/26_pstc_groundbreaking.php

Use this link to watch a video of the ground breaking ceremony - https://youtu.be/_Jt1HjOWAxU?si=4aaoEa46YMT-3Z99

CAREER PASSPORT PILOT PROGRAM

This summer, California launched a pilot program for its new Career Passport, a digital tool designed to help workers connect with employers by highlighting their skills, training and work experience rather than relying solely on college degrees.

The pilot phase began June 17 and runs through Aug. 24 as the state evaluates four vendors competing to build the platform. Officials say the Career Passport helps qualified workers, including those without four-year degrees, to gain access to in-demand jobs while making it easier for employers to identify talent.

This tool was designed to make it easier for people to demonstrate skills and expertise that they have learned both inside and outside of the classroom, and help them demonstrate their qualifications and access good jobs.

The initiative incorporates cross-sector collaboration across California's education and workforce systems. State agencies, educational institutions, employers, workforce organizations, and technology providers each have a role in shaping a trusted, user-centered approach to connecting learning and opportunity. Career Passport will combine traditional academic records, like high school and college transcripts, with verified skills and credentials earned outside the classroom, such as military service, job training, or other skills. The concept, also known as a Learning and Employment Record (LER), provides a mechanism for workers to demonstrate knowledge and skills already learned. Employers will be able to use the Career Passport to see a clear, validated record of a person's abilities, helping to support hiring practices that value skills rather than just degrees.

To learn more, visit - <https://www.gov.ca.gov/2026/06/17/californias-career-passport-to-connect-qualified-workers-to-employment-with-or-without-a-four-year-degree/>



SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES REGIONAL CONSORTIUM RELEASES EMPLOYER FIELD GUIDE TO APPRENTICESHIPS

The California Labor & Workforce Development Agency recently announced the launch of the AI-Ready California pilot, a micro-credential program designed to provide universal

AI literacy education across the state.



The program, launching in July, with an initial cohort of 500 participants from the San Diego Community College District, as well as Unemployment Insurance claimants in the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) program, in the San Diego area. These participants represent a full spectrum of generations, economic backgrounds, and educational levels. The participants will access the training via San Diego State University's Global Campus, which offers undergraduate, graduate, and advanced certificate programs in an online and/or hybrid modality.

The AI-Ready California initiative offers an accessible, online learning experience built around two interconnected learning dimensions:

- **Civics & Responsibility** – Participants learn to use AI safely and responsibly, with emphasis on privacy, data protection, and appropriate use.
- **Career & Workforce Readiness** – Learners gain practical skills to leverage AI for productivity, job-seeking, and long-term adaptability in an AI-augmented labor market.

Upon completion, participants will receive a micro-credential that can serve as an entry point to additional learning opportunities through industry partners and academic institutions. This credential can also provide access to workforce development resources, function as an accessible growth opportunity for employees, and signal AI literacy to employers.

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AI-Ready California is a statewide initiative developed through the CSU–Industry AI Workforce Acceleration Board to provide foundational AI literacy education to all Californians. It was developed in partnership with the Governor’s Innovation Council, California Community Colleges, California State University system, Amazon Web Services, Instructure, and with support from the James Irvine Foundation.

For more information about *AI-Ready California*, including enrollment details and program requirements, visit: <https://globalcampus.sdsu.edu/program/science-computers-technology/ai-ready-california>.



(VIDEO - [San Diego Community College District, Facebook](#))

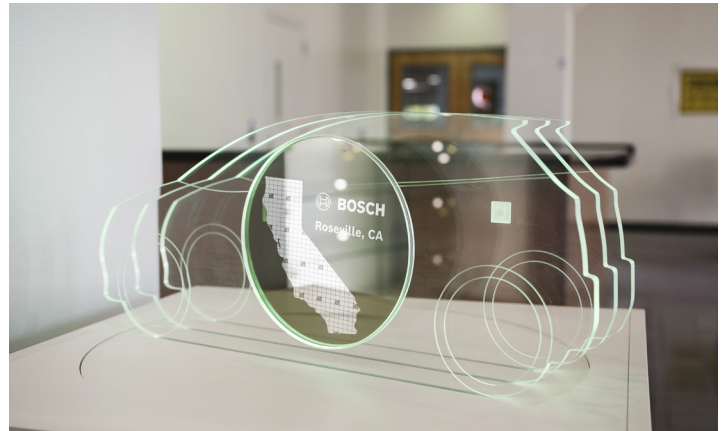
BOSCH’S \$2 BILLION ROSEVILLE INVESTMENT OPENS DOORS FOR SIERRA COLLEGE SEMICONDUCTOR TRAINING

German engineering firm Bosch announced a definitive funding agreement with the federal government for \$225 million in CHIPS Act funding towards its \$2 billion investment in its silicon carbide semiconductor factory in Roseville. The investment will help the site undergo a large transformation including plans for the first commercial production chips on 200-millimeter wafers later this year.

As part of its investment in the Roseville factory, Bosch has developed new cleanroom space and a high-tech manufacturing line for the production of silicon carbide chips. The Bosch site in Roseville currently employs more than 300 associates, with potential to grow in the future based on market development.

Beginning in 2026, Bosch plans to invest more than \$100,000 per year in the Roseville community through the Bosch Community Fund, the regional foundation for Bosch in North America. Since 2024, the Bosch Community Fund has invested \$200,000 in grant awards to schools and nonprofits in support of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education initiatives. The Sierra College Foundation was a recipient of the Bosch Community Fund and received a grant award in support of its Career Technical Education Support Fund. This grant helped cover expenses like certification costs, microcontroller kits, development materials, software, protective equipment, tools, equipment, tools, competition entry and travel fees, and project resources for STEM clubs and programs.

To learn more, visit - <https://us.bosch-press.com/pressportal/us/en/press-release-31424.html>



(VIDEO: B-roll: Bosch announces \$225 million direct funding agreement with the U.S. Department of Commerce)

APPRENTICESHIPS

The Chancellor's Office continues to advance high-quality apprenticeship pathways aligned with Vision 2030. The latest round of the California Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI) generated strong interest from colleges and K12s across the state, reflecting continued momentum and commitment to expanding apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities in priority and emerging sectors. The Chancellor's Office remains focused on supporting colleges in designing, implementing, and sustaining high-quality programs that strengthen workforce alignment and expand equitable access to career pathways. Investments through CAI continue to play an important role in building long-term capacity across the system.

RECENT EVENTS

Two statewide Learning Labs- Designing Pre-Apprenticeship Pathways (April, Sacramento) and Infrastructure Increases Impact (June, San Diego)- provided practitioners with opportunities to explore strategies for creating inclusive pathways and strengthening the systems and partnerships needed to scale sustainable programs. At both events, CAI Grantees collaborated with key partners, including the Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS), the California Department of Education (CDE), and the LAUNCH Apprenticeship Network, demonstrating strong alignment across systems.

Additionally, the Apprenticeship Team led several breakout sessions at conferences this spring, including presentations at CCCAOE and the California Apprenticeship Council's California Conference on Apprenticeship. These sessions covered topics such as "Apprenticeship Funding Landscape" and "RSI: An Overview for Practitioners," offering timely guidance on funding structures and practical implementation considerations.



(PHOTO -CAI April Learning Lab 2026)



(PHOTO -CAI June Learning Lab 2026)

RESOURCES AND ONGOING SUPPORT

The Apprenticeship Team continues to expand resources to support the effective administration of apprenticeship programs and is available to help colleges design, implement, and scale apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs.

RSI Guidance Document: A comprehensive resource outlining funding allocations, reimbursement steps, reporting requirements, and compliance expectations to support effective and responsible administration of RSI.

RSI Video Playlist (NOVA YouTube Channel): A series of short, focused videos designed to help practitioners navigate RSI expectations and best practices in an accessible format.

Virtual Office Hours: Connect with the Apprenticeship Team during Virtual Office Hours, held on the **2nd** and **4th Tuesdays** of each month from 2:00–3:00 p.m. Sessions include rotating Focused Office Hours on timely apprenticeship topics, including **August 11: Apprentice Recruitment** and **September 9: RSI Projection Reporting**, offering targeted guidance and support for colleges and K12s at key stages of program implementation.

Apprenticeship Community on the Vision Resource Center: Engage with faculty, staff, and administrators statewide who are developing and expanding apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs. This online community offers resources, discussions, and peer learning to support ongoing program growth.



(PHOTO - 2026 San Joaquin Delta College & Department of Water Resources: Powering Career Pathways Through Apprenticeship Graduates)

STATEWIDE APPRENTICESHIP SPOTLIGHT

[San Joaquin Delta College & Department of Water Resources: Powering Career Pathways Through Apprenticeship](#)

San Joaquin Delta College, in partnership with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), is demonstrating the impact of apprenticeship as a pathway to high-quality careers. In the 2025–26 program year, 34 apprentices advanced to journey-level positions in hydroelectric, electrical, and utility trades through a three- to four-year paid training program that integrates classroom and hands-on learning. Apprentices may also earn 34 to 42 college units, strengthening alignment between education and workforce training.

[Apprenticeship Return on Investment Report \(2026\)](#)

The Chancellor's Office recently released the *2026 Apprenticeship Return on Investment Report*, highlighting the strong outcomes associated with apprenticeship participation. Findings show that in most programs studied, apprentices earn higher wages than their non-apprentice peers both during training and after completion, with positive earnings impacts that are sustained over time.

[LAUNCH Report Highlights Opportunities for Apprenticeship Growth](#)

The *Top 50 Occupations for Non-Traditional Apprenticeship Expansion in California* report, prepared by LAUNCH Apprenticeship Network for the Chancellor's Office, identifies high-demand occupations with strong potential for apprenticeship growth regionally and statewide. Findings reinforce the critical role community colleges play in expanding access to apprenticeship pathways that support both economic mobility and California's workforce priorities.

IMPACTFUL PROJECTS



Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Economic Development Anthony Cordova participated in the breakout session “Building California’s Cross-Sector Talent System,” alongside leaders from Workday, the College Futures Foundation, JFF, and the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency. The session positioned California as the testing ground for skills-first education and workforce innovation showcasing how the state’s public, private, and philanthropic partners are developing a common agenda, aligning investments, and centering workers and learners who face the steepest barriers to prosperity.

Together, these three sessions underscored the system’s role in the national dialogue on AI, skills, and economic mobility, reinforcing the system’s leadership in advancing Vision 2030 on a national stage.

To learn more, visit - <https://horizons.jff.org/event/annual-summit/home>

EDUCATION SYMPOSIUM AT LOS ANGELES LATINO INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

In late May, the Los Angeles Latino International Film Festival (LALIFF) hosted their annual Education and Entertainment Symposium, which was hosted by the Youth Cinema Project (YCP) Symposium. These events focused on equipping emerging filmmakers, students, and educators with tools for the tech revolution, animation, social-emotional learning, and cross-border collaboration.

The WEDD team joined the panel, *The Next 25: Preparing Students for the Tech Revolution Ahead* during the Education and Entertainment Symposium. Dean Linda Bermudez, Leah M. Medrano, Luke Meyer, and Dr. David Hayes-Bautista shared their perspectives across education, industry, and... (Continued on page 8...)

HORIZONS SUMMIT BY JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

In July, three Chancellor’s Office leaders took the stage at JFF Horizons, the nation’s premier event on the future of education and work. Hosted by Jobs for the Future, *Horizons* convenes thousands of senior leaders from education, workforce development, business, technology, philanthropy, and government.

Chancellor Sonya Christian presented on the Main Stage in “AI at Work: Decisions Beyond the Hype,” joining Shad Ahmed, Economic Mobility Lead at Anthropic, and Alex Swartzel, Vice President of JFF’s Center for Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Work. Drawing on insights from JFF’s AI research, the conversation offered a from-the-frontlines view of how AI is transforming jobs, skills, and systems, and the concrete steps leaders are taking to ensure the workers and learners they serve are ready for what comes next.

Don Daves-Rougeaux, the Chancellor’s Senior Advisor for Strategic Partnerships and AI, joined a Salesforce-sponsored panel, “What’s Working for Workers in the Agentic AI Era,” alongside Mona Mourshed, Founding CEO of Generation: You Employed. The panel spotlighted real-world success stories from institutions that have integrated AI skills into their programs and are delivering measurable outcomes for learners and workers.



(PHOTO - LALIFF Education Symposium, 2026)

(LALIFF, continued from page 7)

...research made for productive discussions for how the impact of this work extends beyond the classroom.

The panel had meaningful conversations about how K-16 education, workforce development, emerging technologies, and the entertainment industry can expand opportunities and prepare students for the future of creative careers. The discussion reinforced the importance of building strong partnerships that connect learning to real-world experiences, ensuring students have the skills, networks, and support needed to thrive in an evolving workforce.

To learn more, visit - <https://laliff.org/ycp/>

UDW SUMMIT

On June 24, the UDW Demonstration Project Summit met at Riverside City College. The summit brought together representatives from more than 20 California community colleges alongside partners from United Domestic Workers (UDW), the UDW Resource Center (URC), the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, WestEd, adult education programs, and workforce development organizations. Participants explored innovative strategies that help working adults overcome barriers to higher education while building pathways to family-sustaining careers.

Throughout the day, attendees examined emerging data from the demonstration project, participated in discussions on adult learner success, and explored innovative practices being implemented across participating colleges. Topics included noncredit-to-credit transitions, adult learner navigation, vocational English as a Second Language (VESL) programs, case management, workforce alignment, credit for prior learning, and regional partnerships that connect education to employment opportunities.

Riverside City College highlighted its own adult learner support model, showcasing its Welcome Center and dedicated navigation services that streamline enrollment, connect students with campus resources, and provide individualized guidance from initial interest through persistence and completion.

The summit also featured a panel of adult learners who shared personal stories about returning to college, navigating higher education while balancing work and family responsibilities, and pursuing credentials that support long-term career advancement.

To learn more, visit - <https://udwprojecthub.com/about/>

SUMMIT PHOTOS



STUDENT SUCCESS - ROXANA DE HERNANDEZ

UDW Member and Southwestern College Student

Roxana de Hernandez is an in-home caregiver for her 20-year-old daughter, who is non-verbal and has autism. Her second job is caring for an 81-year-old woman



who lives 20 miles away, and who she reaches by bus. On top of that, de Hernandez, who speaks Spanish, takes English classes and finds additional time for volunteer work.

But the 42-year-old does it all with joy and immeasurable gratitude for the help she's received from the United Domestic Workers Resource Center, a program of the United Domestic Workers (UDW) union, which partners with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to provide support and case management to members. The program meets the goals of Vision 2030, a collaborative action plan that provides focus, equity and direction to California's community colleges.

"She wants to better for herself and her children and is willing to do whatever it takes to learn English, get her GED and a better job to live here and communicate with people in San Diego," says Crystal Castro, the resource center's associate director of care management services and de Hernandez's caseworker. "She's a fighter. She came here with nothing."

In addition to free tuition for English classes, the program has helped her with an unexpected rent increase and the cost of attending a conference for families with disabled children.

De Hernandez attends vocational English classes at Southwestern College, which is her first real educational opportunity, thanks to the community college partnership with the union. Today, she yearns to learn and is grateful for the opportunity she's been

given. "I want to do what I didn't do since I was a child," she says. "I want to learn English and get my GED. Then I want to study so that I can help children with disabilities in schools."

De Hernandez doesn't think of her life as stressful. "I am happy," she said. "The dreams I had as a child—now I feel I can reach them. I want to reach everything."

For more info about the United Domestic Workers Resource Center, go to www.udwresourcecenter.org. To learn more about the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and Vision 2030, visit www.cccco.edu/About-Us/Vision-2030.

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

Do you have a success story you would like to share with us? We would love to hear about it!

Use this form to submit your story for our growing list of students who are making a difference and achieve greatness as they continue their journey after attending our incredible community colleges.

A screenshot of a web form titled "Add a Success Story" from the California Community Colleges. The form has a header with the college logo and the text "SUCCESS STORY". Below the title, it says "Please use this form to add a student success story to our collection!". There is a text input field with the email "erin.gibb@arroyowest.com" and a "Switch account" link. Below that, a note states: "The name and photo associated with your Google account will be recorded when you upload files and submit this form. Only the email you enter is part of your response." A red asterisk indicates required questions. The form has two main sections: "Email *" with a text input field labeled "Your email", and "Program Type *" with a dropdown menu.

SUBMIT YOUR STORY

Use this [form](#) to submit your story to the story bank!



California Community Colleges