

WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

NEWSLETTER

FALL EDITION • 2025



Dear Leadership Teams,

As we move into the final months of 2025, the Workforce & Economic Development Division continues to advance the mission of California's community colleges—expanding opportunity, accelerating innovation, and driving equitable economic growth across the state.

In September, our teams connected with partners and practitioners at events including the CAEP Summit, the Career Passport Planning Meeting, the Future's Summit, and the CLSBA Conference. Each gathering underscored the power of collaboration in aligning education and workforce systems to meet California's evolving workforce needs.

In October, we built on that momentum through visits to El Camino College and the Port of Los Angeles, participation in the Collective Equity Impact Institute, and the release of the Vision 2030 Workforce & Economic Development Workplan. These efforts, alongside new partnerships, such as the AI initiative with Google, reflect our collective commitment to preparing learners for the careers of today and tomorrow.

As you read through this edition, we hope you'll find inspiration in the stories of progress and partnership from across our community college system. Whether through transformative conferences, campus visits, or policy panels, the work we do together is shaping a more equitable and opportunity-rich future for all Californians.

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to advancing opportunities for our students.

Thank you,

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

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE UPDATES

CAREER PASSPORT PLANNING

The Governor's January budget included a proposal to help Californians better showcase their skills through the [launch of Career Passports](#) which is a digital tool that combines academic records with verified experience from work, military service, training programs, and more. Career Passport aims to strengthen career pathways, prioritize hands-on learning and real-life skills, and advance education access and affordability to all Californians. The plan also invests in expanding Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) - allowing veterans and working Californians to turn real-world experience into college credit.

In September, furthering the progress for Career Passports, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (serving as the lead agency) convened with partners from the Governor's Office and the California Cradle to Career Data System to advance statewide planning efforts. This cross-sector collaboration supports California's vision for a connected, transparent talent pipeline that empowers learners, strengthens employer engagement, and drives regional economic mobility. To learn more, please read this [PDF explaining the Career Passport program](#).



(PHOTO - WEDD team, Governor's team, and Cradle to Careers team at the in-person planning meeting in September)

WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WORK PLAN

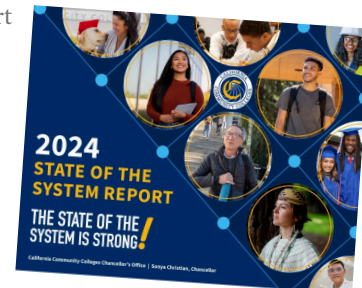
The Chancellor's Office recently released the Vision 2030 Workforce & Economic Development Workplan. This plan outlines bold, measurable steps to expand opportunities and economic mobility for all Californians and advances the state's goals through targeted strategies that strengthen regional economies and align education with emerging industry needs. Key priorities include scaling apprenticeships statewide to reach the Governor's goal of 500,000 by 2029; expanding

baccalaureate degrees in high-demand STEM fields; and growing healthcare pathways to meet urgent workforce needs. The workplan also emphasizes preparing students for climate-ready careers and addressing teacher shortages through early childhood, and educator apprenticeships.

Use this link to read the full [Workforce & Economic Development Workplan](#).

STATE OF THE SYSTEM REPORT

The 2024 State of the System Report was recently released by the Chancellor's Office and affirms the strength, resilience, and impact of California Community Colleges. This report provides an update on progress toward the Vision 2030 goals, highlights enrollment growth, equity gains, and workforce alignment efforts.



With nearly 2.2 million students and thousands of dedicated professionals, our colleges are preparing the workforce of tomorrow while advancing equity, access, and opportunity across the state. Click here to read the full [State of the System Report](#).

LA FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

The Chancellor's Office, in partnership with the Los Angeles Centers of Excellence, recently launched a dashboard to guide the rebuilding of communities devastated by the Eaton and Palisades fire. This effort is part of a broader initiative supported by the 2025 Budget Act (AB 123), which invests in expanding workforce training capacity in regions impacted by natural disasters. According to the data, there are approximately 102,991 in-demand jobs across critical roles such as electricians, carpenters, plumbers, HVAC mechanics, heavy equipment operators, industrial machinery mechanics, mobile equipment mechanics, drafters, solar photovoltaic installers, and telecommunications technicians needed for the rebuilding effort. Use this link to access the [Center of Excellence dashboard](#).



CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE UPDATES

GOOGLE PARTNERSHIP

California Community Colleges has launched the nation's largest systemwide AI partnership in collaboration with Google that ensures more than 2 million students, faculty, and staff across 116 colleges will receive free access to AI training, Google Career Certificates, and AI tools such as Gemini for Education, and NotebookLM.

The initiative will also support curriculum integration and faculty development in areas like data analytics, AI, and cybersecurity — with safeguards in place for data privacy and FERPA compliance. This collaboration reflects a significant investment in workforce development and is directly aligned with Vision 2030's goals for equity, access, and student success. Use this link to view the [press release](#) and more details about the partnership.

"This collaboration with Google is a monumental step forward for the California Community Colleges. Providing our students with access to world-class AI training and professional certificates ensures they have the skills necessary to thrive in high-growth industries and contribute to California's economic prosperity. This partnership directly supports our Vision 2030 commitment to student success and workforce readiness. Additionally, offering access to AI tools with data protections and advanced functionality for free ensures that all learners have equitable access to the tools they need to leverage the skills they're learning, and saves California's community colleges millions of dollars in potential tool costs."



Don Daves-Rougeaux
Senior Advisor to the Chancellor
of the California Community
Colleges on Workforce Development,
Strategic Partnerships, and GenAI



SPOTLIGHT ON THE BLUE ECONOMY

ALTASEA VISIT

In September, WEDD visited AltaSea at the Port of Los Angeles to explore opportunities for collaboration in the emerging Blue Economy sector as part of the BECAP Demonstration Project. According to a recent L.A. Economic Development Corporation study, examined in partnership with LARC and the California Community Colleges, the blue economy in Los Angeles County, the ocean economy in L.A. provided 105,074 jobs across 3,896 firms and contributed over \$14 billion to county real GDP (per data collected 2021 the most recent year available).

AltaSea is a public-private ocean institute focused on advancing scientific innovation, climate resilience, and equitable job creation in marine and ocean-based industries. During the site visit, division leaders engaged with AltaSea staff and campus partners to discuss pathways for integrating community college programs into ocean-based research, workforce development, and sustainability initiatives. To learn more about their work, please visit [AltaSea's website](#).



(PHOTOS -AltaSea Visit in September)

SPOTLIGHT ON THE BLUE ECONOMY

PORT OF LA/EL CAMINO COLLEGE VISIT

In October, the WEDD team joined El Camino College and the Port of Los Angeles to advance collaboration under the recently established [memorandum of understanding \(MOU\)](#). The visit included a meeting with El Camino College President, Brenda Thames, to discuss partnership opportunities that strengthen workforce pathways connecting students to careers in port logistics, clean energy, and emerging blue economy industries.



(PHOTOS -AltaSea Visit in September)

WEDD CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

FUTURES SUMMIT

In September, the [California Community Colleges Digital Center for Innovation, Transformation, and Equity](#), and Foothill-De Anza Community College District, hosted the second annual Futures Summit at the Santa Clara Convention Center.

The Futures Summit, led by the Chancellor's Office and supported by the Foundation for California Community Colleges' Conference and Events team, highlights the system's commitment to harnessing the potential of generative AI to enhance educational access and success.

The event brought together over 800 visionaries, educators, and industry leaders to explore the intersection of emerging technologies, policy, and curriculum development with a focus on equity, access, and innovation. The summit directly aligns with Vision 2030, by providing a response to the technological and environmental changes facing our communities while holistically addressing the needs of the California Community Colleges and the students they serve.

CLSBA CONFERENCE

CLSBA is a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring Latino/a students have the best educational opportunities and resources available to succeed. Recently, they held their annual Unity Event in San Diego. At the event, CLSBA recognized several districts for their work in advancing their communities (...continued on page 5)



(PHOTO - WEDD team at the Futures Summit in September)



(VIDEO - Futures Summit Introduction Video)

(CLSBA Conference continued from page 4...)

...and included powerful keynote speakers, meaningful breakout workshops, and collaborative networking. Vice Chancellor Anthony Cordova and Assistant Vice Chancellor Linda Vazquez served on the Community College Panel where they discussed Vision 2030 and the 2025 LEAD Winners – Pittsburg Unified, Anaheim Elementary School District, and Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.



(PHOTO - CLSBA Conference panel included leadership from Mt SAC and LACCD, and focused on K14 partnerships)

CAEP SUMMIT

The California Adult Education Program (CAEP) Summit brought together adult education practitioners, administrators, and partners from across the state to share promising practices and advance equitable outcomes for adult learners. The three-day convening featured keynote sessions, interactive workshops, and regional networking opportunities focused on strengthening pathways in literacy, workforce preparation, and postsecondary transition.

This year's summit focused on building bridges to success and underscored the integrated and impactful strategies California Adult Education Programs are using to expand access, close equity gaps, and support adult learners in reaching their academic and career aspirations. To learn more about this event, please visit the [CAEP Summit 2025 website](#).



(PHOTO - CAEP Summit 2025 in September)

C3|CONVERGE 2025

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the Foundation for California Community Colleges were proud to host C3|CONVERGE 2025, a national convening that highlighted the critical role of community colleges in addressing climate challenges.

The event was held in Anaheim and focused on advancing climate resilience, sustainability and workforce development through the unique capacities of community colleges. The event brought together California Community College leaders, national higher education representatives, state agencies, and climate-focused organizations to explore strategies, foster collaboration and drive action. The event was designed to equip educators, administrators, college partners and policymakers with the insights and strategies needed to expand climate-related initiatives and strengthen institutional leadership in sustainability. To learn more and view a video about the event, visit the [C3|CONVERGE event page](#).



(PHOTO - On the first day, Chancellor Sonya Christian and GO-Serve Director Josh Fryday lit up the stage with a powerful discussion on climate leadership and workforce innovation.)

COLLEGE EQUITY IMPACT INSTITUTE EVENT

From October 8-10, the Chancellor's Office hosted the inaugural Collective Equity Impact Institute which brought together educators, administrators, and system stakeholders to embed DEIA (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility) and anti-racism strategies into district and college practices. The event included sessions around strategies for inclusive leadership, fostering organizational change, and integrating equity into student success and instructional delivery. Some of the breakout sessions and conversations included our Dean of Workforce, Dr. Linda Bermudez, who presented [Lessons from UDW & UHW Demonstration Projects](#) as part of a breakout panel, Dr. Linda Vazquez who spoke as an expert during the breakout session focused on [California Law and Student Access and Success](#), Don Daves-Rougeaux shared...

(Continued on page 6...)

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...experience regarding [AI, Equity, and Social Justice in California Community Colleges](#), Sabrina Lopez who shared her experience with [Advancing Workforce Development Through Apprenticeships](#), and Gary Adams who shared his experience with [Equity-Driven Solutions from the CAEP Program and the Chancellor's Office](#). To learn more, visit the Collective Equity Impact Institute 2025 [website](#).



(PHOTO - Collective Equity Impact Institute 2025)

NON-CREDIT SUMMIT

In October, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, in partnership with Mt. SAC and San Diego College of Continuing Education hosted the 2025 Noncredit Summit. This two-day Summit was grounded in Vision 2030 and highlighted the vital role of noncredit education in meeting the needs of today's adult learners. Through a focus on implementation, innovation, and alignment across institutions, the event offers strategies and fresh insights to help colleges develop and expand noncredit programs that drive student success and strengthen communities across the state. To learn more visit the [Non-Credit Summit 2025 website](#), or [watch the video](#) of the event footage.



(VIDEO - Full video coverage of the Vision 2030 Non-Credit Summit held October 16-17, 2025.

CCCAOE 2025 FALL CONFERENCE



(PHOTO - WEDD Leadership team at the CCCAOE Fall Conference)

In October, WEDD Leadership participated in the California Community College Association for Occupational Education (CCCAOE) Career Education Conference. The 2025 CCCAOE Fall Conference focused on Collaborating for Success: CTE Partnerships Driving a Future-Ready Workforce. This event was a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other, strengthen partnerships, foster innovation, and prepare students for the future workforce.

To learn more, visit the [CCCAOE 2025 Fall Conference website](#).

VISION 2030 LA REGIONAL CONVENING

Building on the momentum from last spring's Regional Vision 2030 Convenings across the Bay Area, Inland Empire/Desert, and South Central Coast our team was excited to continue this important work last month in Los Angeles! These gatherings brought college, regional, and state leaders together to align priorities and strengthen collaboration under Vision 2030.

In October, we kicked off the next round of regional planning workshops, continuing efforts to align district, regional, and state plans. The energy was electric as colleges, K-12, and workforce partners collaborated to accelerate progress toward equitable student outcomes.



(PHOTOS - LA Regional Convening Highlights)

APPRENTICESHIPS

This fall, the Chancellor's Office reaffirmed its commitment to making apprenticeship a cornerstone of Vision 2030 by engaging colleges and partners at several statewide conferences. The insights shared and partnerships strengthened not only advanced equity and innovative practices but also built momentum for what's ahead.

At the Advancing California Apprenticeship Summit, the team highlighted lessons from California Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI) grantees, showcasing successes and lessons learned from grantees that are planning, implementing, and expanding programs that meet both student and employer needs. As noted, during the Collective Equity Impact Institute, the team led discussions on how apprenticeships can advance workforce equity by aligning programs with industry priorities, strengthening partnerships, and building clear pathways to family-sustaining careers.

The team also convened the CAI Community of Practice for a Pre-Conference Session at the CCCAOE Fall Conference, providing practitioners space for shared problem-solving and the opportunity to connect with peers and partners, including the Foundation for California Community Colleges and the LAUNCH Apprenticeship Network. In addition, in partnership with the Foundation for California Community Colleges and Santiago Canyon College, the Apprenticeship Team facilitated a conference breakout session on apprenticeship coding practices, clarifying requirements around mirrored courses, small cohorts, and emerging sectors.

There are additional upcoming opportunities to engage with the Chancellor's Office Apprenticeship Team, the Foundation for California Community Colleges, and LAUNCH Apprenticeship Network for resources and guidance.

- Data Drives Apprenticeship Learning Lab on December 5, 2025, in Sacramento. To register and for more information, [click here](#).
- The Apprenticeship Team, in partnership with the Foundation for California Community Colleges, host [Virtual Office Hours](#) on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 2:00 to 3:00 PM, including Focused Office Hours that address common questions around a particular topic. Upcoming Focused Office Hours include "Sustainability" on November 25 and "Employer Engagement" on December 9.
- [Apprenticeship Community](#) on the [Vision Resource Center](#) to support faculty, staff, and administrators as they develop and scale apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs across California Community Colleges.

Collectively, these efforts underscore the Chancellor's Office's commitment to supporting colleges as they expand high-quality, innovative apprenticeship pathways that lead to student success and economic mobility.

APPRENTICESHIP SUCCESS STORY - FOOTHILL COLLEGE

Expanding Apprenticship Through Credit For Prior Learning

Foothill College is advancing apprenticeship pathways by embedding Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) directly into its building trades programs through the Apprenticeship Pathways Demonstration Project. This innovation allows apprentices to earn up to 24 units of general education credit while completing technical training. Eight hundred and fifty apprentices have benefited across multiple trades. Foothill is creating clear, credit-bearing pathways that accelerate degree completion and strengthen the bridge between industry training and higher education.



(PHOTOS - The WEDD Apprenticeship Team at the Advancing California Apprenticeship Summit)



(PHOTO - Foothill College Apprenticeship Program Website)

STUDENT SUCCESS STORY - PASADENA CITY COLLEGE

Summer Construction Career Program

The inaugural Summer Construction Career Program at Pasadena City College engaged over 75 high school students from throughout the region in hands-on training across career tracks like industrial fabrication, welding, building construction, and electricity — and students were paid to participate. The program is part of Skills to Rebuild, PCC's initiative to equip young people with skills essential for recovery in a region still healing from the Eaton Fire. Through a partnership with Harbor Freight Tools for Schools and the L.A. County Skilled Trades Summers, students receive hands-on training in welding, electrical work, building inspection, and industrial fabrication—while earning pay and industry-recognized credentials.

The launch also served a deeper purpose: supporting community rebuilding efforts after the Eaton Fire. Many students in the inaugural class experienced the fire's devastation firsthand. Some lost homes, others saw neighborhoods transformed, and now they are learning how to restore their community. PCC plans to construct a new regional Career Technical Education (CTE) Training Center at its Colorado Boulevard campus.

According to officials, the facility will become a long-term hub for workforce development in high-demand industries like construction and electrical systems—fields crucial for wildfire recovery and climate resilience.



SUBMIT A STORY

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.

 California Community Colleges
SUCCESS STORY

Add a Success Story

Please use this form to add a student success story to our collection!

erin.gibb@arroyowest.com [Switch account](#)

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.

* Indicates required question

Email *

Your email

Program Type *

☐ Career Technical Education Programs (CTE)

☐ California Adult Education Program (CAEP)

SUBMIT YOUR STORY

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

