

## WORKFORCE & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

# NEWSLETTER

WINTER EDITION • February 2025



Dear Leadership Teams,

As we begin this new year, our hearts go out to all those affected by the wildfires in Los Angeles and other areas across the state. Californians have proven time and again that we can overcome challenges together, and we are dedicated to helping our team in any way we can.

Earlier this month, the State released a new bold economic vision in this year's budget for California community colleges including a 2.43% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), support for technology and data upgrades, and a one-time budget allocation of \$43 million along with \$7 million in ongoing funding to expand credit for prior learning and an additional \$50 million for the development of a Career Passport program. The Governor's budget announcement included a focus on economic development goals consistent with Vision 2030.

This edition of our newsletter provides a glance into the events and impactful moments from the last couple of months, as well as the introduction of WEDD's new Visiting Dean of Workforce, and a few new apprenticeship opportunities to continue our efforts to meet the Governor's goal of 500,000 apprentices by 2029.

Looking ahead, our team is optimistic about the dynamic tone set for 2025, and we are excited to build an incredible year of programs and opportunities for our students!

Thank you,

*Anthony Cordova*

Anthony Cordova  
Vice Chancellor, Workforce and Economic Development

## OUR TEAM

### Anthony Cordova

Vice Chancellor, Workforce and Economic Development  
[acordova@cccoco.edu](mailto:acordova@cccoco.edu)

### LaCandice Ochoa

Dean, Workforce and Economic Development  
[lochoa@cccoco.edu](mailto:lochoa@cccoco.edu)

### Gary W Adams

Dean, Workforce and Economic Development  
[gadams@cccoco.edu](mailto:gadams@cccoco.edu)

### Vacancy

Dean, Workforce and Economic Development

*We drive the Vision 2030 forward by managing career education and entrepreneurial development programs built from real-world employer data and market intelligence.*

## WEDD PROGRAM UPDATES

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



California Community Colleges

# REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

## CCCAOE Leadership Academy

Attendees from across the state took part in the California Community College Association for Occupational Education Leadership Academy in Anaheim to build leadership skills, share experiences, and collaborate on creating lasting impact in education and workforce development.

Mark your calendars for two upcoming events: the 2025 Policy Summit will be held in Sacramento on Tuesday, March 4th and the Spring 2025 Conference will be held in Sacramento April 8th through the 11th.

Please visit their [website](#) to register for upcoming events.



## Vision 2030 Regional Convening

In November, The Orange County Regional Consortium held their Vision 2030 Regional Convening. Over two days, leaders from Orange County Regional Consortium's community college districts and regional partners came together to align strategies and amplify a shared vision for the future of education in Orange County.



## AI Summit - Los Angeles Regional Consortium (LARC)

In November, the Los Angeles Regional Consortium hosted an Artificial Intelligence Summit. The goal of this event was to demystify Generative AI and learn how industry experts are using Artificial Intelligence in the workforce both globally and in Los Angeles.

A new California Law ([AB 2876](#)) signed by the Governor last September now requires K-12 schools to teach students about Artificial Intelligence. As a result, schools are moving to incorporate AI learning into math, science and history/social science curricula. By creating synergy between industry, K-12 educators, and higher education systems LARC is setting the stage on how to prepare students with the Generative AI skills they will need regardless of career path they choose.

## Apprenticeship Pathways Demonstration Project

In January, the first of three Apprenticeship Pathways Demonstration Project (APDP) regional training sessions was held, focusing on program development. This training session provided valuable tools and insights for organizations looking to build or enhance their apprenticeship programs, and covered topics like designing apprenticeship programs, establishing curricula and credit for prior learning structures for apprenticeship stakeholders, and collaborating with key apprenticeship stakeholders. The goal of this session was to equip organizations with strategies and resources that help develop high-quality apprenticeship programs.



## US ARMY CAREER FAIR

On November 1, Chancellor's Office representatives attended the US Army Career Fair in Inglewood. The Total Army Career Fair included roughly 45 different Army agencies, most of whom were looking to hire people for civilian roles. These events offer on-the-spot job offers for full-time civilian positions in a variety of career fields, including medical, logistics, education, construction, human resources and more.



(PHOTO - The US Army Career Fair was hosted by Under Secretary Mario Diaz)

## COALITION FOR RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

In December, the Coalition for Responsible Community Development hosted a delegation from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, California Labor & Workforce Development Agency and Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom at the Vernon-Central/LATTC WorkSource on LATTC's campus. This visit highlighted the longstanding partnership between CRCD and Los Angeles Trade-Technical College (LATTC) and showcased programs such as Project Tipping Point and the CRCD Academy, which take a holistic approach to removing barriers and creating career pathways.

(PHOTO - See event photo below)

## Welcome NEW DEAN



The Workforce and Economic Development Division is excited to welcome our new Dean, Dr. Linda Bermudez. In her new role, she will be promoting, supporting, and advancing our system-wide goal to boost achievement for all students with an emphasis on eliminating achievement gaps for students from traditionally underrepresented groups.

As a first-generation college graduate, who benefited from the CA Community College system, Dr. Bermudez is deeply passionate about creating pathways for historically marginalized communities to access and, more importantly, succeed in higher education. With a student-centric focus, she brings a wealth of diverse perspectives to the table, including expertise in complex program management, grant administration, oversight of education business services, and the establishment of impactful public-private partnerships. You can reach her at [lbermudez@cccco.edu](mailto:lbermudez@cccco.edu)

Please join us in welcoming her to the team!



# APPRENTICESHIPS

## APPRENTICESHIP WEEK HIGHLIGHT

California local governments are facing a workforce crisis. A recent study from the Institute for Local Government (ILG) found that nearly 70% of the state's cities, counties, and special districts experience challenges with recruitment and retention. These struggles may cause vacancies in critical roles that can disrupt and delay everything from social services to permit approvals.

In conjunction with National Apprenticeship Week, California Community Colleges entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute for Local Government (ILG) to launch the Bridge Initiative. This initiative aims to build a workforce pipeline for California's local governments through Registered Apprenticeship Programs (RAPs) in "non-traditional" fields like human resources, accounting, IT, health and human services, and more. Yolo County was confirmed as the first pilot jurisdiction to test the model.

To learn more about this initiative and the role of Community Colleges, visit the Institute for Local Government's [website](#).



**Lucas Frerichs**  
County Supervisor  
Yolo County

"I'm thrilled that Yolo County will serve as an inaugural participant in ILG's Bridge Public Sector Registered Apprenticeship program. Apprenticeships have a long history of success in the construction trades, and I'm excited to bring this innovative model to support our broader local government workforce in Yolo County."



**Sonya Christian**  
Chancellor  
California Community Colleges

"The California Community Colleges is the largest workforce development and training system in the nation and uniquely positioned to create, pilot, and expand apprenticeships across many different career pathways. Through this partnership, our colleges will continue playing a crucial role in Gov. Newsom's goal of training 500,000 apprentices by 2029 and create opportunities for individuals, particularly from underserved and underrepresented communities which is a primary goal of our colleges Vision 2030 framework."



## SEMICONDUCTOR PROCESS TECHNICIAN APPRENTICESHIP GRADUATION



(PHOTO - Gary Adams, Dean, Workforce and Economic Development, Acting DAS Director Adele Burns, President Whalen, Mike Hill, Senior Director of Talent Development at Applied Materials and the graduating apprenticeship technician class cohort)

The first cohort of the semiconductor process technical apprenticeship program recently celebrated their graduation at Foothill College at Sunnyvale! The Chancellor's Office provided the "seed funding" for this innovative program through a California Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI) grant.

The semiconductor industry faces a significant need for process technicians due to a projected talent shortage. Estimates suggest a large gap in the number of skilled workers required to meet the growing demand for chip production - particularly in advanced manufacturing facilities.

These technicians are essential in managing complex manufacturing processes, ensuring quality control, and adapting to emerging technologies like 3D stacking and chiplets. With a talent shortage on the horizon, there are ample job opportunities and competitive salaries in the field. To succeed, process technicians must engage in continuous learning to stay updated on industry advancements.

In all, the innovation shown by the Apprenticeship and Workforce Team at Foothill is extraordinary and can provide the prototype for other colleges for not only the advanced manufacturing and technology sectors but other high wage, high road occupations in the twentieth-first century.

## VANESSA MUNGUIA



Vanessa Munguia was three years into her nursing career in Guadalajara, Mexico, when her husband's job transfer brought them to San Diego in 2022. Moving 1,500 miles away, she quickly realized her nursing degree wouldn't allow her to work in California without English proficiency. Determined to continue her career, Munguia enrolled in English as a Second Language (ESL) classes at the César E. Chávez Campus of the San Diego College of Continuing Education (SDCCE) in Fall 2022. Reflecting on her experience, she says, "I fell in love with that place... they made me feel like it's my second home."

SDCCE played a pivotal role in Munguia's journey, offering tuition-free programs as part of the California Community Colleges' Vision 2030 initiative, which focuses on improving access and equity in education. With a specific emphasis on healthcare fields experiencing shortages, SDCCE helped Munguia enroll in their Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program, which she completed in May 2024. Now working as a CNA, she's gaining valuable experience in the U.S. healthcare system and is determined to bridge the gap between her previous experience and her goals in California.

Munguia studies while she also takes care of her mother, who now lives with her and her husband. Despite all challenges, she's unwavering in her goals: "There's nothing impossible as long as you want it," she says. Her ultimate ambition is to specialize in cardiac or pediatric care, knowing it will take time and dedication. Despite the challenges, she remains steadfast in her goals, stating, "There's nothing impossible as long as you want it."

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

## LA FIRE ASSISTANCE

### RESOURCES FOR ASSISTANCE

#### **Pasadena City College (PCC):**

Fire-related resources and updates.

#### **LAEDC Assistance:**

Wildfire information, resources, and assistance.

#### **State of California Resources:**

Get daily updates, including tax relief for impacted communities and rebuilding assistance.

### HOW SUPPORT THOSE IMPACTED

#### **Santa Monica College Disaster Support Fund:**

Supports students, faculty and staff with immediate needs like housing, food, and school supplies. **Donate here.**

#### **PCC Community Relief Fund:**

Supports the PCC community affected by the fires. **Donate here.**

**Glendale College Foundation:** Contribute to the GCC Employee Assistance Fund or Student Emergency Fund to support wildfire recovery. **Donate here.**

#### **Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation**

**Wildfire Recovery Fund:** Provides critical support for education recovery efforts across L.A. County. **Donate here.**

**LA Strong: Disaster Response Fund:** Established by the Foundation for the Los Angeles Community Colleges to offer direct assistance, including housing, meals, and academic resources. **Donate here.**

# 2025 YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

## YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM

The application for the 2025 California Youth Leadership Forum (YLF) is now open!

**Deadline to apply: February 28, 2025**

### ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS:

- Must be a California resident
- Must be a sophomore, junior, or senior in high school
- Must have a 504 plan, Individualized Education Program (IEP), or identify as a student with a disability

*Leadership experience is encouraged but not required!*

Selected delegates will have the opportunity to spend a week in Sacramento, CA, staying on a college campus in the dorms. During this week, they will learn about advocacy and leadership, connect with peers, meet professionals with disabilities, interact with state policymakers, develop goals, and create a leadership development plan for their future. Delegates will also have the chance to build lifelong friendships!

There is no cost for delegates to attend YLF. All expenses, including travel, lodging, meals, and any necessary accommodations, are covered by YLF, thanks to our sponsors and partners.

For more details, visit the [YLF website](https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/Ylf). If you have any questions, please email [YLF@dor.ca.gov](mailto:YLF@dor.ca.gov).

APPLY HERE: [YLF 2025 Application](https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/Ylf)

## MORE INFORMATION



**CALIFORNIA YOUTH LEADERSHIP FORUM (YLF)**  
FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

**JULY 14-19, 2025**  
**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO**

**ARE YOU IN HIGH SCHOOL?  
DO YOU HAVE AN IEP OR 504 PLAN?**

- EMPOWERMENT**  
Learn about your options after high school. Whether it's going to college, going to work or both!
- LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**  
Develop a plan for your future goals supported with the tools, resources and skills needed for success!
- ADVOCACY**  
Build a community of mentors and friends who will help you find a path to independence!

**APPLY NOW!**

For Additional Information Visit our Website <https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/Ylf>

## ENGLISH



**CONFERENCIA DE LIDERAZGO JUVENIL DE CALIFORNIA (YLF)**  
PARA ESTUDIANTES CON DISCAPACIDADES

**14-19 DE JULIO DE 2025**  
**UNIVERSIDAD ESTATAL DE CALIFORNIA, SACRAMENTO**

**¿ESTÁS EN LA ESCUELA SECUNDARIA?  
¿TIENE USTED UN IEP O UN PLAN 504?**

- EMPODERAMIENTO**  
¡Aprende sobre tus opciones después de la escuela secundaria! (It's all up to you! Whether it's going to college, going to work or both!)
- DESARROLLO DE LIDERAZGO**  
¡Desarrolla un plan para tus metas futuras respaldado con las herramientas, recursos y habilidades necesarias para el éxito!
- DEFENSA**  
¡Construye una comunidad de mentores y amigos que te ayudarán a encontrar un camino hacia la independencia!

**¡APLICA YA!**

Para obtener información adicional, visite nuestro sitio web <https://www.dor.ca.gov/Home/Ylf>

## ESPAÑOL



California Community Colleges