ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE WORKPLAN
Accomplishments - May 2026

Executive Summary

The California Community Colleges have moved rapidly from early exploration to coordinated, systemwide AI implementation positioning the system as a national leader in responsible, equity-centered adoption that advances Vision 2030's Strategic Direction 3: Generative AI and the Future of Learning. Two activities illustrate the scope of this progress. First, the system has deployed AI-enabled fraud detection and real-time identity verification through the CCCApply portal, directly protecting financial aid resources and ensuring they reach eligible students. Second, a foundational AI and data infrastructure has been built through the Digital Center for Innovation, Transformation, and Equity, anchored by a $10 million initial investment in the Common Cloud Data Platform, supplemented by an additional $12 million for scaling, which centralizes data management, powers real-time analytics, and supports tools such as Program Pathways Mapper and eTranscripts. Governance has been formalized through the Data Governance Advisory Workgroup and the HUMANS Framework, ensuring that privacy, transparency, and equity remain central to all AI deployment decisions.

Beyond infrastructure, the system is investing in people and partnerships to ensure AI adoption is sustainable and supportive of workforce preparation and economic mobility. The Chancellor's AI Fellows and Ambassadors is building a statewide network of practitioners who connect local innovation to systemwide strategy. AI-enabled student support including pilots of Playlab.ai for faculty-created custom bots and Nectir.ai for embedded AI course assistants, are expanding 24/7 multilingual student engagement. Workforce partnerships with Nvidia, Google, OpenAI, Microsoft, IBM, and Intel are supporting curriculum development and employer-connected pathways. Together, these efforts reflect a deliberate, human-centered approach to AI that advances completion, workforce readiness, financial aid access, and reduced time to degree.

Vision 2030 in Action

The Vision 2030: Artificial Intelligence workplan operationalizes Strategic Direction: 3 - Generative Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Learning, Outcomes: 2, 4, 5, & 6, and Actions: 12 & 12a-e.

Demonstration Projects

- Common Cloud Data Platform

Progress & Accomplishments

Activity 1: Rapid AI Deployment to Eliminate Enrollment Fraud

- Deployed advanced AI tools to strengthen systemwide fraud detection and prevention across enrollment and financial aid systems.
- Integrated identity verification and AI-based fraud detection directly into the application portal, enabling real-time intervention during the application process.
- Adopted mobile driver's license (mDL) verification, with more than 50,000 applicants utilizing this capability within the initial rollout period.
- In progress: Expanded identity verification capabilities in partnership with ID.me to support students under age 18, including dual enrollment populations.
- Conducted analysis on the feasibility and statutory considerations for implementing a nominal application fee to offset ongoing fraud mitigation costs.

Activity 2: Build-Out AI Infrastructure

The Digital Center for Innovation, Transformation, and Equity serves as the system's primary implementation hub for AI infrastructure, innovation pilots, and capacity-building. Through coordinated partnerships with leading districts, the Chancellor's Office, and external partners, the Digital Center enables rapid testing, scaling, and adaptation of solutions across colleges of varying size and capacity.

Core Infrastructure and Data Systems

- Launched the initial phase of the Common Cloud Data Platform (CCDP) to centralize data management and enable real-time analytics.
- Secured $10 million in initial funding and an additional $12 million to support systemwide scaling.
- Onboarded 24 colleges to CCDP and established the platform to support automated degree and credit transfer and student progress tracking.
- Launched the Chancellor's Dashboard, the system's first real-time, multi-college enrollment management tool.
- Developed a fine-tuned large language model (LLM) to support a real-time Student Progress Dashboard (in development).
- Strengthened interoperability and data coordination through integration with the Common Cloud Data Platform.

Governance and Data Strategy

- Formalized the Data Governance Advisory Workgroup (DGAW) to standardize data practices and improve accessibility while maintaining security.
- Aligned data governance efforts with the AI HUMANS Framework and system guiding principles.

Human Infrastructure and System Capacity

- Established AI Fellows, Ambassadors, and Changemakers programs to build systemwide AI fluency and support local-to-statewide innovation scaling.
- Launched the inaugural AI Fellows cohort (26 systemwide projects) with a second cohort underway.
- Engaged AI Special Advisors to lead initiatives in AI literacy, accessibility, and healthcare workforce pathways.
- Leveraged regional consortia to expand implementation capacity and accelerate adoption across colleges.
- Positioned the Digital Center as a systemwide hub to pilot, refine, and scale AI-enabled solutions, enabling innovations developed in leading districts to be adapted for broader system use.
- 80+ in-person engagements across 15 months (campus visits, regional workshops, national conferences).

Innovation and Systemwide Implementation

- Scaled LightLeapAI from a single-college pilot to more than 80 colleges, improving fraud detection and reducing false positives.
- Implemented AI-enabled teaching and learning pilots, including Nectir embedded assistants and Dreamscape Learn immersive labs.
- Expanded student support infrastructure through the Mainstay "Cali" pilot, supporting financial aid navigation, basic needs access, and student engagement.
- Enhanced instructional capabilities through Canvas AI tools, including grading assistance, translation, smart search, and emerging agentic features.
- Advanced system transformation initiatives, including Career Passport and eTranscript California 2.0, to support interoperable, skills-based records.
- Advanced a coordinated portfolio of AI initiatives spanning student support, teaching and learning, workforce development, and system infrastructure, to improve student access, persistence, mobility, and workforce readiness.
- Transitioned key initiatives from isolated pilots to multi-college and system-level implementations, demonstrating scalability and systemwide applicability.

Professional Learning and Workforce Capacity

- Expanded systemwide AI capacity-building through coordinated Digital Center initiatives.
- Supported adoption of Gemini and NotebookLM through the Google for Education partnership, including training, certifications, and accessible learning resources.
- Delivered Gemini 101 and 102 training sessions to build foundational AI literacy.
- Offered professional learning through PlayLab, with over 450 participants developing more than 200 applied AI tools.
- Expanded student and workforce development through AI Summer Camp in partnership with Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and the AI Certification for Nurses initiative.

- Strengthened innovation pipelines through faculty, classified professional, and student entrepreneurship programs.

Policy, Learning, and Field Building

- Generated evidence from pilots to inform system guidance on AI use, accessibility, academic integrity, and data governance.
- Delivered a multi-part series to support colleges in developing AI policies and implementation frameworks.
- Established the Futures Summit as a systemwide convening, engaging over 800 participants across education, industry, and community stakeholders.

Resources and Sustainability

- Leveraged a district-led funding model to pilot and scale innovation across the system, particularly supporting smaller and less-resourced colleges.
- Leveraged multiple funding streams—including Chancellor's Office, foundation, philanthropic, and industry partnerships—to expand system capacity and reach.
- Enabled low- or no-cost access to key AI tools and training through strategic partnerships.
- Secured external funding to support workforce and student initiatives and subsidized systemwide tool adoption.
- Advanced accessibility solutions through partnerships and professional development efforts.
- Identified next-phase priorities to strengthen operational controls, leadership structures, and project selection processes to support sustained, systemwide AI implementation.

Activity 3: Workforce Partnerships for GenAI

- Expanded workforce readiness by providing generative AI tools and training to students, faculty, and external partners, including small businesses.
- Developed specialized AI curriculum and resources through partnerships with colleges and regional stakeholders.
- Conducted a statewide AI survey to inform industry-relevant curriculum and workforce training needs.
- Formalized and expanded partnerships with leading AI companies, including NVIDIA, Google, OpenAI, Microsoft, IBM, and Intel.
- Finalized a strategic partnership with Google to provide distributed computing resources, AI tools, and systemwide implementation support.
- Delivered professional development through the Vision Resource Center, CVC@ONE, and AI Council.
- Established the Policy and Research Center and Workforce and Economic Mobility Lab to strengthen coordination across research, policy, and workforce strategy.

Strategic Partnerships and Resource Development

- Secured a Salesforce grant supporting 15 AI innovation initiatives spanning workforce readiness, healthcare apprenticeships, entrepreneurship, AI literacy, student ambassador programs, and discipline-specific AI integration (e.g., biology, calculus, ESL), supported by the onboarding of AI Special Advisors to guide implementation.
- Advanced a strategic partnership with Google, including national Community of Practice engagement (NASH), a faculty professional development grant, development of a multi-year Google.org funding proposal ($3M–$4M), and launch of a Google Data Analytics workforce initiative.
- Expanded collaboration with IBM to support large-scale SkillsBuild implementation, including apprenticeship pathways, faculty professional development, and student career readiness through employer-connected hiring designations.
- Secured 300 no-cost Coursera licenses systemwide to support faculty, staff, and student AI literacy, including integration with AI Ambassador workforce opportunities.
- Partnered with Adobe to support AI REELs at the 2026 Futures Summit, lead a systemwide AI tool evaluation pilot, and expand access to creative tools for students.
- Initiated partnership development with Jobs for the Future (JFF) to strengthen workforce alignment and expand employer-connected opportunities.
- Advanced MOUs with AWS, Intel, and NAAIC to expand infrastructure, workforce pathways, and national positioning.
- Re-engaged Anthropic at the executive level to explore responsible AI deployment opportunities that support system priorities.
- Secured and pursued philanthropic investments to expand key initiatives, including the AI Ambassadors program.
- Expanded sponsorship and industry engagement strategy for the Futures Summit, increasing the sponsorship goal from $500,000 to $1 million to sustain and scale systemwide innovation.

Activity 4: Evaluate AI for Teaching and Learning

- Established AI literacy as a foundational learning outcome across disciplines.
- Operationalized and enforced the HUMANS Framework to ensure ethical, transparent, and equitable AI use in teaching and learning.
- Implemented “teacher-in-the-loop” requirements to maintain academic integrity.
- Executed the Nectir AI pilot across 84 colleges, engaging over 280 instructors and 8,000 students.
- Completed rigorous evaluation of the impact of integrating the Nectir AI intelligent tutoring system, finding that across an array of classes and campuses the average success rate was 3.1% higher on average in classes that included Nectir AI, a statistically significant improvement.

- Demonstrated improved student outcomes, including increased GPAs and pass rates for students using AI-supported tools.
- Expanded faculty capacity through PlayLab participation and train-the-trainer certifications.
- Developed evaluation frameworks for future pilots, including the Calculus I AI tools evaluation plan.

Activity 5: Achieve Proof of Concept for AI-Enhanced Student Support Services

- Deployed AI-powered chatbots to provide real-time, 24/7 personalized student support.
- Launched the Rural "Cali" pilot to support underserved colleges with limited staffing capacity.
- Enabled multilingual support in more than 140 languages to expand access for diverse student populations.
- Leveraged AI and analytics to deliver personalized student recommendations and early interventions.
- Initiated a 24-month longitudinal study to evaluate impacts on retention, persistence, and student engagement.
- Integrated AI tools with Common Cloud infrastructure to support real-time student progress tracking.
- Implemented human-AI hybrid support models supported by training, technical assistance, and partner success management.
- Automated routine student inquiries to improve efficiency and allow staff to focus on higher-touch support.

Activity 6: Advance AI Policy and Foster a Culture of AI Literacy

- Implemented a coordinated, systemwide strategy to expand AI and data literacy across faculty, staff, and students.
- Launched a free, self-paced AI literacy course for educators through CVC@ONE.
- Collaborated with ASCCC and system partners to explore integration of AI literacy into Title 5 degree standards.
- Developed and launched a centralized AI microsite and professional development aggregator to support systemwide access to training.
- Facilitated engagement through the AI Council and cross-system communities of practice.
- Delivered systemwide workshops, webinars, and professional development opportunities, including a webinar series with over 800 participants.
- Coordinated with the Board of Governors to support recognition and integration of AI literacy into system governance.

Contributors

Craig Hayward, Don Daves-Rougeaux, and Jory Hadsell