

Strong Workforce Implementation

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California
Community
Colleges



Doing What MATTERS
FOR JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Technical Assistance Provider:

Strong Workforce Implementation

The Strong Workforce Program (SWP) is a bold step to create one million more middle-skilled workers in California, unlocking social mobility for more workers and providing more job-ready talent for employers. At the recommendation of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors, the governor and Legislature in June 2016 approved the Strong Workforce Program, adding a new annual recurring investment of \$200 million to spur career education in California's community colleges.

Grouped into seven areas targeting **student success, career pathways, workforce data and outcomes, curriculum, faculty, regional coordination and funding**, this leading-edge state economic development program is driven by "more and better" career education. The "more" pertains to increasing the number of students enrolled in programs leading to high-demand, high-wage jobs. The "better" aligns with strategies to improve program quality, as evidenced by students completing or transferring programs, becoming employed or improving their earnings.

Technical Assistance Areas of Expertise

- Exhibit statewide leadership by focusing on the implementation of the 25 Strong Workforce Task Force Recommendations
Encourage system-wide reform through regional efforts that enhance career engagement within students and build counselor capacity for conducting career exploration with learners
- Solicit evidence of SWP recommendation completion by Workforce and Economic Development Division cadre of technical assistance providers, deputy sector navigators and sector navigators
- Collaborate with labor, the CA Workforce Development Board and America's Job Centers of California, and local community colleges to offer regional partnership opportunities that unlock social mobility for students
- Offer local guidance on initiatives that can expand usage and integration of early college strategies such as dual enrollment and high school articulation
- Inform the field on Strong Workforce content areas that require Statewide Academic Senate perspective through offering collaborative workshops and presentations
- Serve on steering committees that provide guidance and content knowledge for the development of system-wide resources such as Here to Career, Get Focused Stay Focused, Career and Technology Education Management Application (CAETMA), CCCMyPath.org and the Career Coach tool under the Education Planning Initiative
- Collaborate with the Academic Senate on issues, such as minimum qualifications for career education faculty
- Provide technical assistance to community college districts, and other stakeholders to ensure appropriate and consistent information and to facilitate implementation of the Strong workforce Program
- Compile information on SWP effectiveness, best practices, and innovative approaches by reviewing programs and analyzing research on issues, strategies, and trends in California and the nation

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- Disseminate information on the effectiveness of the Strong Workforce Program, best practices, and innovative approaches to relevant stakeholders by conducting workshops, conferences, and seminars using effective communication skills
- Develop training for diverse audiences using various modes for delivery including technology and other media in order to facilitate a common understanding of policies, practices, and procedures

Supporting Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and the Economy

The team supports Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and the Economy by strengthening the acumen of faculty to engage in career counseling and system leadership, the retooling of CTE programs in light of sector requirements and economic needs of the region, and engage high level college administrators on issues pertinent to student success and workforce progression (training on Launchboard, understanding integration of Student Success and Support Program and SWP, and the submission of regional and local SWP plans). Specifically, the team:

- Manages field projects to inform policy development monitor educational research and policy issues through publications and conference presentations to remain current on trends
- Collaborate with system of grantee supported roles to reach success metrics in pertinent areas

Supporting the Strong Workforce Program

- As a part of the Workforce and Economic Development Division Dean Leadership team, provide development and implementation of Strong Workforce recommendations
- Offer local and regional guidance on use of Strong Workforce funds and encourage use of promising practices within a regional context
- Identify the levers that facilitate the scaling of effective and efficient practices and to support establishment of policies that make possible the system's responsiveness to Strong Workforce recommendations
- Collaborate among internal and external career education professionals, to ensure increased alignment of activities and the resources towards shared goals between field and system office and create more and better career education programs in the California Community Colleges System
- Work collaboratively with stakeholders to propose, develop, and implement innovative approaches and best practices for the Strong workforce Program implementation and outcomes
- Lead formation of task forces, working groups & other entities to address system issues, goals & objectives
- Demonstrate statewide leadership on behalf of the California Community Colleges through presentations and participation in committees and task forces to promote system goals and objectives.
- Organize activities of college leaders, personnel, and organizations to achieve a system-wide response to state legislative issues
- Engage in system-wide, intersegmental, intra-agency, cross-unit, interdisciplinary, legislatively important initiatives that cut across the SWP broad categories

Key Contact

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Websites

<http://doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu/StrongWorkforce/ProjectPlan.aspx>
<http://doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu/StrongWorkforce/ForCounselors.aspx>

Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and the Economy invests in California's economic growth and global competitiveness through industry-specific partnerships, education, training and services that contribute to a highly skilled and productive workforce. <http://doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu>.

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The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 114 colleges serving 2.1 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education in English and math, and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>, <https://www.facebook.com/CACommColleges>, or <https://twitter.com/CalCommColleges>.

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