

WEDD NEWSLETTER

Fall Edition

Dear Leadership Teams,
As we started the new academic year across California's community college system, we were honored to be part of numerous milestones and events worth celebrating.

We reflected on the impactful "California Jobs First" Kern Coalition event which brought together key leaders to discuss the future of regional workforce development. California Community Colleges also hosted this year's Climate Summit, and on September 12, the Chancellor's Office along with our research partner, Jobs for the Future hosted a LinkedIn Live Event to share findings from a new [report](#) – The State of Apprenticeships in California: Growth and Learnings from the Golden State. This event explored the rapid expansion of apprenticeships and shared insights from across the state. Last month also left me inspired by many new and innovative programs in store for our students while I attended the AgTEC breakfast, toured Dreamscape Learn, and was a speaker at the 10-year Anniversary Rising Scholars event this month.

The WEDD team would like to send a huge congratulations to Zitlali "Tali" Torres for being accepted into the prestigious [California Education Policy Fellowship Program](#)! We also want to highlight the experience of former San Joaquin Delta College student, Anmol Sharma, for recently finishing her internship with NASA, and also highlight former Santiago Canyon College student, Vicente Lopez, for successfully completing his apprenticeship! Through the apprenticeship program, Vicente secured a role as a maintenance mechanic apprentice with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) and also earned his State of California Certificate of Completion making him a skilled journey worker.

Looking ahead, our team is optimistic about the dynamic tone set for the upcoming year!

Thank you,



Anthony Cordova
Vice Chancellor, Workforce and Economic Development



PHOTO: Professors Anthony M. Farao of Lemoore College and Allen Viscarra of Reedley College

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Lemoore College

In an era where agricultural innovation is not just an option but a necessity, professors Anthony M. Farao of Lemoore College and Allen Viscarra of Reedley College are leading the charge to prepare students for the rapidly evolving agricultural landscape. The two recently attended a cutting-edge workshop at UC Davis focused on emerging tools that will soon replace low-skill, no-skill labor in the field. They are exploring innovations such as artificial intelligence (AI) and drone technology, which are reshaping the industry.

The workshop emphasized the growing role of automation in agriculture, highlighting the need for skilled professionals who can navigate this evolving landscape. Both professors plan to integrate these technologies into their curricula, ensuring students not only learn the theory but gain practical experience with AI, drones, and other emerging tools.

Futures Summit at DeAnza College

Early in September, DeAnza College hosted the inaugural Future Summit on AI: Powering Tomorrow's Workforce! led by the California Community College Chancellor's Office, and in partnership with Foothill-De Anza Community College District. Guided by the [Vision 2030 Roadmap for California Community Colleges](#), and funded largely through philanthropy, critical AI solutions are crafted to address the challenges and opportunities identified by students, colleges, and communities, ensuring that we meet their needs effectively and harness their leadership.

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

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PHOTO: Event photo posted on DeAnza College Instagram page, September 10
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The conference supported a collaborative action plan to respond to the technological and environmental changes facing our communities and society; and brought together visionaries, thought leaders, educators, campus AI coordinators, and government officials to share ideas about AI in the workplace and its implications for the present and future.

California Jobs First Kern Coalition

At the Kern Coalition Summit, key updates were shared on efforts to bring quality jobs to Kern County. The Kern Coalition is a collaborative of local organizations and communities, and was formed to respond to the state grant opportunities provided by CERF (Community Economic Resilience Fund). It is led by five convenor organizations (Kern Community College District, B3K Prosperity, Kern Inyo Mono Central Labor Council, Community Action Partnership of Kern, and Building Healthy Communities Kern) with Kern Community College District serving as the fiscal agent. The Coalition focuses on sustainable economic development, prioritizing clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and agriculture. To learn more about this event, view the [event details](#) here.



PHOTO: Tony and Natasha Johnson, Director for Launchpad at KCCD

AgTEC Workforce Program

Last month, the AgTEC Ag Systems Certificate program celebrated its successful launch, offering farmworkers and aspiring agricultural professionals critical skills in digital literacy and emerging technology. Over 100 industry leaders, including Senator Anna Caballero and CDFA Board Chair Don Cameron, joined the event, which highlighted the significance of the program in advancing the Central Valley's agricultural sector. With over 150 students already enrolled, we look forward to seeing the impact this program will have on the Central Valley's agricultural community.



PHOTO: At the AgTEC Breakfast on September 16

DEIA in Action Institute

The 2024 Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) in Action Institute for California Community Colleges took place in Irvine from September 25 through September 27. The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Action Institute is designed to support institutions in equitable solutions outlined in the Vision 2030 and enhancing their diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility efforts, alongside anti-racism strategies, policies, and promising practices.



PHOTO: Tony at the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility in Action Institute in Irvine.



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Participants learned practical tools to strengthen DEIA practices within their colleges to take back and share with their teams. Moreover, this institute offered a platform for networking with fellow stakeholders from California community colleges to exchange effective DEIA and anti-racism practices and ideas to help build a stronger environment for everyone. To learn more, visit the [event announcement](#).

Regions at Work Conference

On September 25, community college leaders from across the state gathered for the 2nd Annual California Regions at Work Conference. This conference, organized by the North / Far North Regional Consortia, brought together community college senior leadership, Regional Consortias, CTE Deans and Associate Deans, CTE District Leaders, CTE Faculty, Workforce Boards, Industry/Employer Partners, Elected Officials, Students, and Researchers to foster community college regional collaboration in support of building an equitable, skilled workforce and abundant career opportunities across California. The event included keynote speeches, panel discussions, networking opportunities, regional partnerships discussions that work to enhance workforce development and education, and share best practices across regions.



PHOTO: Dean, LaCandice Ochoa, Workforce and Economic Development, Dr. Narineh Makijan Assistant Vice President & Chair, Los Angeles Regional Consortium, and other regional leaders at the annual conference.

IMPACTFUL PROJECTS & MOMENTS



PHOTO: Chancellor, Dr. Sonya Christian and Tony Cordova with KCCD and CREL who were presenting partners at the event.

CSCONVERGE 2024 Climate Summit

California Community College leaders from around the region came together on September 18 and 19 for the CSCONVERGE 2024 Climate Summit. This pivotal event was hosted by the Chancellor's Office and the Foundation for California Community Colleges and was two days of uniting educators, industry experts, and policymakers in an exchange of ideas and strategies focused on sustainability and resilience. The conference shared insights on integrating climate solutions within community college frameworks, explored equity in climate policies, and ideas to engage students in environmental efforts. Sessions covered diverse topics, including climate resilience, clean energy transitions, and workforce development. The event fostered collaboration for advancing climate-conscious education and solutions statewide and was a productive gathering of leaders from across the state. To learn more, visit the [event webpage](#).

Dreamscape Learn

On September 25, Tony met with the team at Dreamscape Learn and toured the facility. Dreamscape Learn combines immersive virtual reality (VR) technology with education to create interactive learning experiences. By blending cinematic VR adventures with academic content, Dreamscape Learn enhances learning outcomes, making complex topics more accessible and engaging for students, creating a more interactive and...
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IMPACTFUL PROJECTS & MOMENTS

(Impactful Projects - continued from pg 4)

... personalized approach to education. Dreamscape Learn offers community college students immersive virtual reality experiences that transform traditional learning into interactive, engaging adventures. By combining cinematic storytelling with academic content, students can explore complex subjects like biology and environmental science in a more hands-on and personalized way. This innovative approach enhances student engagement and understanding, helping them better grasp key concepts.



PHOTO: Tony with the Dreamscape Learn Team

Rising Scholars Network Program

The statewide Rising Scholars program celebrated their 10-year anniversary at an event that also celebrated the transformative impact of SB 1391, a law that has expanded access to higher education for justice-impacted students by offering in-person instruction within correctional facilities.

This effort, aligned with Vision 2030's commitment to revolutionizing community college education for justice-impacted students across California, aims to institutionalize and enhance the delivery of high-quality, equity-focused technical assistance to the Field, increase operational efficiencies, and improve service delivery to more than 90 grant funded college programs supporting justice impacted learners.

The Chancellor's Office Rising Scholars Network Program team also provides guidance and technical

assistance including but not limited to grant and fund management, interpretation of policy and procedures affecting programs, equity centered ideas, strategies and approaches supporting program development, stakeholder engagement and partnership development at the college and systems level.



PHOTO: Tony speaking at the Rising Scholars Event last month

Jobs for the Future - State of Apprenticeships

On September 12, in partnership with Jobs for the Future, a panel that included Chancellor Sonya Christian, Vice Chancellor of Workforce & Economic Development, Tony Cordova, Senior Strategist Vinz Koller, and Krysti Specht and Myriam Sullivan from Jobs for the Future. At this online event, attendees learned about progress being made and promising strategies to expand access, equity, and economic opportunity for Californians through apprenticeships.

To watch the [full video](#) of the event and hear the discussion, please visit the link from Jobs for the Future LinkedIn page.



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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!



UDW DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

UNITED DOMESTIC WORKERS

The [Chancellor's Office partners with the United Domestic Workers](#) (UDW) to construct seamless educational pathways for the union's 91,000 members and their families. With [UDW](#) and through the efforts described above, the project will build capacity for colleges to engage learners in pathways that lead to high-value certificates and degrees, improving workers' economic mobility.

The three-year partnership aims to dismantle barriers often faced by UDW's more than 171,000 members, most of which are women and people of color, and construct educational pathways for them. This will be done by ensuring engagement, enrollment and equitable student success is individualized.

This partnership aligns with the California Community Colleges Vision 2030. A core value of the strategic vision is to partner with statewide community-based organizations to bring workforce training to low-income adults and provide Californians instruction through flexible modalities.

Under the agreement, California Community Colleges has committed to developing educational pathways for UDW members and assisting members with credit for prior learning and non-credit options that lead to an educational credential. While UDW has committed to partner to provide support such as childcare, emergency housing, textbooks and other necessary instructional materials and supplies. UDW will also work with employers to ensure members' educational goals are prioritized to incorporate experiential learning. Together this partnership leverages the reach of California's 116 community colleges and the talents of hard-working Californians.

STATE OF APPRENTICESHIPS



WATCH - Watch this video to learn more about Jobs for the Future - State of Apprenticeships virtual event.

OUR TEAM

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UDW COHORT INSTITUTIONS

IMPORTANT UPDATES!

UDW COHORTS

If you are engaging in the program for UDW Demonstration Project, please read and review the updates below:

1. Baseline Semester for Enrollment Expectations

For Cohort 1 colleges, the Fall 2024 semester will serve as the baseline for enrollment expectations. We will use this semester to collect and analyze data that will inform future planning and target-setting. For Cohort 2 colleges, the Spring 2025 semester will be the baseline for these same enrollment expectations.

The CCCCCO is currently working on finalizing the outcome metrics, which will be made available by early 2025. These metrics will guide our future evaluation efforts and ensure consistency across all participating institutions. We look forward to working closely with all of you to ensure data collection is aligned with each institution's capacity and needs.

2. Complete Your Needs Assessment

We encourage all institutions to complete their [Needs Assessment](#) as a crucial step in understanding your current capacity and identifying the support needed to achieve your goals. This process is essential for tailoring resources and strategies that will best serve each institution's unique situation. If your institution has not yet submitted, we invite you to do so by October 1st to ensure your needs are fully considered in the upcoming planning phases. If you need assistance with this, please don't hesitate to reach out to Jasmine McGee at WestEd via jmcgee@wested.org.

Several colleges have submitted their Needs Assessment:

Irvine Valley College	Grossmont- Cuyamaca	Mt. San Antonio College
Palomar Community College	Orange Coast College	Coastline College
Saddleback College	Southwestern College	Santiago Canyon College
Golden West College	Sierra College	

3. DSA Template Available: November 1st Deadline

We are pleased to share the Data Sharing Agreement (DSA) template, which you can access [here](#). This template is designed to streamline the process of data sharing and collaboration among institutions. We recommend a completion deadline of November 1st, 2024, to ensure we have ample time to process the necessary documentation and begin sharing relevant data. Please review the template and reach out if you have any questions or need further clarification.

4. Submit Your College Participation Agreement

As a reminder, we are asking all college presidents to complete and submit their [College Participation Agreement](#) by November 1st, 2024. This signed agreement is essential for formalizing your institution's involvement in the initiative. Please send the completed and signed agreement to the Chancellor's Office, Attn: [Contact Name].

Several colleges have submitted their Participation Agreement:

Sierra College	Santa Ana College	Mt. San Jacinto College
Mt. San Antonio College	Santiago Canyon College	Palomar College
		Grossmont-Cuyamaca

Thank you for your ongoing dedication and partnership as we continue to drive forward best practices for adult learners.

