



Higher Education and Workforce Development Work Group

Challenge

The San Joaquin Valley's economic success depends on a skilled workforce prepared for knowledge-based jobs. However, the education gap of Valley residents is significant – U.S. Census shows that only 15 percent of adults (during 25 years) have a bachelor's degree compared to 28 percent statewide. The need for meaningful collaboration between higher education institutions and industry has never been more critical to develop a skilled workforce.

Opportunity

Expand higher education opportunities and develop the workforce preparation infrastructure to support sustained, long-term economic vitality.

Focus

The Higher Education and Workforce Development Work Group focuses on aligning workforce development resources to the needs of target industries that are thriving in the San Joaquin Valley – agribusiness, manufacturing, supply chain management and logistics, health and medical care, and renewable energy. The work group recognizes the need for an educated workforce in the Valley and is working to create a college-going culture that prepares students for success in the workplace.

Success for the San Joaquin Valley

HIGHER EDUCATION

- Central Valley Higher Education Consortium received a grant from California Education Policy Fund to bring faculty and administrators together from Central Valley community colleges and K-12 districts to align curriculum, identify college-readiness achievement, and coordinate readiness assessment.
- Central California Community Colleges Committed to Change (C6) was awarded a \$19.9 million Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant by the U.S. Department of Labor to provide training in new careers for the unemployed in high-demand areas: health care, agriculture/manufacturing, and alternative energy.
- Degree Completion Initiative was implemented to increase completion and success rates, coordinate mechanisms to improve educational access, particularly in the pathway from high school, to community colleges, to four-year institutions, and to assessment.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- Second increment of the Regional Economic Impact National Emergency Grant (\$3,435,544) was implemented. The Central California Workforce Collaborative was awarded the grant in March 2010. Displaced workers (both unemployed and underemployed) in San Joaquin Valley counties have been given access to vocational training and placement services in high-demand, high-wage industries.
- Valley Legacy successfully concluded March 2012. This valuable work was made possible by CCWC partnering with the Partnership to obtain the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Discretionary Funds award of \$2 million, received in 2009. Eleven program sites were established; 1,200 participants were served including 380 WIA-enrolled clients.
- A \$200,000 Regional Industry Clusters of Opportunity Grant was awarded to CCWC to work with the health care industry to identify and implement strategies and solutions to address its most critical workforce and economic development needs.

Action

HIGHER EDUCATION

Provide services to 1,000 targeted students

Provide counseling, career coaching, and academic planning.

Ensure students receive academic assessment plans and understand their interest areas and potential.

Direct assistance to students with college applications

Increase college enrollments

Monitoring and Evaluation

Develop a college-going culture in the San Joaquin Valley

- *Improving educational access*
- *Increase availability of financial aid information*
- *Organizational Development*
- *Continue building and maintaining an effective governing board.*
- *Strategic Plan: Implementation and refinement*
- *Sustainability*

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Create a demand-driven workforce investment system that supports target clusters.

- *Align workforce development resources to support target industry clusters.*
- *Occupational analysis of key jobs in target industries.*
- *Web-based inventory of vocational training and “gap analysis.”*
- *Regionwide business intelligence tool.*
- *Address workforce supply on a regional basis.*
- *Align career technical education with target industries.*
- *Establish the San Joaquin Valley Workforce Consortium.*
- *Align the efforts of the San Joaquin Valley’s economic development corporations, San Joaquin Valley Workforce Consortium, and Central Region Consortium.*

About the Partnership

Set in motion by an executive order in June 2005 and renewed in November 2006 and in December 2008, the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Valley is an unprecedented public-private partnership sharply focused on improving the region’s economic vitality and quality of life for the 3.9 million residents who call the San Joaquin Valley home. The Partnership is addressing the challenges of the region by implementing measurable actions on economic, environmental, and social levels to help the San Joaquin Valley emerge as *California’s 21st Century Opportunity*. On July 1, 2010, the Partnership was extended indefinitely with Executive Order S-10-10.

Work Groups

The Partnership is organized into 10 work groups, convening leaders and experts from throughout the region to implement the 10-year Strategic Action Plan adopted by the Partnership board in October 2006. The work groups include advanced communications services; air quality; economic development; energy; health and human services, higher education and workforce development; housing; preK-12 education; sustainable communities; and water.



California Partnership for the
San Joaquin Valley

Administered by

FRESNO STATE
Community and Economic Development

Higher Education and Workforce Development

www.sjypartnership.org

HIGHER EDUCATION

Central Valley Higher Education Consortium
California State University, Fresno

Barbara Hioco, Executive Director
Email: bhioco@csufresno.edu

UC Merced Center
550 E. Shaw Avenue, Suite 100
Fresno, CA 93710
(559)292-0576 Office

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Central California Workforce Collaborative

Blake Konczal, Executive Director
Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board
Email: bkonczal@workforce-connection.com

2125 Kern Street, Suite 208
Fresno, CA 93721
(559)490-7102 Office