Connecting Learning and Earning: Strategies for Expanding Work– Based Learning Opportunities

March 2024

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HIGHER EDUCATION FOR A STRONG ECONOMY

Poll Questions

1a. What sector(s) do you represent within California's education and workforce ecosystem?

1b. If you selected higher education, what is your role?

2. To what extent is your institution or organization currently engaged in advancing career readiness for students?



California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy

What we believe

Higher education is both a vaccine and an antidote against economic stagnation and social stratification—for individual Californians, our communities, and the state's economy.



Our Policy Priorities

Higher Education & Workforce Alignment

College Access & Success for Adult Learners

Effective & Accessible Online Education

Coordinated Policy Setting & Implementation



Today's Agenda

Los Angeles County 2nd District California Community Colleges Career Ready Pilot (LA2CCC)

New Memo Highlight

Panel Discussion

Q&A



The Value of Career Readiness Across Sectors

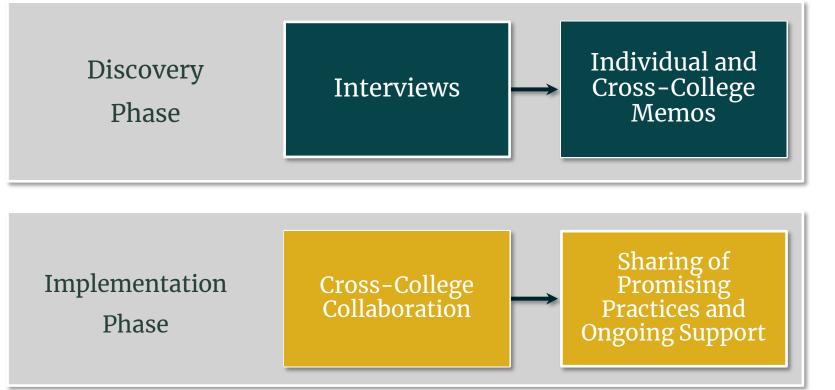


Los Angeles County 2nd District California Community Colleges Career Ready Pilot (*LA2CCC*)



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A Two-Phased Approach









Memo



Date: March 7, 2024

To: Higher education, government, and workforce development leaders in California From: California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy Re: Strengthening a Culture of Career Readiness: Key Issues and Promising Practices

Key Takeaways:

- Leaders of the four community colleges in Los Angeles County's second supervisorial district and the county government have articulated a variety of areas in which to improve career readiness among area residents, some of which are already being addressed by existing programs and policies.
- Toward this end, we highlight the following six promising practices:
 - Communicating with students early and often about career readiness
 - Engaging faculty in career readiness efforts
 - Strengthening employer partnerships
 - Promoting paid work experiences for students
 - Improving connections between colleges and the county
 - Collaborating across colleges to better meet the needs of residents
- We provide examples from the four colleges that demonstrate what can be done to improve career readiness in the region and offer a roadmap for colleges and county governments, to guide future efforts.

Strengthening a Culture of Career Readiness: Key Issues and Promising Practices

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New Memo: Strengthening a Culture of Career Readiness

Explore details at:



californiacompetes.org/resources/ strengthening-a-culture-ofcareer-readiness

The Path Forward

Six key recommendations from our work to date:



Communicate with students early and often about career readiness.



Promote paid work experiences for students.



Engage faculty in career readiness efforts.



Collaborate across colleges to better meet the needs of residents.



Strengthen employer partnerships.



Improve connections between colleges and the county.



The Critical Importance of *Paid Work-Based Learning*



Provides skills and connections to secure good jobs and maximize students' return on their educational investment.



Mitigates financial barriers to college while aligning to students' academic studies.



Offers greater advantages to both students and employers than those that are unpaid.



Today's Panel



Jose Anaya

Dean of Community Advancement, El Camino College





Tiffany Miller Dean of Apprenticeship and Workforce Development, West Los Angeles College



Caroline Torosis Senior Deputy for Economic and Workforce Development, Los Angeles County

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors



Keith Curry

President, Compton College; CEO, Compton Community College District (Moderator)

Thank You!

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Download the memo



californiacompetes.org/resources/ strengthening-a-culture-ofcareer-readiness

