Advancing the Workforce Mission

Among the activities of the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office, the programs of the Division of Workforce and Economic Development bridge the skills and jobs mismatch and prepare California’s workforce for 21st century careers.

The Division serves as administrator for several streams of state and federal funds, including:

- Governor’s Career Technical Education Pathways Initiative (SB70)
- Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006
- Proposition 98 dollars for Apprenticeship, Economic & Workforce Development (EWD) and Career Technical Education (CTE).

The Division collaborates with employers, organized labor, local communities, their community colleges, and other education partners through programming supported by these funds to close the skills gap and foster successful student completion.

Educators and legislators must prioritize designated funding for these valued programs in times of diminishing resources. Community colleges must preserve their focus on career education and industry partnerships.

**Opportunity**
Community colleges become essential catalysts to economic recovery and jobs creation in California – at the local, regional and state level.

**Objective**
Supply in-demand skills for employers, create relevant career pathways and stackable credentials, ensure student success, and get Californians into open jobs.

**Measurable Success**
As the skills gap widens and the demand for workers with industry-relevant training increases, the call from employers, students and policy-makers for career readiness and postsecondary preparation will only grow stronger.

The Division of Workforce and Economic Development continues to drive student success and contribute to the state’s economic growth and competitiveness. Continued funding is critical to the overall jobs outlook and the health of California’s economy.
Career Technical Education Programs

Career Technical Education (CTE) instruction integrates core academic coursework with technical and occupational knowledge to guide students through postsecondary education and into career pathways. Of the 2.6 million students enrolled in California community colleges, roughly 56 percent are enrolled in CTE programs. A large number of these students are incumbent and dislocated workers. Consider:

• Over the last 10 years, CTE courses have experienced the highest completion rates.

• Individuals who completed community college CTE clusters doubled their wages within three years.\(^1\)

• CTE programs educate and train:
  • 70 percent of nurses;
  • 80 percent of firefighters, law enforcement officers, and emergency medical technicians in our state.

From surveyors to operating engineers, approximately 25,000 apprentices are educated in over 160 CTE programs on 39 community college campuses each year to meet the demand for a skilled workforce.

CTE programs prepare skilled workers for California’s competitive and emerging industry sectors including healthcare, energy and utilities, advanced transportation, advanced manufacturing, biotechnology, and small business exports.

Transfer students from community colleges to the University of California account for 48 percent of University of California bachelor’s degrees in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Awards and Recognition (partial list)

• 2012 Advancing International Trade Award, NASBITE International
  California Community Colleges EWD International Trade Initiative

• 2011 Best Radiologic Training Program in the U.S., AuntMinnie.com
  City College of San Francisco Medical Diagnostic Imaging Program

• 2011 Academic Excellence Award, Marine Technology Society
  Long Beach Community College Electrical Program

• 2011 Top 20 U.S. Automotive Training Program, Tomorrow’s Technician Magazine
  Cuyamaca College Automotive Technology Program

• 2010 Most Outstanding Literary Art Magazine, American Scholastic Press Association
  American River College Art-New Media/English Department collaboration on American River Review

Career Technical Education

Builds the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and experiences required for youth and adults to succeed in higher education and employment.

Funding: Apportionment dollars; Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act (Perkins IV); Governor’s Career Pathways Initiative (SB 70; SB 1133)
Economic and Workforce Development Program

The Division’s Economic and Workforce Development (EWD) program provides critical support for continuous workforce improvement and economic development in a manner that is adaptive and responsive to the changing needs of regional economies. EWD programs assist the college system to be market responsive, create career pathways for the current and future workforce, and foster California’s competitiveness. EWD programs are so effective at increasing local businesses activity, employment and worker income that state and local tax revenues exceed the cost of funding EWD programs.

The Economic and Workforce Development program:

- **Preserves jobs and creates new ones** by training workers to meet business needs in days, not months. From 2002 to 2009, EWD programs annually assisted an average of 41,000 businesses, 107,000 students and trainees, and placed 4,300 individuals in jobs.

- **Increases worker income potential.** In a comparison of wages of 3,400 EWD trained workers with those of untrained but similarly employed workers, the average trained worker earned an additional $6,000 over the next three years – a $2,000 increase in annual salary.

- **Improves the demand for workers.** In a study of 2,244 private businesses utilizing EWD business assistance programs, each hired an average of 1.4 more workers compared to similar businesses not receiving such help, for a total of 3,152 jobs created. Small businesses – those with 50 or fewer employees and who employ the majority of California workers – benefited most.

- **Costs California taxpayers nothing.** Workers trained in a highly concentrated one-time course earned a higher wage and subsequently paid more in state and local taxes in the following three years, returning almost 80 percent of the State’s costs for the training. Also,
  - EWD programs increase the chances for employed workers to get promoted and unemployed workers to find jobs, reducing state expenditures for unemployment benefits and other government assistance programs.
  - For every state dollar spent on business assistance training programs, two dollars in state and local revenues are generated over the next two years, more than covering program costs.

Economic and Workforce Development Program – Funded by Proposition 98

Advances California’s economic competitiveness with just-in-time training programs to meet current labor market needs.

Secures and administers funding allocated to Industry Driven Regional Collaboratives, Regional Resource Centers, Responsive Incumbent Worker Trainings and Job Development Incentive Trainings.
Challenges and Opportunities
The demand for community college education is strong and increasing at a time when resources and funding are on the decline.

- Enrollment in California community colleges has grown 44 percent in the last 15 years, yet inflation-adjusted per student funding in 2009-2010 was lower than it was in 1995-1996.

- In 2011-2012 it is estimated up to 670,000 students seeking a community college education will not be served.

Across the board funding reductions are affecting students’ ability to access courses and complete their education in a timely fashion.

- 47 percent of California community college students report they cannot enroll in the classes they need (compared to 28 percent nationwide).

- Of the 18 percent of students who begin one level below transfer level, only 42 percent ever achieve a degree, certificate or transfer preparation.

The Road Ahead
Looking to the future, the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Division of Workforce and Economic Development has initiated a process for realigning resources to the current needs of the state, regions, and local communities around jobs and the economy. But there is more to be done. The Division is committed to:

- Heightened focus on industry partnerships along competitive and emerging sector strategies.
- Greater emphasis on communicating effective career education practices.
- Increased integration and leverage among program funding streams to better support regional and local efforts.
- Adoption of common metrics that facilitate student success.
- Increased attention to removing structural barriers to execution.

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1 Career education clusters are comprised of 1 unit math, 2 units English, 8 units science, and 33 units of occupational non-transferable coursework. CCCC0 Research and Planning Unit, Effects of Community College Degree/Certificate Completion on Post-Attainment Wage Progression.

2 Using actual wage data for program enrollees in 2003-2004, the rate of increase in wages for trainees was compared to the average for the California labor force to determine that EWD program training initiatives generated significant increases in the incomes of program enrollees. Time Structures Inc., Sacramento, CA.

3 Data and independent economic impact analysis by Time Structures Inc., Sacramento, CA.