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CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Doing What MATTERS™

FOR JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Technical Assistance Provider: **CCC Maker**

The CCC Maker initiative includes a network of California's community colleges building their own makerspace communities. With a goal of closing California's middle-skills gap, a successful makerspace model equips students with 21st-century skills and introduces them to growing STEM/STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and math) fields, thereby fueling job readiness and strengthening regional economies. Focus areas include:

- **Curriculum:** Embed "making" into academic curriculum and give access to makerspaces that allow informal learning, networking and cross-discipline connections
- **Internships:** Provide work-based learning through internships, mentoring and collaborative experiences in the makerspace and with industry partners
- **Makerspaces:** Develop makerspaces that are inclusive and uniquely reflect the community's demographics and employment needs
- **Community of Practice:** Develop and collectively learn best practices in using makerspaces to prepare students for work in the creative economy

Areas of Technical Assistance to CCC Maker colleges include:

- ecosystem mapping of internal and external partners
- self-study analysis to identify students' demographics and engagement in the academic environment, how students learn and the types of jobs they expect to hold in the future and how students can reach their career goals in new and different ways
- development of a logic model to declare desired long-term outcomes and impact, and identify inputs, activities and outputs that are needed to achieve system change
- design thinking methodologies to develop and improve a makerspace and community plan
- understand, share and adopt best-practice models
- engage students and increase technical knowledge and skill to improve success, build leadership skills and get jobs or become self-employed
- engage faculty and increase knowledge and skills on integrated curriculum and pedagogy



Photo by Daryl Stinchfield



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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 21 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education 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/>

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Supporting Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and the Economy

The InnovationMaker3 initiative is an emerging action strategy under the Doing What MATTERS framework and Strong Workforce Program. This \$17 million initiative is the first statewide community college system effort in the United States that will intentionally:

- grow a statewide network of STEM/STEAM-focused makerspaces linked to California Community Colleges to develop a workforce for the innovation economy
- develop a California Community Colleges "Community of Practice" to serve as a state and national model
- align 21st-century skills with STEM/STEAM research and practice
- support work-based opportunities for California Community Colleges' students
- disseminate information and resources to ecosystem partners and key stakeholders

Supporting the Strong Workforce Program

Through the Doing What MATTERS framework and the recommendations of the Strong Workforce task force, the CCC Maker initiative is a three-year strategy with a goal to create relevant career pathways and stackable credentials, promote student success and get Californians into open jobs.

Anticipated outcomes include adaptable learning platforms that support student success; new delivery models designed and delivered by faculty; strong partnerships with business and industry that support student transitions to employment; metrics and evaluative models that communicate the value of makerspaces integrated into the educational environment; and the democratization of "making" along with STEM/STEAM career paths and occupations by engaging special populations reflective of community college demographics, including women, racial and ethnic minorities, veterans, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged and English-language learners.

Key Contacts:

Carol Pepper-Kittredge, Statewide Project Manager
cpepper-kittredge@sierracollege.edu

Deborah Bird, Technical Assistance Provider
dabird@pasadena.edu

Salomon Davila, Technical Assistance Provider
salomon@davila.pro

Website:

<http://cccmaker.com/>



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