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CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

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DOING WHAT MATTERS FOR JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Division of Workforce and Economic Development



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES
CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

PRESS RELEASE

May 29, 2015

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National Skills Coalition Awards California as One of Four States to Engage in the State Workforce and Education Alignment Project

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, in collaboration with other state partners, has been [selected](#) to participate in the National Skills Coalition State Workforce and Education Alignment Project, a data sharing and accountability initiative designed to better prepare students for middle-skill jobs.

Partners in the effort include the California Workforce Investment Board, the California Employment Development Department, the California State Board of Education and the Foundation for California Community Colleges.

"California needs to close the gap on 1 million more industry-valued middle-skilled credentials over the next decade. This is where California is growing jobs," said California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris. "The best way to achieve this is for our public institutions and our employers to align around and share in the same goal."

California's selection for the project reflects support for Chancellor's Office efforts such as the Doing What Matters for Jobs and the Economy initiative, which emphasizes regional collaboration in workforce training strategies, and the Board of Governors Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy, which is formulating recommendations to improve workforce education and promote job creation.

"Our goal is to address the industry skills gap and better prepare students for careers. The State Workforce and Education Alignment Project grant will help align CTE career pathways in high school with other training and education programs," said Michael Kirst, president of the California State Board of Education. "These resources will support data sharing among agencies so we can assess progress and improve how programs work together to serve students and employers."

The State Workforce and Education Alignment Project will support California in the collection of information across agencies about workforce education and training programs. As one of four states selected, California will strategically build upon a solid foundation to drive economic growth statewide for

employers and program participants alike.

The State Workforce and Education Alignment Project will help meet this goal. With data tools required to track information across agencies, California partners will receive improved labor market information and be better able to understand how agencies and programs can collaborate together and how individuals can navigate the educational system to earn credentials for higher-paying, in-demand jobs.

"The point is not to collect more data, but to make better use of current data for analyzing outcomes across programs," said Tim Rainey, executive director of the California Workforce Investment Board. "This is all in service to greater system alignment behind a shared vision and common goals."

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CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
NEWS RELEASE

TOM TORLAKSON
State Superintendent
of Public Instruction

REL#15-45
May 27, 2015

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State Schools Chief Tom Torlakson Announces Award of Career Pathways Trust Grants

SAN JOSE -- State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson awarded \$244 million in grants today to 40 programs that blend academic and career technical education, connect employers with schools, and train students for jobs in high-demand fields, such as health care, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and software development.

The grants are provided through the [California Career Pathways Trust \(CCPT\)](#) program, which is the largest program of its kind in the nation. The program is providing nearly \$500 million in career tech grants over a two-year period.

"My top priority is to better prepare California students for college and careers in the 21st century," Torlakson said. "Career Pathways provides vital support for innovative, practical, and effective career tech programs that keep students engaged in school and prepared for real-world jobs."

The state Legislature created CCPT in 2013 and allocated \$250 million for the program in the state's 2013-14 budget. Last year, Torlakson awarded grants to [39 recipients](#). After seeing the program's popularity—the state received 123 applications requesting \$709 million in CCPT grants last year—lawmakers approved an additional \$250 million for this year. The program builds on Torlakson's [Career Readiness Initiative](#).

CCPT grant recipients are tasked with creating sustained career pathways programs that link businesses, K-12 schools, and community colleges to prepare students for the 21st century workplace. Under Torlakson's leadership, the California Department of Education (CDE) administers the program. The department worked with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the California Workforce Investment Board to identify the strongest applications based on a rigorous evaluation process.

"Career Pathways not only provides students with specific skills and training needed in modern industries, but it also helps employers fill high-demand jobs created by the new economy," Torlakson said. "These college- and career-ready students are what employers need to grow the regional economies of California."

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Regards,
Van Ton-Quinlivan, Vice Chancellor
Workforce & Economic Development Division
Chancellor's Office, California Community Colleges



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