



## DOING WHAT MATTERS FOR JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

Division of Workforce and Economic Development

### March 2015

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

### Former marine and millennial mom enlists with California skills gap task force



You'd think a former marine and single-mother student studying automotive technology would have her hands full. Rachel Mullen has volunteered to serve once again on a task force that's engaged in what she calls "an exciting mission affecting the future of the entire state."  
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### Rebranding career tech jobs vital to growing workforce say Sacramento employers



Anette Smith-Dohring of Sutter Health speaking at Sacramento Strong Workforce Town Hall yesterday (Photo Credit: John Guenther)



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The following coverage was [written by CAFWD](#):

Employers in California and college chancellors agree that career tech jobs need a retooling of their image. At a workforce Town Hall in Sacramento - part of a [task force assembled](#) to determine how to get the state's workforce trained in the right skills to be most employable for good-paying, in-demand jobs of tomorrow - attendees stressed the old view of CTE jobs as "dirty", low-pay jobs is out of date, as is the pace that California is training students to replace retiring workers.

"Over the past 10 years, we've noticed a 35 percent decline in welding programs in the local area," said Joe Wernette of Tri Tool Inc., a local manufacturer. "Let's stop reducing and let's start increasing the availability...and improving the image of the manufacturing and welding worlds. We are professionals."

Employers from the capital region were ready to "show the money" and talk salaries. The jobs they talked about in the middle skill category don't necessarily need a four-year degree, but usually some post-secondary skills training, which can have a high return on investment.

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## San Diego town hall: Region's high-tech sectors need strong workforce



San Diego Mayor, Kevin Faulconer, talks opportunity at the Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy

The following coverage was [written by CAFWD](#)

"We need an agile and flexible workforce, we're moving fast," said panelist Adria Harris of [Genentech](#) at the Strong Workforce Town Hall Meeting held Wednesday (March 18) in San Diego. Dozens of employers who attended the Town Hall agreed.

[The Town Hall](#) was the fifth and final regional session held across California. The results will be shared with the [California Community College Board of Governors Task Force on](#)

[Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy](#) when they meet in Sacramento on April 2.

Rick Urban, who is the chief operating officer at [QCMI](#) in Santee, talked about the manufacturing sector. He recounted having to turn business away because, at the time, he didn't have the skilled workers needed to fulfill a contract. As Urban said, "those opportunities don't always come back."

[Chancellor Dr. Brice Harris](#) shared the importance of preparing a strong workforce in California for one million middle skills jobs in the state. Many of those will require some sort of certification or license but not necessarily a four-year degree. The community colleges can play a critical role in helping develop students who can meet that demand. "Preparing our student for jobs that exist today--real life and high value jobs--is an important part of our mission," Dr. Harris said.

[Sunita Cooke](#), the dynamic Superintendent/President at MiraCosta College and chair of the Task Force said that when it comes to the preparation of workforce, she thinks about the three "R's." She's not talking about reading, writing and arithmetic. Rather she says the three "R's" are *relationships, resources and re-thinking*.

"We must engage employer and industry partners identify and redirect resources and think creatively about how we better and navigate the regulations and traditions that are part of life in a public agency," she said.

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