Common Program Strategies Unify State Agencies Charged with Implementing New Federal WIOA Law

The new federal law entitled the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA) requires state agencies to work together in order to improve workforce outcomes. Led by the California Workforce Investment Board, seven state agencies adopted Common Program Strategies to guide its consolidated planning process:

1. Partnering In Sector Strategies
2. Building Career Pathways
3. Utilizing "Earn-and-Learn"
4. Organizing Regionally
5. Providing Supportive Services
6. Creating Cross-System Data Capacity
7. Integrating Service Delivery & Braiding Resources

Community colleges receive federal Perkins funding, and so the CCCCCO is subject to these Common Program Strategies. Fortunately, they align well with the CCCCCO's Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and the Economy framework so affirms current efforts.
The promise of Career Technical Education (CTE) programs has been that students can jump into a well-paying career without having to get a four-year degree. But the peril has been the risk and cost of creating more CTE programs, often making California colleges averse to offering them, frustrating faculty who want to see the promise fulfilled.

"We feel isolated," said Lynn Shaw, a faculty member at Long Beach City College and member of a task force formed by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to close the skills gap in California. "We feel neglected and we are so happy that this task force is happening because we finally feel like we're getting our due."

This week in Sacramento the task force tackled multiple topics including the challenge of becoming nimble enough to quickly adapt to industry changes and also attract qualified CTE faculty. It's the third meeting by the group since January. The problem of creating new programs created a lot of discussion for the members who come from schools, industry and workforce development groups.

"But the new and emerging programs...it is really an unknown narrative," said Craig Justice, vice president for instruction at Irvine Valley College. "There's a lot of uncertainty and those who know the business model of risk and uncertainty know how treacherous and uncertain investment truly is. So that becomes a deal stopper."

Also addressed Wednesday was the problem of getting new courses approved. Not only are CTE courses more expensive to offer because of equipment and other costs, they have extra steps other academic programs don't have to take, like labor market analysis, advisory committee and regional consortium approval. Read Full Blog »
Southern California Leadership Council Support
Focus on Strong Workforce

The Southern California Leadership Council held a "strong workforce" roundtable that invited Vice Chancellor Van Ton-Quinlivan and Board of Governors Vice President Cecilia Estolano, pictured here with former Governors Pete Wilson, Gray Davis, and George Deukmejian with co-chair Steve Williams.

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Deputy Sector Navigators (DSNs) at Work

Local High School Teachers Discuss How to Incorporate Global Trade Into Their Curriculum

High School Teachers from across San Diego learn about Global Trade and brainstorm ways to incorporate trade concepts into core academic subjects. The workshop was kicked off with a presentation by San Diego DSN for Global Trade and Logistics, Victor Castillo.

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Drought Relief Training Helps Workers and Employers

Drought Relief Training is a 6-college initiative administered by Modesto Jr. College/Yosemite Community College District with thanks to the Agriculture, Water and Environmental Technologies DSNs. The programs are the result of an agreement signed by the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency, Employment Training Panel, and the CCCCO to provide training to workers and employers in areas hit hardest by the drought at no cost.

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21st Century Worker Soft Skills for the Small Business Sector

Small Business Deputy Sector Navigator Linda Forrester heard the message from Small Business Employer Surveys across the state on needed day-one skills, including soft skills and employability skills. Along with colleagues, Forrester created a "Small Business Sector Spotlight" on the need for technical skills, soft skills, and work-based learning that 21st Century Worker employers are seeking.

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New Grant Opportunities: $60M First in the World Grant Program

The Obama Administration has announced the second round of the First in the World grant program. This program will have two tiers: a "development" tier for innovative projects that are supported by "strong theory" (defined in the grant announcement) and larger grants in the "validation" tier will be awarded to applications for interventions supported by significant evidence. Since a key goal of the FITW program is building an evidence base, all funded grants will include rigorous evaluation.