



# The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: January 13-14, 2014

SUBJECT: Foundation for California Community Colleges Work-Based Learning Initiatives: Building on Our Strengths		Item Number: 3.3	
		Attachment: No	
CATEGORY:	Foundation for California Community Colleges	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	<i>Keetha Mills</i> Keetha Mills, President/CEO	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	<i>Brice W. Harris</i> Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	
		Information	X

**ISSUE:** This item will include a presentation related to the Foundation’s Work-Based Learning Initiatives, with an emphasis on recent expansions to the Foundation’s Career Pathway program—which has provided workforce development opportunities for students since 1998 through paid internships. Through the new Employer Engagement Program—led by the Foundation and the Linked Learning Alliance, in partnership with the Workforce and Economic Development division of the Chancellor’s Office, and funded by JPMorgan Chase—Career Pathway is now primed to expand its network to include additional students and employers and make a greater impact on California’s students and economy.

**BACKGROUND:** The Foundation has a history of involvement with workforce training initiatives, and plays an active role in helping students obtain the training they need to succeed in the workforce. The new Employer Engagement Program helps high school and community college students secure internships in top fields such as engineering, health care, and law, providing them with the skills they need to fill job positions crucial to our economy. This program has the potential to spur economic growth across the state.

**RECOMMENDATION:** This item is presented for information and discussion.

**ANALYSIS:** Although California’s economy increasingly demands a highly skilled workforce, the state is faced with a serious workforce “skills gap.” With around 10,000 baby-boomers retiring every day and many of our current college students lacking the in-demand skills necessary to fill current and future job opportunities, the need for effective workforce development solutions is critical. The California Community College system is the largest provider of workforce training in the state and nation, and has a critical role to play in resolving this challenge. Workforce development has long been at the heart of the Foundation’s core work, including the following established initiatives:

- **Air Quality Technician Training program**, which trains over 100 students a year on state of the art equipment. Participating students receive work-based college credit, and many go on to earn a smog check technician license and find employment in the automotive field. Supplemental funding and equipment is also made available to the automotive programs on campuses housing Bureau of Automotive Repair Smog Check Referee Stations managed by the Foundation.
- **Health Care Education programs**, which increase clinical placements for nursing students using the Centralized Clinical Placement System technology tool and support nursing education in the California Community College system through a \$10 million investment fund.
- **Career Pathway internship placement program** which, since its launch in 1998, has employed over 3,000 college students with public and private sector employers for paid internships, and, even in the wake of a curtailed state agency program, is poised to expand as a solution for increasing work-based learning statewide.

This presentation will provide an overview of the Foundation’s current workforce development initiatives and highlight emerging opportunities, including the recent award of a \$1.2 million grant from JPMorgan Chase to increase work-based learning. The JPMorgan Chase-sponsored Employer Engagement Program is being led by the Foundation and the Linked Learning Alliance, in close collaboration with the California Community Colleges, select K-12 districts, and the business community. The program leverages the power of convenings to increase employer engagement in work-based learning and develop the infrastructure vital to the long-term sustainability and scalability of a statewide work-based learning system. The program is building on the Foundation’s established Career Pathway program that is ripe for expansion to facilitate work-based learning at scale. Key components include: 1) a series of employer convenings, 2) an enhanced back-office infrastructure, and 3) a matching/badging technology solution. Overall, the Employer Engagement Program is a strong addition to the Foundation’s workforce development efforts, which will help to unite business and education in a joint effort to increase workforce readiness for the benefit of students, jobs, and the economy.