



The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: November 16-17, 2015

SUBJECT: Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy		Item Number: 2.7	
		Attachment: Yes	
CATEGORY:	Workforce & Economic Development	TYPE OF BOARD CONSIDERATION:	
Recommended By:	 Van Ton-Quinlivan, Vice Chancellor	Consent/Routine	
		First Reading	
Approved for Consideration:	 Brice W. Harris, Chancellor	Action	X
		Information	

ISSUE: The Board is asked to take action on the 25 recommendations from the Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy.

BACKGROUND: In December 2015, the Board of Governors commissioned the California Community Colleges Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy. After almost a year of public meetings and stakeholder input, the Task Force put forth 25 recommendations to strengthen workforce education throughout the 113 college system with the goal of closing the skills gap that employers say is a barrier to filling existing jobs and fueling job creation. On September 20, 2015, these recommendations were presented to the Board of Governors as an informational item.

RECOMMENDATION ACTION: It is recommended that the Board of Governors adopt the 25 recommendations of the Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy.

ANALYSIS:

The California Community College Chancellor's Office *Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and Economy* framework and the *Student Success Initiative* provided the foundation to launch a new system-wide effort with the goal: to increase individual and regional economic competitiveness by providing California's workforce with relevant skills and quality credentials that match employer needs and fuel a strong economy. The Board of Governors commissioned the Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy to consider strategies and recommend policies and practices that would:

1. Prepare students for high-value jobs that currently exist in the State,
2. Position California's regions to attract high-value jobs in key industry sectors from other states and around the globe,
3. Create more jobs through workforce training that enables small business development, and
4. Finance these initiatives by braiding state and federal resources.

Task Force membership was announced in December 2014 and is comprised of representatives from community college faculty, staff, administration, trustee and students; the employer community; labor; public agencies involved in workforce training and economic development; K-12 education policy; and community based organizations.

This effort rolled out in three phases.

Phase One: Regional College Conversations & Regional Faculty Conversations

Eleven regional meetings were held with community college practitioners including presidents/chancellors, chief instructional officers, career and technical education (CTE) deans and faculty with representation from contract education, regional consortia chairs, sector navigators or deputy sectors navigators, faculty senate leaders, and others. Over 600 were in attendance and asked to generate and prioritize their answers to the following questions:

- How do we dramatically increase the number of community college students who earn quality industry valued credentials?
- How do we ensure that community colleges work better and in a more timely manner with industry to assure that students leave with appropriate skills for high value and good paying jobs?
- How do we make funding for workforce programs and structured CTE pathways more sustainable especially during budget downturns?

Additionally, the Academic Senate (ASCCC) hosted three Regional Faculty Conversations during February and March to encourage deeper input from their members. This brought the total participation from 600 to 750 participants.

Seven major themes emerged that informed the recommendations:

1. Student success
2. Career Pathways

3. Workforce Data and Outcomes
4. Curriculum
5. CTE Faculty
6. Regional Coordination
7. Funding

Phase Two: Strong Workforce Town Hall Meetings

During February-March 2015, five town halls in regions across the state convened leaders from business, economic development, K-12 education policy, labor, elected, and other community organizations to vet and build on ideas and practices that bring stronger alignment between community colleges and key industry sectors. The town halls sought input on what community colleges can do to 1) deepen the working relationships with employers/industry to close the skills gap, 2) provide sufficient funding for CTE programs needed in state and regional labor markets, and 3) provide employers and employees with more timely and relevant education and training. More than 550 participants participated in these town halls.

Phase Three: Task Force Meetings

During January-July 2015, five meetings of the Task Force were held. These meetings culminated with a set of 25 draft recommendations for how the community college system could improve workforce training. The draft Task Force recommendations were then posted on the website for public comments, all of which were relayed to the Task force for consideration.

Two August town hall meetings served as final vetting grounds for the draft recommendations of the Task Force prior to their presentation to the Board of Governors at the September retreat. Additionally, the recommendations were presented to Consultation Council during their September and October meetings.

At the September Board of Governors retreat, the following resources were provided for review:

- An Executive Summary and Recommendations from the California Community Colleges Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy;
- Six Background Papers:
 - Workforce Data & Outcomes
 - Curriculum Development & Instructors
 - Structured Pathways & Student Support – Part 1
 - Structured Pathways & Student Support – Part 2
 - Regional Coordination
 - Funding
- The book, *The New Geography of Jobs* by Enrico Moretti

The final report and recommendations of the Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy can be found at <http://bit.ly/1OPhMQa>. A summary of the recommendations is attached.