



The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

DATE: September 20, 2015

SUBJECT: Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy		Item Number: NA	
		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	
		Information	X

ISSUE: The California Community Colleges Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation, and a Strong Economy has 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. These recommendations are presented to the Board of Governor’s as an informational item at the September meeting, and will be reviewed again at the November meeting.

BACKGROUND:

The California Community College Chancellor’s Office *Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and Economy* (DWM) 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 2015 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 recommendations for how the community college system could improve workforce training. The Task Force recommendations will be reviewed by the Board in September of 2015. Additionally, the process includes 'wrap-up' town halls, website posting, and Consultation Council.

Two August town hall meetings will serve as final vetting grounds for the recommendations of the Task Force prior to their presentation to the Board of Governor's at the September meeting. The southern meeting will be held August 25, 2015 from 9:00 – 11:00 at Los Angeles Trade Technical College. The northern meeting will be held August 27, 2015 from 9:00 – 11:00 at the United Healthcare Workers West, SEIU, in San Francisco. Meeting content will include an overview of the Task Force process, including solicited feedback, a review of the Draft Report and the 25 recommendations, and an overview of next steps.

The Board of Governor's is provided the following resources to 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
- A copy of the August 19, 2015 Chancellor's Office press release; and
- The book, *The New Geography of Jobs* by Enrico Moretti