

# THE CONSORTIUM CONNECTION



Strengthening Our Workforce, Empowering Our Communities

[About Us](#)

[Research & LMI](#)

[Resources](#)

[Workforce Development](#)



*photo credit: SDI RC*

## Welcome to our New Quarterly E-Newsletter!

Hello Friends,

I'm pleased to share with you San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges Regional Consortium's (SDI RC) new quarterly newsletter, the "SDI RC Consortium Connection." This platform is dedicated to highlighting the outstanding local and regional **Strong Workforce** efforts across our region.

The goal of this e-newsletter is to not only keep you informed, but also highlight the outcomes and impact that our partnerships and support are having on our students, community colleges, employers and communities.

We welcome your feedback and look forward to celebrating our collective efforts and continue making a positive difference together!

*Danene Brown, Ph.D.*  
*Regional Consortium Chair*

## News Center



*photo credit: City Times Media*

## San Diego City College to offer four-year degree in Cyber Defense and Analysis

SDI RC is proud to support San Diego City College's groundbreaking bachelor's degree program in Cyber Defense and Analysis. Addressing the critical workforce shortage in San Diego County, SDI RC is providing funds for cybersecurity software and program-specific laptops. This initiative ensures that all students, regardless of financial circumstances, have access to the essential tools for their coursework and hands-on training and future careers.

[Learn more about the program in SDCCD's press release.](#)



*photo credit: MiraCosta College*

## MiraCosta College Launches Psychiatric and Pharmacy Technician Programs

Supporting MiraCosta College's efforts to address critical behavioral health needs in the region, SDI RC is helping fund the college's new Psychiatric Technician program. Additionally, SDI RC has facilitated the development and launch of an innovative Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship program at MiraCosta, meeting the demand for more than 280 annual job openings in this growing healthcare sector.

Read more about the behavioral health worker shortage in [this San Diego Workforce Partnership report.](#)



*photo credit: San Diego Mesa College*



## Mesa College's Impactship Program Supports Underserved Students

Mesa College's Impactship Program (MIP) is a transformative initiative aimed at providing students from underserved backgrounds with essential professional development and hands-on workforce training opportunities. Supported by SDI RC, MIP emphasizes "interning with a purpose," helping students prepare for successful careers through valuable industry experiences, including internships, volunteering, employment, or training. Students in MIP receive financial aid, including stipends or hourly compensation.

SDI RC's support includes funding a work-based learning coordinator at each college who serves as a lead for the program, and an employer relations liaison who is responsible for developing internship opportunities at Mesa. To further enhance MIP, SDI RC also facilitates faculty professional development on work-based learning, ensuring that educators understand the importance of these opportunities for students.

[Learn more about Mesa College's Impactship Program...](#)

## Partner Spotlight

### East County EDC's Manufacturing Expo/Job Fair, Oct. 1, 2024

The East County Economic Development Council (EDC) is proud to host the 9th Annual East County Manufacturing Expo/Job Fair on October 1, 2024, at Cuyamaca College. As the largest of its kind in California and a highlight of San Diego's Manufacturing Week, last year's event drew over 1,000 attendees, 30 manufacturers and 19 service providers. This year, the East County EDC aims to inspire people to explore diverse career opportunities within the manufacturing sector.

**Register as an exhibitor, become a sponsor, or attend for FREE**



*photo credit: San Diego Workforce Partnership*

**San Diego Workforce Partnership and CTE Collaboration**

Earlier this month, Career Technical Education leaders from nine San Diego community colleges met with the San Diego Workforce Partnership (SDWP) to explore strategies for strengthening collaboration. Fostering a synergistic environment aimed at improving communication between SDWP and the colleges, the teams are developing ways to enhance pathways for students through our partnership in workforce development initiatives and career education opportunities.

## Committee Corner

### Career Navigation Update:

#### Transforming DI Student Success with Career Development Services

San Diego and Imperial Counties' community colleges are leading the charge in ensuring that every student, particularly those disproportionately impacted (DI), has access to career development opportunities throughout their educational journey. With the support of SDI RC, the 10 colleges are leveraging strong workforce funds to embed career planning into academic programs, increase collaboration between faculty and career counselors, integrate work-based learning, partner with employers to create a career-focused culture, and so much more.

Career Services teams are implementing these innovative strategies and, in turn, are building a more equitable environment for DI students, helping them gain the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in today's competitive job market.

Learn more about the emerging practices and challenges of equity and career development in the SDI RC Career Education brief, ["Career Everywhere: How Community Colleges Address Equity."](#)

## In the News

- The [Foundation for Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges](#), hosting the SDI RC, was awarded a \$750,000 grant from the [James Irvine Foundation](#) to help strengthen regional collaboration and leverage resources across education, workforce development and community-based organizations to promote equitable access and long-term sustainability of non-traditional regional apprenticeship programs in San Diego and Imperial Counties.
- [Miramar College](#) and San Diego College of Continuing Education received [California Opportunity Youth Apprenticeship Grants](#) to develop new registered pre-apprenticeship programs, connecting historically underserved youth to registered apprenticeships in the California Fire Trades.

## Happenings

October

10

**SDCOE Career Pathways Conference**

7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

DoubleTree Hotel, 7450 Hazard Center Dr, San Diego

[More Information](#)

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October

18

**Strong Workforce Faculty Institute Kick Off**

[More Information](#)

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October

23

**U.S. Department of State Foreign Affairs Information Technology (FAIT) Webinar for the SDI RC**

1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Teleconference

[Register Now](#)

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October

30

**Grossmont College 46th Annual Career EXPO/Job Fair**

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Grossmont College, 8800 Grossmont College Dr, El Cajon

[Register Now](#)

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November

7

**Trades Day: A Day for Career Exploration**

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Palomar College, Soccer Field Parking Lot

1140 W. Mission Rd, San Marcos

[Register Now](#)

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November

14

**Apprenticeship & Vocational Training Expo**

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

SDCCE - Educational Cultural Complex

4343 Ocean View Blvd, San Diego

[More Information](#)

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November

22

**California Opportunity Youth Apprenticeship Regional Update**

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Teleconference

[More Information](#)

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