

**SDIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING**

Friday, September 26, 2025
10:30 am to Noon

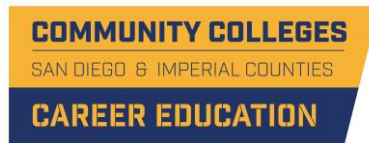
MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS:

Jesse Lopez, Dean of Business, Information Technology, Cosmetology, Engineering, and Trades
Dr. Javier Ayala, Dean, CTE/Workforce Development, Grossmont College
Claudia Estrada-Howell, Dean of the School of Business, Technical Careers & Workforce Initiatives, San Diego Miramar College
Andrei Lucas, Dean, San Diego College of Continuing Education
Jennifer Lewis, Dean of School of Applied Technology & Hospitality Management, Southwestern College, Southwestern College
Nichol Roe, Dean, Career, Technical, and Extended Education (CTEE), Palomar College
Al Taccone, Dean, Career Education, MiraCosta College

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Saif Al Hakeem, CEO, EmpowermentOne|RISEOne
Julius Alejandro, Work-Based Learning Coordinator, San Diego City College
Robin Allyn, Work-Based Learning Liaison, MiraCosta College
Molly Ash, Director, Apprenticeship Program Development, MiraCosta College
Vanessa Barron, Employer Relations Liaison, Southwestern College/SDIC Regional Consortium
Heidi Bergener, K12 Pathway Coordinator, Coronado High School District/Southwestern Community College District
Lynn Bigsby, Employer Relations Liaison, MiraCosta College/ SDIC Regional Consortium
Rebecca Bowers-Gentry, Professor of Biology/Chemistry/Biotechnology, San Diego Miramar College
Stephanie Bradley, Program Coordinator, SDIC Regional Consortium
Danene Brown, Regional Chair, SDIC Regional Consortium
Heather Cavazos, Coordinator, K-16 Collaborative
Vicky Chhi, Research Analyst, Southwestern College
Ruishan Chow, Industry Relations Consultant, SDIC Regional Consortium
William Cooper, Executive Director, The Becoming Project, Inc.
Christine Corrao, CTE Coordinator, San Marcos Unified
Carol Crisp, Business and Community Relations Supervisor, San Diego Workforce Partnership
Marian Daryaie, Director of Strategic Partnerships, San Diego Workforce Partnership
Tiffany David, Workforce Development Manager, Career Development Solutions Powered by Quickstart Academy
Sheila Davis, Special Projects Manager, San Diego City College
Bradley Dorschel, Interim Categorical Fund Manager, San Diego College of Continuing Education
John Edwards, Research Analyst, San Diego-Imperial Center of Excellence



Beverly Garcia, Program and Grant Manager of SWP, Perkins, and CAEP, San Diego College of Continuing Education

Michael Gomez, K12 Pathway Coordinator, San Diego County Office of Education/Palomar Community College District

Lance Grob, Employer Relations Liaison, San Diego Miramar College/SDI Regional Consortium

Miguel Gutierrez, Employer Relations Liaison, Imperial Valley College/SDI Regional Consortium

Christopher Heim, Manager, Economic Development, MAAC

Claudia Huerta, Director, Economic Development, MAAC

Christine Jensen, Director, K-16 Collaborative

Timothy Kelley, President & CEO, Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation

Sasha Knox, Associate Dean, SWF, San Diego City College

Roberta Krauss, Dean of Counseling and Career Transition Services, San Diego College of Continuing Education

Jonathan Kropp, Workforce Director, Southwestern College

Connie Lafuente, Director of Regional Health Initiatives, SDI Regional Consortium

Taylor Lemker, Work-Based Learning Coordinator, Cuyamaca College

Shamine Linton, Founder & CEO, Sharia's Closet

Priscilla Lopez, Director, Imperial County Workforce & Economic Development Office

John Maruri, Business & Community Relations Specialist, San Diego Workforce Partnership

Ute Maschke, Director, Continuing Education, Palomar College

Edward Matthews, Career Education Program Manager San Diego Community College

Kevin McMackin, Director, Strategic Partnerships, SDI Regional Consortium

Malena Medrano, Job Placement Case Manager, Cuyamaca College

Maricela Moreno, Internship & Work Experience Coordinator, Imperial Valley College

Vanessa Murrell, Program Manager, Cuyamaca College

Mina Naoomy, Program Coordinator, EmpowermentOneIRiseOne

Jim O'Callaghan, President and CEO, South County Economic Development Council

Erica Olmos, Employer Relations Liaison, San Diego Mesa College/SDI Regional Consortium

Mikayla Ortega-Donahoo, Senior Manager, Operation & Partnerships, Biocom Institute

Karen Overklift, Employer Relations Liaison, San Diego City College/SDI Regional Consortium

Vivian Perez, Executive Director, Raizes

Amertah Perman, Dean, Career Education & Workforce Development, San Diego Community College District

Heather Peterson, Director II, Grossmont Adult Education (Health Occupations Program)

Jenni Preciado, Apprenticeship Employer Relations Liaison, SDI Regional Consortium

Tasi Rodriguez, Regional Professional Development Manager, San Diego & Imperial Center of Excellence

Veronica Rodriguez, CTC Coordinator, Career & Transfer Connections, Southwestern College

Monica Rosas, Employer Relations Liaison Lead, Cuyamaca College/SDI Regional Consortium

Rachel Sanchez, Health Initiatives Employer Relations Liaison, SDI Regional Consortium

David M. Schnepf, Founder & Executive Director, MakerSquad SM

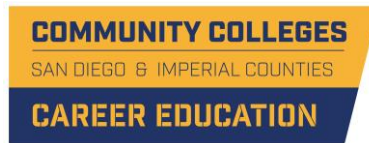
Eusebio Travis Sevilla, K12 pathway coordinator, K12 SWP Pathway Coordinator/ SDUHSD

Rita Shamoon, Job Development & Placement Specialist, San Diego College of Continuing Education

Joseph Stark, Regional Apprenticeship Director, SDI Regional Consortium

Stacy Teeters, Guided Pathways Regional Coordinator, Foundation for California Community Colleges

Nicole Thren, K12 SWP PC, Grossmont Union High School District/GCCCD



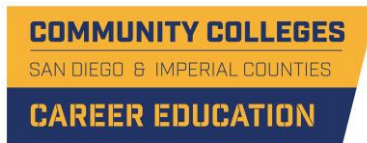
Angela Tilley-Ruiz, Employer Relations Liaison, Palomar College/SDI Regional Consortium
Zitlali Torres, PAII, Regional Monitor/Manager, California Community College Chancellors Office (CCCCO)
Juan Ugarte, Career and Transfer Connections Coordinator, Southwestern College
Leslie Wisdom, K14 TAP, SDIC Regional Consortium

D. Brown called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

1. **Welcome and Approval of 08.29.25 Minutes** ([view here](#)), (Lead CTE Deans Only), by D. Brown
*Motion to approve N. Roe, second by J. Ayala, **unanimously approved***
(N. Roe, J. Ayala, A. Taccone, J. Lewis & C. Estrada-Howell, A. Lucas)
2. **Program Recommendations from 9.12.25 Deans' Council**, by J. Lewis (minutes, [view here](#))
 - Palomar College
 - [Forensic Technology](#); New; CoA; A.S.
 - Motion to open by M. Romero, second by J. Ayala, unanimously recommended
3. **The Role of Community Based Organizations in Workforce Development**, presentations and panel, facilitated by K. McMackin

Presenters/Panelist:

- William Cooper, Executive Director, [Becoming Project, Inc.](#)
 - Claudia Huerta, Director, Economic Development, Economic Development, [MAAC](#)
 - Christopher Heim, Workforce Development Program Manager, Economic Development, [MAAC Presentation Slides](#)
 - Saif Al Hakeem, Chief Executive Officer, [EmpowermentOne/RISEOne Presentation Slides](#)
 - Shamine Linton, Founder/CEO, [Sharia's Closet Presentation Slides](#)
4. **Chat discussion, Q&A and attendee resources, All**
 - WDC 9.26.2025 meeting recording: <https://youtu.be/H3HBYLCIzGQ?si=ZD0toKuMswrl2fDq>
 - CBO presentations: 6:40-54:30
 - Panel portion: 55:50-1:24:40
 - Community Based Organizations (CBO) Regional Resource [Repository](#)
 - Panel questions:
 - How do your organizations and other CBOs help bridge the gap between underserved communities and education/training opportunities?
 - What strategies have been most effective in connecting job seekers with employers? In what other ways are you connecting with employers?
 - In what ways can community colleges and CBOs better collaborate to align programs with student, job seeker and industry needs?
 - What are the biggest barriers your priority populations face, and how are your organizations and other CBOs uniquely positioned to help?
 - As workforce needs evolve, what role do you see your organizations and other CBOs playing in the future of workforce development?
 - If you had a magic wand and you had one wish that had to be about the work you do, what would your wish be?



- D. Brown shared the Forever Green Farms Article:
<https://www.grozone.com/2025/06/05/forever-green-farms-california/>
- Stephanie Bradley shared: [September's issue of SDI RC's The Consortium Connection](#)

5. Roundtable, All

- Nicole Thren: 10th Annual EDC Manufacturing Expo on 9/30/25 from 11:00-2:00 at Cuyamaca College: <https://eastcountyedc.org/me/>
- Mikayla Ortega-Donahoo: Our Biocom Institute Life Science Career Exploration Fellowship application is now open for students!
- Carol Crisp shared SDWP is having a Career Fair in El Cajon on 11/06:
https://sdiregionalconsortium.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/El-Cajon-Job-Fair_Job-Seeker-Flyer_11.06.25.pdf

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

The October WDC will take place at CCCAOE Fall Conference on Wednesday, October 22, 2025 from 10:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. (Salon 5 – [conference schedule](#)). The next *virtual* WDC meeting will be Friday, November 21, 2025. Topic and speakers to be confirmed.

Archived meeting minutes and handouts can be found in the [Resources Library](#).