

SDI RC and San Diego Regional EDC Present San Diego's Approach to Bridging the Talent Gap on National Stage

November 2025

The SDI RC and San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation (EDC) took the national stage at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) National Learning Network Fall Summit in Washington, D.C., last month — sharing San Diego's innovative approach to align education and industry to help build a more inclusive workforce.

Presenting on the main stage, Taylor Dunne, Director of Talent Initiatives at the EDC, and Kevin McMackin, Director of Strategic Partnerships at the SDI RC, addressed a packed audience for their session, Activating Workforce and Education with TPM.

The presentation explored how the Advancing San Diego (ASD) initiative, initially supported by JPMorgan Chase, developed strategic partnerships to create a more inclusive, employer-aligned talent pipeline in the region. ASD has redefined traditional workforce development by establishing a regional system where employers play a direct role in influencing talent development.

At the core of this work is the use of the TPM framework to collect and analyze local labor market data, helping to certify local education and training programs known as “verified programs” that meet employer-defined skills and competency standards.

The audience included representatives from chambers of commerce, economic development organizations, workforce boards and agencies, education and training providers, and employers — all eager to learn how San Diego's collaborative model is transforming regional workforce development.