SDIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, January 23, 2026
10:30 am to Noon

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS:
Javier Ayala, Dean, Career Technical Education/Workforce Development, Grossmont College
Benjamin Gamboa, Associate Dean, Career Education, MiraCosta College (*on behalf of Al Taccone, Dean, Career Education, MiraCosta College*)
Bradley Dorschel, Associate Dean of Career Technical Education (CTE), San Diego College of Continuing Education
Claudia Estrada-Howell, Dean of the School of Business, Technical Careers & Workforce Initiatives, San Diego Miramar College
Jon Kropp, Workforce Director, Southwestern College (*on behalf of Jennifer Lewis, Dean of School of Applied Technology & Hospitality Management, Southwestern College, Southwestern College*)
Amertah Perman, Dean, Career Education and Workforce Development, San Diego Community College District (*proxy for Monica Romero, Dean, School of Business & Technology, San Diego Mesa College*)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:
Bea Aguilar, Director of Noncredit and Adult Education Programs, MiraCosta College
Sonia Anchundo-Reynoso, Sr. Specialist, RCF, Foundation CCC
Erika Arangure, Program Manager, Grossmont College
Genaro Ayala, Job Placement Case Manager, Imperial Valley College
Robin Allyn, Work-Based Learning Liaison, MiraCosta College
Alex Berry, Associate Dean of Career and Technical Education, San Diego Mesa 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
Stephanie Bradley, Program Coordinator, SDIC Regional Consortium
Danene Brown, Regional Chair, SDIC Regional Consortium
Michael Bruder, Senior Director, College and Career Readiness, San Diego County Office of Education
Elaine Chance, Innovation Systems Analyst, San Diego Community College District
Vicky Chhî, Research Analyst, Southwestern College
William Cooper, Executive Director, BECOMING PROJECT INC.
Silvia Cornejo, Interim Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Academic Affairs, Southwestern College
Christine Corrao, Coordinator of Career Technical Education and Future Readiness, San Marcos Unified School District
Marian Daryaie, Director of Strategic Partnerships, San Diego Workforce Partnership
Sheila Davis, Special Projects Manager, San Diego City College
Michelle Fischthal, Vice Chancellor, Institutional Innovation and Effectiveness, San Diego Community College District

Dr. Georgina-Meza, SUHSD Adult Division, Sweetwater Union High School District-Adult Division, Admin Lead NCA
Miguel Gutierrez, Employer Relations Liaison, Imperial Valley College
Jacqueline Hester, PhD., Dean of Public Safety, San Diego Miramar College and AI Fellow – California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
Lance Grob, Employer Relations Liaison, San Diego Miramar College/SDI Regional Consortium
Christine Jensen, Director, K-16 Collaborative
Alain Joachin, Health Sciences ACP, Academic Services Coordinator, MiraCosta College
Jennifer Kearns, Director of Public, Government, and Community Relations, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
Sasha Knox, Associate Dean of Strong Workforce & Career Education, San Diego City College
Roberta Krauss, Counseling and Career Transition Services, San Diego College of Continuing Education
Connie Lafuente, Director of Regional Health Initiatives, SDI Regional Consortium
Taylor Lemker, Work-Based Learning Coordinator, Cuyamaca College
Andrei Lucas, Dean, Automotive, Skilled and Technical Trades, Sann Diego College of Continuing Education
Kimberly Macias, K12 Pathway Coordinator, Imperial County Office of Education
Chris McGraw, Resource Teacher – CTE, Sweetwater Union High School District (SUHSD) Division of Adult Education
Edward Matthews, Career Education Program Manager San Diego Community College
Symone McDaniels, Guided Pathways Regional Coordinators, Foundation for California Community Colleges
Kevin McMackin, Director, Strategic Partnerships, SDI Regional Consortium
Malena Medrano, Job Placement Case Manager, Cuyamaca College
Jeanette Meliska, Job Development, Palomar College
Virginia Mendoza, Program Manager, South Bay Adult Education Consortium/Southwestern
Vanessa Murrell, Program Manager, Cuyamaca College
Renee Nasori, Career Services Supervisor, Grossmont College
Erica Olmos, Employer Relations Liaison Lead, San Diego Mesa College/SDI Regional Consortium
Meghan Paddy, CCTE Coordinator, High Tech High Central
Jennifer Peña, Associate Dean, Career Education, San Diego Miramar College
Vivian Perez, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Executive Director of Raízes Inc.
Amy Pimentel, Career Education Pathways Coordinator, MiraCosta College
Jenni Preciado, Regional Apprenticeship Manager, San Diego & Imperial Region, LAUNCH Apprenticeship Network
Koko Rapoport, Workforce Development Coordinator, LISC AmeriCorps/ Vista Chamber of Commerce
Viviana Rodriguez, Program Manager, Employment Services, MiraCosta College
Dulce K. Rodriguez, PhD., Clinical Researcher – Mentor, Stanford University School of Medicine
Nichol Roe, Dean, Career, Technical, and Extended Education (CTEE), Palomar College
Monica Rosas, Employer Relations Liaison Lead, Cuyamaca College/SDI Regional Consortium
Rachel Sanchez, Health Initiatives Employer Relations Liaison, SDI Regional Consortium
David Schnepp, Founder & Executive Director, MakerSquad ℠
Eusebio Travis Sevilla, K12 SWP Pathway Coordinator, MiraCosta Community College District/SDUHSD
Joseph Stark, Regional Apprenticeship Director, SDI Regional Consortium
Stacy Teeters, Guided Pathways Regional Coordinator, Foundation for California Community Colleges

Angela Tilley-Ruiz, Employer Relations Liaison, Palomar College/SDI Regional Consortium
Michelle Tillman, Supervisor, Career Center, Palomar College
Juan Antonio Vasquez, Sr. SATCOM Technical Program Manager, Modern Technology Solutions, Inc. (MTSI)
Letty (Leticia) Vavasour, DSPS Innovation Grant Coordinator, San Diego Community College District
Leslie Wisdom, K14 TAP, SDIC Regional Consortium
Sonia Yaddgo, Job Placement Case Manager, Grossmont College
Camille Zombro, Special Projects Coordinator, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District

D. Brown called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m.

1**.** Welcome and Approval of 11.21.25 Minutes (view here) (*Lead CTE Deans Only*), by D. Brown
Minutes were approved by the 6 voting members (A. Perman, B. Gamboa, J. Kropp, B. Dorschel, C. Estrada-Howell, & J. Ayala)

2. Program Recommendations from Deans' Council, by D. Brown (*proxy for J. Lewis*)
Dean's meeting was on 1.09.26, nothing to report due to holidays and end of semester

3. AI-Related Efforts Across Community Colleges Updates**,** by J. Hester

4. AI Industry and Educator Panel, moderated by J. Kropp

Panelist:

- **Jacqueline Hester, PhD.**, Dean of Public Safety, San Diego Miramar College and AI Fellow – California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
- **Juan Antonio Vasquez**, Sr. SATCOM Technical Program Manager, Modern Technology Solutions, Inc. (MTSI)
- **Dulce K. Rodriguez, PhD.**, Clinical Researcher – Mentor, Stanford University School of Medicine

Panel questions:

- How is AI currently being used in your day-to-day work/research OR what is the Chancellors Office recommending for faculty to use to improve teaching practices? and what problems is it helping you solve that weren't possible before?
- What skills or competencies are becoming more important for professionals entering your field because of AI?
- How are organizations in your sector balancing innovation with responsibility—such as safety, ethics, or regulation—when implementing AI [Industry Specialist]? How are you training faculty on innovation and reasonability when implementing AI in the classroom [Educators/ AI Fellows]?
- What advice would you give community colleges to better prepare students for AI-enabled careers in your industry over the next 3–5 years?

5. Open Q&A/Chat comments

- T. Sevilla: when Dr. Hester shared Yoodli I AI Roleplays demo he added this tool can be a value add for introverted students for sure. I see this optimally used with both the AI and real people to practice with. The explanation feedback is great.
    - D. Brown: added "and English learners"
- J. Stark: inquired about how the tool would work with students with challenges/exceptionalities
- R. Allyn: this is an amazing tool! It supports skill-building rather than replacing human
- interaction. Also, the AI feedback can feel less intimidating and give students confidence!
- T. Sevilla: asked how many students have piloted this thus far? And what is the consensus from those students?
    - J. Hester shared: AI fellows are piloting this spring. Professor Jared, one of the AI change makers is doing it with his communication students. He will pilot with 1,000 students. Dr. Hester mentioned depending how it goes, she can return and share the findings of how it would be, with these students.
- J. Hester: shared the CCCCO AI Fellows site: https://www.cccco.edu/About-Us/GenAI-and-the-future-of-learning/ai-fellows-program/ai-fellows-cohort
- C. McGraw: I would like to know the panel's take on the environmental impact of AI infrastructure as well as the impact on people and labor markets. Also how do we best manage the cultivation of AI familiarity and ability of our students while maintaining a fundamental focus on tangible non-AI skills.
    - M. Gutierrez added: the Imperial Valley is currently struggling with this issue right now. The community is fighting hard to keep a projected data center from being built in the community. They are worried about the effects to the environment and resource allocation.
    - G. McGraw: It's been shown to have a significant impact on resources, water in particular, while also spiking utility rates in local communities where data centers are built.
    - M. Gutierrez: Makes me wonder what kinds of limitations AI will see do to the general public's refusal to accept the building of data centers.
- M. Fischthal: when the panel spoke about *organizations in your sector balancing innovation with responsibility—such as safety, ethics, or regulation—when implementing AI* added the guidelines are helpful. The state also has an AI council that will be coming out with some recommendations soon and there are a number of us from SD on the council.
- D. Rodríguez: highly recommended the book "Atlas of AI: Power, Politics, and the Planetary Costs of Artificial Intelligence", By Kate Crawford

6. Roundtable

- J. Hester shared several events and resources via the chat:
    - Futures Summit 2026: Human Skills in an Autonomous World is coming to the Santa Clara Convention Center on September 9–10, 2026.
    - https://hai.stanford.edu/news/transparency-in-ai-is-on-the-decline
    - SDCCD AI Day, Friday, March 20, 2026, 8:15 a.m.–4:30 p.m., SDCCE North City Campus, Multipurpose Room, in-person, with select sessions available via Zoom

- R. Nasori: shared -day hiring event Grossmont College will be hosting for TJ Maxx on January 27th, 29th, and 30th. TJ Maxx is opening a new location in La Mesa.
- T. Sevilla: ENCUENTROS and Barrio Empowerment *(flyer in resource library)*

Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

The next *virtual* WDC meeting will be Friday, February 27, 2026. Topic will be *San Diego & Imperial Region Rising Scholars Network.*

Archived meeting recording, minutes and handouts can be found in the Resources Library.