SDIC COMMUNITY COLLEGE
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL MEETING

Friday, August 28, 2026
10:30 am to Noon

MINUTES

VOTING MEMBERS:

Claudia Estrada-Howell
Amertah Perman, Dean, Career Education & Workforce Development, San Diego Community College District (*on behalf of Jesse Lopez, School of Business, IT, Engineering, Cosmetology, and Trades, San Diego City College*)
Andrei Lucas, Dean, Automotive, Skilled and Technical Trades, San Diego College of Continuing Education
Annie Ngo, Dean, Career Education, MiraCosta College
Monica Romero, Dean, School of Business & Technology, San Diego Mesa College
Nichol Roe, Dean, Career, Technical, and Extended Education (CTEE), Palomar College

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:
Celine Ahearn, Acting Supervisor Transfer, Career Services, and Evaluations, San Diego Mesa College
Isabela Aldana, Registered Apprenticeship Program Manager, Healthcare Career Advancement Program
Julius Alejandro, Work-Based Learning Coordinator, San Diego City College
Emily Alvarenga, Communications Manager, Intesa Communications Group
Erika Arangure, Program Manager, Grossmont College
Chiara Astriab, Apprenticeship Initiatives Manager, San Diego Workforce Partnership
Genaro Ayala, Job Placement Case Manager, Imperial Valley College
Steven Baissa, Dean, School of Counseling & Student Support Programs, Southwestern College
Vanessa Barron, Employer Relations Liaison, Southwestern College / SDI Regional Consortium
Heidi Bergener, K12 Pathway Coordinator, Coronado High School District/Southwestern Community
Lynn Bigsby, Apprenticeship Employer Relations Liaison, / SDI Regional Consortium
Stephanie Bradley, Program Coordinator, SDI Regional Consortium
Briseida Elenes, Career and Job Development Services Supervisor, Cuyamaca College
Danene Brown, Regional Chair, SDI Regional Consortium
Michael Bruder, Senior Director, College and Career Readiness, San Diego County Office of Education
Maria Bucio, Operations Supervisor, MiraCosta College
Tanitia Burks, Program Manager – Healthcare Sector Programs, San Diego Workforce Partnership
Christopher Byrd, Research and Planning Analyst, Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District
Cait Canby, Employer Relations Liaison, MiraCosta College / SDI Regional Consortium
Stephanie Cervantes
Elaine Chance, Innovation Systems Analyst, San Diego Community College District
Pavel Consuegra, Ph.D. Internship Coordinator, Career Technical Education, San Diego Mesa College/WBL Faculty, Cuyamaca College
Sunny Corcoran
Yohany Corona-Batalona, Counselor/Coordinator, Grossmont Justice Scholars, Grossmont College

Christine Corrao, Coordinator of Career Technical Education and Future Readiness, San Marcos USD
Hariel Corsair, FInicial Professional, WealthWave
Natasha Cruz, Behavioral Health Apprenticeship Manager, LAUNCH
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
Yessica Diaz, Assistant Professor of Social Work and Human Services, Southwestern College
Rachel Fischer, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Student Affairs, Southwestern College
Tavaris Franklin, Associate Dean, Outreach, San Diego College of Continuing Education
Benjamin Gamboa, Associate Dean, Career Education, MiraCosta College
Cesar Gaxiola, Admissions, San Diego Mesa College
Keith Gemmell, Senior Manager, Business Engagement, LAUNCH Apprenticeship Network
Ashley Gerdo, Regional Coordinator, Rising Scholars Network
Michael Gomez, K12 Pathway Coordinator, San Diego County Office of Education/Palomar Community College District
Kristen Gonzales
Lance Grob, Employer Relations Liaison, San Diego Miramar College / SDI Regional Consortium
Miguel Gutierrez, Employer Relations Liaison, Imperial Valley College / SDI Regional Consortium
Monica Hamilton, Career & Transfer Connections Coordinator, Southwestern College
Christopher Heim, Programs Manager, Workforce Development, MAAC
Lizzette Herrera, Work-Based Learning (WBL) Liaison, MiraCosta College
Christine Jensen, K16 Collaborative Director
Benjamin Jewell, Technical Education Analyst & Professional Expert, San Diego Community College District
Kenya Johnson, Dean, Higher Education Center at Otay Mesa & Higher Education Center at San Ysidro Organization, Southwestern College
Connie Lafuente, Director of Regional Health Initiatives, SDI Regional Consortium
Genesis Lastrella-Quicho, STEM Experiential Learning Coordinator, Southwestern College
Joachim Latzer, Dean, School of Education, Humanities, Social & Behavioral Sciences, Southwestern College
Danielle Lauria, MPH, PA-C-Dean, School of Nursing, Health, and Wellness, MiraCosta College
Dominic Lawerence, Career & Transfer Connections Coordinator, Southwestern College
Taylor Lemker, Employer Relations Liaison, Cuyamaca College / SDI Regional Consortium
Annie Li, Regional CTE Research Expert, San Diego & Imperial Center of Excellence
Todd Linke, Health Pathway Coordinator, Grossmont Union High School District
Sabrina Lopez, Specialist, Workforce and Economic Development – Apprenticeship Program, CCCCO
Bernice Lorenzo, Dean, Student Development and Matriculation, San Diego City College
Paige Lovitt, Academic Counselor / Public Safety Advisor, Imperial Valley College
Jessica Luedtke, Dean, Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness, San Diego College of Continuing Education
Kimberly Macias, K12 Pathway Coordinator, Imperial County Office of Education
Ruben Macias, CTE Counselor, Holtville High School
Sharon Mah, Career Education Specialist, Poway Unified School District – Poway Adult School
Onofre Marroquin, Client Service Coordinator, Raizes

COMMUNITY COLLEGES
SAN DIEGO & IMPERIAL COUNTIES
CAREER EDUCATION

Ute Maschke, Director, Continuing Education, Palomar College
Lynn McConville, Director, College & Career Technical Education, Poway Unified School District
Kevin McMackin, Director, Strategic Partnerships, SDI Regional Consortium
Jeanette Meliska, Job Development, Palomar College
Iliana Mendez
Magali Meza, Coordinator, Research & Data Analysis, Imperial County Office of Education
Rachel Miller, Research Analyst, Palomar College
Rafael Montano, Program Specialist, Restorative Justice Program, Imperial Valley College
Lindy Mosqueda, Student Services Assistant, Transfer Center, San Diego Miramar College
Susan Murray, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness / Accreditation Liaison Officer, San Diego City College
Vanessa Murrell, Program Manager, Cuyamaca College
Tina Ngo-Bartel, Executive Director, San Diego & Imperial Center of Excellence
Erica Olmos, Employer Relations Liaison Lead, San Diego Mesa College / SDI Regional Consortium
Karen Overklift, Employer Relations Liaison, San Diego City College / SDI Regional Consortium
Desiree Payne, Systems Support Analyst, San Diego Community College District
Laura Pecenco, Rising Scholars Coordinator, San Diego Miramar College
Melissa Penaflor, Community Developer, NAMI San Diego
Heather Peterson, Director II, Grossmont Adult Education (Health Occupations Program)
Amy Pimentel, Career Education Pathways Coordinator, MiraCosta College
Jenni Preciado, Regional Apprenticeship Manager, LAUNCH Apprenticeship Network
Ardy Riego, Work-Based Learning Specialist, Grossmont Union High School District
Ernesto Rivera, College & Career Readiness, San Diego County Office of Education
Luis Rivera, Program Specialist, Restorative Justice Program, Imperial Valley College
Wanda Rogers, Care Service Workforce Apprenticeship Program
Malena Rosales, Job Placement Case Management Specialist, Cuyamaca College
Janai Russell, Healthcare Careers Instructor, Poway Adult School and San Diego College of Continuing Education
Dexter Saldaen, Economic Development, NCCC
Tonette Salter, Project Specialist, Apprenticeship Readiness Program, Southwestern College
Sharon Sampson, Associate Professor, Administration of Justice, Grossmont College
Emmanuel Sanchez, Resource Development Coordinator, Imperial County Office of Education
Roger Sanchez, Job Placement Coordinator, San Diego City College
Diana Sandoval, Student Success Specialist, Building Construction Technologies, Imperial Valley College
Karen Sevilla, Student Success Specialist Career Services Center, Imperial Valley College
Eusebio Travis Sevilla, K12 SWP Pathway Coordinator, MiraCosta Community College District / SDUHSD
Rita Shamoon, Job Development & Placement Specialist, San Diego College of Continuing Education
Alma Silva, Chief Operating Officer, Imperial Valley Business Resource Center
Blaine Smith, Director, Next Gen Policy
Marti Snyder, Institutional Effectiveness and Accreditation Coordinator, Palomar College
Joseph Stark, Director of Apprenticeship, SDI Regional Consortium
Julie Swanson, Work Experience Education Coordinator, Southwestern College
Linda Ta, Project Coordinator, Biocom California Institute
Embrie Tapia, Chief Programs Officer, Episcopal Community Services
David Taylor, CAEP Project Specialist, Southwestern Community College District
Robyn Taylor, San Diego Community College District

Carole Thompson, Internship Coordinator, San Diego Mesa College
Nicole Thren, K12 SWP Pathway Coordinator, Grossmont Union High School District
Angela Tilley-Ruiz, Employer Relations Liaison, Palomar College / SDI Regional Consortium
Michelle Tillman, Supervisor, Career Center, Palomar College
Alyssa Tirado, Program Manager, Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program
Juan Ugarte, Career & Transfer Connections Coordinator, Southwestern College
Sadie Wager, Senior Student Services Assistant, San Diego Mesa College
Sean Wilcock, Vice President of Business Development, Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation
Sonia Yaddgo, Job Placement Case Manager, Grossmont College
Hongling Yang,Research Associate, San Diego Community College District; AI Fellow, CCCCO
Monica Zachary, Strategic Business Advisor, California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR)
Laurie Zamora, Partnership Coordinator, Education to Career Network

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

1**.** Welcome and Approval of 5.1.26 Minutes (view here) (*Lead CTE Deans Only*), by D. Brown.
Motion to approve M. Romero, second by N. Roe, unanimously approved (C. Estrada Howell, A. Perman, A. Lucas, A. Ngo, N. Roe, M. Romero)

2. Program Recommendations from Deans' Council, by D. Brown *(proxy for J. Lewis)*
- Respiratory Care; New; B.S.

3. Building the Behavioral Health Workforce Through Registered Apprenticeships presentation given by J. Stark and the following presenters.
- **Natasha Cruz**, Behavioral Health Apprenticeship Manager, LAUNCH Apprenticeship Network
- **Tanitia Burks**, Program Manager, San Diego Workforce Partnership
- **Embrie Tapia**, Chief Programs Officer, Episcopal Community Services
- **Jenni Preciado**, Regional Apprenticeship Manager, LAUNCH Apprenticeship Network

4. Open Q&A/chat comments moderated by L. Bigsby, Employer Relations Liaison Apprenticeship, SDI Regional Consortium.
- Participants asked about opportunities to connect DAS-registered apprenticeship programs with high school districts through pre-apprenticeship programs. J. Stark explained that registered pre-apprenticeships must have a formal linkage to an existing DAS-approved registered apprenticeship program. E. Rivera noted that the San Diego County Office of Education can help school districts explore and develop these connections.
- A question was raised about the goal of expanding the behavioral health apprenticeship program to 150 apprentices, including whether the target represents individuals actively enrolled. Presenters confirmed that the goal is 150 actively enrolled apprentices.
- Participants asked whether community education, adult education, community colleges, and pre-apprenticeship programs would be incorporated into outreach as the program expands. Natasha Cruz confirmed these partnerships are part of the longer-term strategy, while noting that the current priority is continuing to build a strong registered apprenticeship program before expanding pre-apprenticeship pathways.

- A question was raised regarding the Community Health Worker program at San Diego City College.
- E. Sevilla asked about the challenges associated with the DAS registration process, including whether efforts are underway to streamline registration and employer engagement given the administrative lift involved, particularly when programs initially serve a small number of students. Joseph Stark acknowledged the challenges and highlighted the role of intermediaries such as LAUNCH and H-CAP in reducing administrative barriers. He also noted that pre-apprenticeship development is generally less burdensome than registered apprenticeship and that regional partners are exploring resources to help employers, schools, and LEAs determine when a pre-apprenticeship model makes sense.
- Presenters emphasized that apprenticeship programs can begin with a small number of apprentices and scale over time, and that regional partners can help connect organizations with available funding and technical assistance.

5. Roundtable

- C. Jensen with K-16 Collaborative shared two upcoming opportunities: an AI Convening on September 25 at Mesa College, bringing together educators, industry, and workforce partners to hear directly from industry about entry-level workforce needs; and a Mini Grant opportunity of up to $20,000 for public high school, community college, and university partners.
    - Questions please email: Christine@k16talentpipeline.org
- M. Bruder shared information about the upcoming San Diego County Office of Education Career Pathways Conference.

Meeting adjourned at 11:42a.m.

The next virtual WDC meeting will be held Friday, September 25, 2026, featuring the San Diego Workforce Partnership.

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