Apprenticeship CoP – Meeting Notes
September 17, 2026
1:00 to 2:00pm

Co Chairs: Jesse Lopez, Joseph Stark

Attendees: Angela Merkens, Arni Neff, Candace Rose, Christine Jensen, Eddie Matthews, Ernesto Rivera, Lynn Bigsby, Miguel Gutierrez, Sheila Davis, Stephanie Bradley, Taylor Lemker, Tonette Salter

Regional Updates and Current Projects

- J. Stark share the final version of the Apprenticeships for Faculty Field Guide.
- Draft Apprenticeship CoP goals for the year were shared for review and feedback.
- A new San Diego County Apprenticeships Dashboard is available.
- SDI RC Regional Apprenticeship Mixer – October 8th
    - An Apprenticeship Mixer will be held in Escondido/North County on October 8. CoP members were encouraged to attend and share the opportunity with appropriate partners.

Partner & College Updates

- LAUNCH Apprenticeship Network
    - Launch Partner Convening – September 30
    - SDI RC & LAUNCH Support Grid_DRAFT
- SDCOE
    - Trades Day – November 12
        - An upcoming Trades Day will provide high school students with exposure to careers in the trades. Event information and a flyer were shared with the group.

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) & Apprenticeships Presentation

C. Rose from Palomar College provided an overview of Palomar's work incorporating Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) into apprenticeship programs.

- Examples included Palomar's Military Leadership Apprenticeship Program with the Marine Corps and its Zero Emission Vehicle Technologies (ZEV Tech) apprenticeship program. The discussion highlighted how CPL can recognize existing military training and work experience and translate that learning into college credit.
    - Military Leadership Apprenticeship
        - The Military Leadership Apprenticeship Program began with a small group of faculty advisors and has grown significantly, with more than 2,000 completions.
        - The program works in partnership with the Marine Corps, with the college supporting the educational and administrative components of the apprenticeship.

        - A significant part of the program's success has been providing students with support throughout the process, including:
            - On-base information and orientation.
            - Assistance navigating college enrollment.
            - Multiple points of contact throughout the program.
            - Individualized assistance when students encounter barriers.
            - Ongoing case management/student-success support.
    - The group discussed how reducing institutional and structural barriers is particularly important for working adults and students who may be navigating college systems for the first time.
- CPL Implementation Considerations
    - The group discussed lessons learned from implementing CPL within apprenticeship programs
        - Key considerations included:
            - Incorporating CPL into the program design from the beginning when possible.
            - Understanding how employer or industry training translates into college credit.
            - Recognizing that apprenticeship standards and employer/union requirements may limit where CPL can be applied.
            - Starting with one discipline or program as a pilot before expanding.
            - Ensuring course scheduling aligns with the needs of working adult students.
            - Providing sufficient student support and clearly communicating program requirements.
    - Participants emphasized that scheduling and course availability are especially important. Students should not enter an apprenticeship pathway only to discover later that required college courses are unavailable at times that allow them to complete the program.

Roundtable

- San Diego City College shared an update on a new manufacturing pre-apprenticeship program planned for Spring 2027.
    - The program will include opportunities to earn college credit and will be open to high school students. Lessons learned and promising practices from implementation of the pilot will be shared with the CoP.
- October Meeting

- The regularly scheduled October 15 Apprenticeship CoP meeting conflicts with CCCAOE. An invite for the new date will go out soon.

Next Apprenticeship CoP: September 17, 1:00–2:00 p.m., virtual

Rolling Agenda