



JOBS FOR THE FUTURE

San Diego/Imperial Counties Strong Workforce Program Career Pathways Project

Executive Summary Update 10.12.17

Project Description

The Career Pathways Project aims to provide the region with the necessary information and tools to develop stronger career pathways to facilitate the matriculation of prepared students to community college career education programs. Jobs for the Future is working with the SDIC community colleges to produce 4 reports including Phase II recommendations for the consortia to consider by December 2018.

Main Deliverables

Phase I: 4 reports (December 2018)

- Environmental Scan
- Career Pathways Report
- WBL Platform Analysis and Implementation Report
- Communications and Implementation Report

October 2017

The project methodology includes a focus on systems-level infrastructure, program-level career pathways work, partnership structures and strategic communication. Research includes internal research (SDIC assets and gaps), external research (national and regional exemplars), career pathway models, WBL platforms, and stakeholder engagement. Preliminary findings for the region are summarized below. On-going research on the topics of employer engagement, WBL platforms, and other career pathway elements will continue through November. Our analysis will include a focus on leadership, partnership and building systems in the region applying the lens of leveraging the Guided Pathways model in this effort.

Preliminary Findings

- **Career Pathways and WBL:** Strong career pathways infrastructure assets exist within some high schools and college programs.
 - Stronger connections and coordination across institutions could leverage resources to increase matriculation and impact.
- **Regional Infrastructure:** Some regional infrastructure found mostly at the executive level through joint planning, and some MOUs or grant-funded positions are in place to support pathways work.
 - Strengthening collaboration across colleges and high schools is needed for integrated pathways: sequencing, alignment, acceleration, stackable credentials, and multiple entry/exit points. Network leadership capacities across site administrations are needed to move an integrated regional pathways agenda.
- **Partnership:** Strong work-based learning components are largely dependent on depth and history of employer/industry partnerships
 - Communication and information gaps exist between industry, workforce, community colleges, and high schools—Shared understanding of each partner's system can lead to establishing clear value propositions for pathways work.

Next Steps

- Career pathways elements research: sector, supports, and measurement
- Implementation strategies & work plans
- Stakeholder engagement & technology and WBL platform analysis