

## A Workforce Agenda for 2016

- *California Budget and Policy Center*
- *California Hospital Association*
- *California Workforce Association*
- *California Labor Federation, AFL-CIO*
- *California Manufacturing and Technology Association*
- *Career Ladders Project for the California Community Colleges*
- *Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce*
- *National Council of La Raza*
- *Policy Link*
- *State Building and Construction Trades of California*

**Our vision** is a broadly shared prosperity.

**Our focus** is “middle skill” jobs that require significant post-secondary education and training but not necessarily a baccalaureate degree.

**Our commitment** is to all Californians, including dislocated workers, young men and women of color, disconnected youth, veterans, and welfare recipients.



ast year, state policymakers began work on two major workforce efforts: 1) to help community college students better acquire the requisite basic skills to meet their college

and career goals, and 2) to improve the capacity of community colleges to address the workforce needs of regional employers.

The Community Colleges Basic Skills and Student Outcomes Transformation Program provided \$60 million in multiyear grants to community college districts beginning in 2016. These grants are to expand the use of evidence-based models of academic assessment and placement, remediation, and student support to accelerate the progress of underprepared students to achieve postsecondary and career goals.

Also last year, the California Community College Board of Governors launched a systemwide effort to address the colleges’ career technical education mission. The resulting Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation and a Strong Economy released a series of recommendations to improve the capacity, funding, and responsiveness of CTE funding to the needs of students and the workforce needs of regional economies.

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### Building on these successes, the EDGE coalition supports the following priorities for 2016:

- **Create a sustained, supplemental funding stream for high-cost career technical education (CTE) programs.** CTE courses are more expensive to deliver than general education, lecture-based courses. EDGE supports supplemental funding to colleges for CTE courses to support smaller class sizes when appropriate, labor market research, curriculum development and revision to ensure course relevancy, and specialized equipment and facility needs.
- **Provide greater access to Cal Grant C financial support for CTE students.** The current Cal Grant C program, aimed at CTE students, is of little use to community college students since most of the funds can be used only for tuition and fees. EDGE urges a revision of Cal Grant C to ensure that community college CTE students receive the support they need to complete their programs of study.
- **Implement high impact practices in adult education and basic skills programs that significantly improve student success.** EDGE supports increased investment in and technical assistance for the implementation of evidence-based practices in adult education and community college basic skills programs.
- **Strengthen the curriculum approval process for community college CTE programs to ensure that it is timely and responsive to community needs.** Lengthy local and state curriculum approval processes can be a barrier to meeting the needs of a rapidly changing labor market. EDGE supports efforts to ensure that CTE curriculum is developed in a more nimble fashion.
- **Develop an aligned, high quality program accountability system to guide evidence-based policymaking that is responsive to the needs of communities and employers.** EDGE supports movement toward interconnected, cross-system data – including the development of a common student identifier and common workforce metrics – to track progress within and between workforce programs to measure progress toward program outcomes (such as degree or certificate completion, employment outcomes, and continued education) disaggregated by key demographic groups.
- **Increase the pool of qualified CTE instructors.** Community colleges often find it difficult to hire instructors with industry experience. EDGE supports identifying barriers to and building pathways for industry professionals to become qualified to teach on community college campuses.