

California Community College Association for Occupational Education
Regional VP report
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Advocacy

Work-based learning and Nursing Pilot Program

The state Legislature is currently in summer recess, so there has not been bill movement recently.

Both Assembly Bill 323, which is designed to allow Strong Workforce funding to directly support work-based learning, and AB 1400, which supports the Baccalaureate Degree in Nursing Pilot Program, await hearings before the Senate Appropriations Committee. That should happen late this month when the Legislature reconvenes.

Short-term Pell guidance awaited

No additional guidance has been provided for the changes to short-term Pell eligibility that was contained in HR1, the recently passed federal tax and revenue bill. This bill expands Pell to cover students in 5- to 8-week programs. Responsibility for Pell and other programs is moving to the Department of Labor from the Department of Education, a change that is slowing down the guideline development.

Regional activities

Deans & Directors, Allan Hancock College

About 75 people shared best practices at the first Deans and Directors convening at Allan Hancock College on July 29 & 30. CTE Dean Tom Lamica conceived the gathering where participants shared best practices on their campus in academic programs, student services, and business services. Donna Beal organized the event which drew colleges from the South Central Coast Region and from coastal colleges as far north as Gilroy in Santa Clara County.

K16 Collaborative, Cuesta College

Almost 100 people gathered at Cuesta College on Aug. 7 to mark the annual convening for the region's K16 Consortium. The program focused on improving student outcomes in the projects which serve to link activities from elementary schools through four-year anniversaries. The local K16 Collaborative region overlaps the South Central Coast region, excluding College of the Canyons and Antelope Valley College, but extending north to Santa Cruz.

CCCAOE Fall Conference, Oct. 22-24

About 250 people are currently registered for the Fall 2025 California Community College Association for Occupational Education conference in Rancho Mirage. That's on par with past years at this point. We hope to have more than 600 people attend.

More than 80 presentation topics were submitted for consideration at the conference, a number that's higher than in the past. The professional development committee is reading the submissions to select those that will be included in the conference.

Expect three days of presentations, keynotes, and networking. The theme is: Collaborating for Success. To register, go to: <https://cccao.org/2025-fall-conference/>