SOUTH CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL CONSORTIUM

STRONG WORKFORCE PROGRAM REPORT 2016-2020

POWERED BY
California Community Colleges

DEAR FRIEND OF THE COLLEGES OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL COAST

To develop more workforce opportunities and lift low-wage workers into living-wage jobs, California took a bold step in 2016 to create one million more middle-skill workers. To accomplish this vision, the Governor and the Legislature approved the Strong Workforce Program and invested ongoing resources to support and grow career education and workforce training programs in the state's community colleges. Since the program's inception, the eight community colleges that make up the South Central Coast Regional Consortium (SCCRC) have spent these funds on programs, equipment, personnel, and activities that have prepared local students for high-wage employment in industries that meet regional workforce needs.

Each year, 60 percent of Strong Workforce investment goes directly to local colleges while 40 percent is earmarked for regional efforts. Both the local as well as the regional funds have made a tremendous difference for our colleges, students, and community. In this inaugural report, we highlight some of the investments made over the past four years. From funding hands-on experience and training for students in the Agriculture Program at Cuesta College to supporting aeronautical programs that prepare Antelope Valley College students for amazing careers, these investments have made lasting impacts far and wide. This publication highlights the incredible dedication and contribution of the faculty, staff, and administrators in our region in serving students during these incredibly challenging times. It is the personal investment of their expertise and passion that directly impacts our students and region, and we all are grateful to them.

Funding challenges and shifting priorities mean that we must tell our story and ensure that our communities are aware of the ways in which these investments continue to transform lives. This publication aims to do just that—showcase the impact of career education and the amazing work that can be done when our state makes a strong investment in California community colleges.

Sincerely,

Luann Swanberg

Director/Chair, South Central Coast Regional Consortium

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS INAUGURAL PUBLICATION:

Career Education Deans and Vice Presidents

Public Information Officers

South Central Regional Consortium Staff

Regional Directors

The Center of Excellence

Graduate Communications

ON THE COVER:
Santa Barbara City College student Sutara Nitenson is shown at the Cal Poly Center for Coastal Maine Sciences, where she and the SBCC Marine Diving Technologies class gained real-world experience. After graduating, Nitenson was hired as a research assistant in the social responsibility division of FishWise. FishWise is a nonprofit seafood industry partner, providing innovative market-based tools and expertise in sustainability services, human rights action, and traceability best practices.

Santa Barbara City College's Marine Diving Technologies Program is the only community college degree program of its kind in the nation. The gear featured on the cover was purchased with Strong Workforce funding.

FOR YOUR REFERENCE:
All data and statistics cited in this publication come from reports produced by the Center of Excellence, the California Community College Chancellor's Office, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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ABOUT THE SOUTH CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL CONSORTIUM

To implement the Strong Workforce Program, the California Community College Chancellor's Office expanded the role of the seven regional consortia to provide leadership in the coordination of career education in each region to serve local and regional workforce needs. The SCCRC is one of the seven regional consortia that serves as a framework of support to communicate, coordinate, collaborate, promote, and plan career education and workforce and economic development in the South Central Coast Region.

Land Surveying Program, *College of the Canyons*

OUR MISSION

The South Central Coast Regional Consortium (SCCRC) serves to facilitate and promote effective regional educational initiatives with its member colleges and key stakeholders in support of local, regional, and statewide workforce development efforts. We leverage employer, community, and educational resources to create and maintain a highly skilled workforce that meets our regional needs.

OUR COLLEGES

Allan Hancock College, Santa Maria

Antelope Valley College, Lancaster

Cuesta College, San Luis Obispo

Santa Barbara City College, Santa Barbara

College of the Canyons, Santa Clarita

Moorpark College, Moorpark

Oxnard College, Oxnard

Ventura College, Ventura

CAREER EDUCATION SECTORS

Nearly 700 programs have been certified as part of the Strong Workforce Program. These programs are organized into 12 industry sectors. Across the state and our region, these industry sectors are poised to have maximum economic impact and demand for a skilled workforce.

- Advanced Manufacturing
- Advanced Transportation & Logistics
- Agriculture, Water & Environmental Technologies
- Business & Entrepreneurship
- Education and Human Development
- Energy, Construction & Utilities
- Global Trade
- Health
- Information and Communication Technologies/Digital Media (ICT/DM)
- Life Sciences Biotech
- Public Safety/ Government
- Retail, Hospitality, Tourism

SCCRC INVESTMENTS AND IMPACTS

Regional and Local Strong Workforce Investments

SCCRC 2016/2017-2019/2020 Allocations

Total Regional (Base and Incentive Funding)	$23,074,983
Total Local (Base and Incentive Funding)	$34,648,433
Grand Total to the Region 4 YEARS - 2016/2017 - 2019-2020	**$57,723,416**

Regional Investments And Impacts

The California Community College Chancellor's Office designed the outcome metrics for the Strong Workforce Program. The statewide data system, LaunchBoard, collects these measures of student success, employment, and earnings. Outcome data for 2012- 2018 indicates positive improvement in the following Strong Workforce Outcomes specific to the South Central Coast Region:

- 42% increase in degrees/certificates earned
- 10% increase in noncredit milestone achieved
- 29% increase in transfer to 4-year institutions
- 17% increase in median earnings for Strong Workforce students who entered the workforce after community college

ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE

PREPARING THE WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

From training the next generation of firefighters with state-of-the-art equipment to purchasing hundreds of high-end laptops to loan to other career and technical education students training for in-demand jobs, Allan Hancock College is making the most of its Strong Workforce funding to make an impact on the regional economy.

Strong Workforce Program dollars have paid for more than 200 new MacBook PRO laptops loaned to students studying Media Arts during the COVID-19 pandemic and a similar number of Alienware personal computers for students employing Computer Aided Design in architecture and advanced manufacturing courses.

"Strong Workforce investments have really supported the technology and innovation necessary now that we are in a remote learning environment," said Margaret Lau, Allan Hancock College's Dean of Academic Affairs. ***"There is no way we could support students' persistence and success were it not for this funding."***

David Whitham, Director of Public Safety at the college's 42-acre Public Safety Training Complex, agrees. "The equipment that we have through the Strong Workforce Program is critical," Whitham said.

Among the new equipment: a 'Pump Pod' purchased with more than $91,000 in Strong Workforce Program funds. The unit holds 1,800 gallons of water and allows cadets and firefighters to train in full-flow, high-pressure, firehose

DID YOU KNOW?

California Community Colleges train 80 percent of all California firefighters, law enforcement personnel, and emergency medical technicians.

operations. Because of its innovative design, the unit can continually pump and recirculate the water it holds, saving millions of gallons of water annually.

"In the past, the water we would use in training would flow to the storm drains and go right into the retention basin," said recently retired Allan Hancock College Fire Academy Coordinator Andy Densmore.

In addition to firefighters, first responder training at Allan Hancock College includes emergency medical technicians, law enforcement officers, and environmental health and safety professionals.

"We wouldn't be able to do what we're doing without Allan Hancock College and their Public Safety Training Complex," said Eric E. Smith, Chief of Police for the California Department of State Hospitals (DSH) Office of Protective Services (OPS) Academy. "Back in March, during the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, we had to suspend academy operations on a temporary basis and send our cadets back to their home facilities. During this hiatus, both Dave and Neal (Neal Le Maire, Director of Advanced Officer Training) authorized us to provide 136 hours of Emergency Remote Teaching. This allowed us to continue some academy training while using WebEx and other distance learning applications. ***We would not have college-level training available for our hospital police officers without the assistance of Allan Hancock College, Public Safety Training, Lompoc Valley Campus.***"

Allan Hancock College offers over three dozen career education programs, including Agriculture, an industry with more than $4 billion in annual production in the region. Strong Workforce dollars have allowed the Allan Hancock College Agriculture, Environmental Technology, and Viticulture and Enology programs to expand workforce development opportunities and develop new initiatives. Efforts also led the U.S. Department of Agriculture to designate Allan Hancock College as a regional **Center of Community Prosperity**, connecting communities to resources available at the local, state, and federal levels.

Serving the Region

8

Number of regional community colleges offering courses in the public safety/government sector.

11,887

Average number of students annually enrolled in public safety/government courses each year.

38%

Average increase in earnings for students who complete a public safety/government degree or certificate.

ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE

TAKING FLIGHT AT ANTELOPE VALLEY COLLEGE

Marlene Ruvalcaba had dropped out of USC as a pre-law student when she saw a local news report on Antelope Valley College's Aeronautical Sciences & Technology Program and decided to give it a try.

"I had no experience with aerospace or aviation and didn't even know the program existed, but it looked intriguing," recalled Ruvalcaba, whose curiosity led her to enroll at Antelope Valley College in June of 2016. Just one semester and four classes later, Ruvalcaba had three job offers and was working full time as a composite technician at The Spaceship Company while simultaneously staying in school en route to earning an associate degree.

Ruvalcaba, part of the college's initial cohort of students in the groundbreaking Airframe Manufacturing Technology Bachelor of Science degree program, is now a quality engineer with Virgin Galactic. She also serves as an Antelope Valley College adjunct instructor and exemplifies the impact Strong Workforce Program funding is having in putting people to work. The Aircraft Fabrication & Assembly track – which Ruvalcaba completed and which earned a **2018 Strong Workforce Program Gold Star award** – is among the most effective career training programs in the state based on data showing that virtually every student earning a degree or certificate was employed in a job similar to their field of study and saw a nearly doubling in wages. Strong Workforce funding

DID YOU KNOW?

Advanced Manufacturers are often small, specialized firms, so employers invest significant resources in training their workforce and providing personnel opportunities for job growth.

has allowed Antelope Valley College to accommodate growing enrollment by building additional composite and structure labs, purchase new equipment, and improve an array of program facilities.

"Without the support of the district and Strong Workforce dollars, programs like this would not be able to meet industry demands," said Dr. Maria Clinton, former department chair and current Interim Dean of Career Education. ***"The industry is hiring and we're providing them with skilled students who are job ready."***

The Aeronautical Sciences & Technology Program comprises Aircraft Fabrication & Assembly and Aeronautical & Aviation Technology (Airframe & Powerplant), in addition to the Airframe Manufacturing Technology Bachelor of Science degree that is part of the California Community Colleges Baccalaureate Pilot Program. Students in the Aircraft Fabrication & Assembly track are **guaranteed to sit for a job interview with Northrop Grumman** after just one semester of required courses – a semester that many students opt to condense into an accelerated 8-week schedule.

"I get students who are 18 years old, fresh out of high school, who have no experience whatsoever, but who decide they just want to give it a shot and a few months later, they're working at one of the largest aerospace companies in the world," Ruvalcaba said.

Clinton agreed. "Everyone in the Valley knows that if you want to get a job at Northrop Grumman, you go to Antelope Valley College's aeronautical program," she said. ***"After just eight weeks of training, our students are not only making 27 or 28 dollars per hour to start off, they also are establishing a career."***

Keeping the Region Soaring

8

Number of regional community colleges offering courses in the advanced manufacturing sector.

3,676

Number of students taking advanced manufacturing courses in the region.

$52,386

Average earnings per job in the advanced manufacturing sector.

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS

NURSING PROGRAM SHINES DURING A PANDEMIC

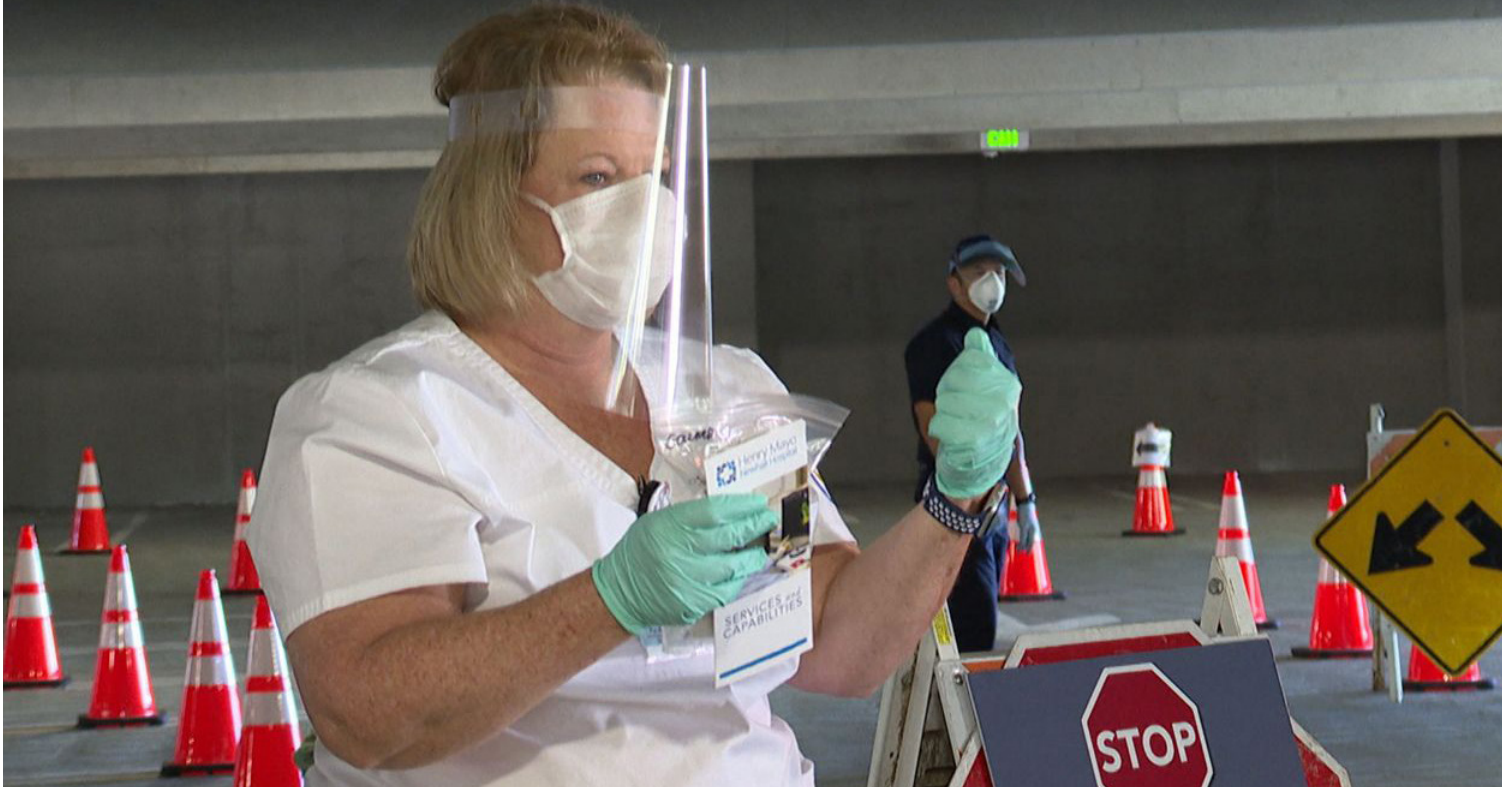
Talk about baptism by fire. The COVID-19 pandemic prompted medical centers across California to cancel the clinical opportunities needed to become a healthcare professional. In response, dozens of College of the Canyons nursing students volunteered at an on-campus COVID-19 testing site, where they were able to count the experience toward their training requirements. Fourteen students and one faculty member staffed the site, seven days per week, working with L.A. Country Fire Department personnel in conjunction with Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital. On some days, students helped conduct more than 300 COVID-19 tests at the drive-through site.

The experience underscores the innovative Strong Workforce Program approach among College of the Canyons nursing leadership, which also was on the front lines in convincing the Department of Consumer Affairs to allow COVID-related waivers and adjustments for nursing students across the state. As a result, the Department of Consumer Affairs reduced the requirement of clinical hours in direct-patient care from 75 percent to 50 percent for nursing students in obstetrics, pediatrics, and mental health/psychiatric courses. For nursing students in geriatrics and medical-surgical courses, the waiver allows up to 50 percent of patient care through simulation or lab training.

Nursing faculty responded to the changes by designing a telehealth program focused on providing mental health and self-care support for Canyons Promise students at the college. Nursing students, who provided information

DID YOU KNOW?

The Public Policy Institute of California estimates the state will need an additional 190,000 allied health care workers by 2024, including licensed vocational nurses, certified nursing assistants, medical assistants, imaging technologists, dental hygienists, and dental assistants.



and support utilizing instructor-developed materials, counted the hours spent providing mental health services toward the training hours needed for their psychiatric nursing course. Students were supervised by clinical nursing faculty via Zoom for a virtual clinical experience.

In all, modifications allowed for a full cohort of 60 students to graduate at the end of the spring 2020 semester and join the fight against COVID-19.

"I'm now able to complete my clinical hours and do it in a way that's never been done before in the history of the College of the Canyons Nursing Program," said Ashley Olivier. "I am excited to be able to complete my clinical requirements by using the skills I am learning in my current psychology rotation to help any which way I can in the community using telehealth."

Approved by the California State Board of Registered Nursing, College of the Canyons' Nursing Program has one of the higher NCLEX passing rates in the state. **The nursing class of 2020 had a pass rate of 92.45 percent on the national licensure exam,** epitomizing how this vital career education program is playing a key role in the California Community Colleges meeting goals set forth in the Vision for Success.

"This semester has been unlike any other," said Mary Corbett, director of the college's nursing program. "For us to be sending 60 graduates into practice, having met all Board of Registered Nursing requirements to sit for the NCLEX licensure examination, is nothing short of amazing. We are so proud of our students for never giving up through an incredibly challenging time."

Keeping the Region Healthy

8

Number of regional community colleges offering courses in the health sector.

35%

Percent of the 11,962 students taking health sector courses in the region who are first-generation college students.

12%

Five-year projected job growth for health sector in the region.

70%

Percent of California nurses who received their education at a California Community College.

CUESTA COLLEGE

A GROWING SUCCESS

A 38-year-old mother of three, Jade Bodine was losing her passion for her job running a marketing and graphics design firm, so she enrolled at Cuesta College for a pathway to a new career. It didn't take long to find her calling.

"I had never even heard of the Agricultural Program, but I took a plant and soil science class on a whim and absolutely fell in love with it," Bodine said. Now on the cusp of earning an Associate Degree for Transfer in Agricultural Plant Science, the Cambria resident will be transferring to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo next fall for a bachelor's degree in soil science and starting a second career as a soil science consultant.

Her story underscores the impact of Cuesta College's new Agriculture Program. Seeded with Strong Workforce Dollars, the program is making an impact supporting an industry that contributes an estimated $2.54 billion to the regional economy and directly employs 8,196 people in San Luis Obispo County.

"We would not have an Agriculture Program if it were not for Strong Workforce money," said Professor Dean Harrell.

The program germinated with an Associate Degree for Transfer in Agriculture Business in 2015. A little more than a year later, Cuesta College leveraged Strong Workforce Program dollars and private donors to build a plant science facility and lab, which has since grown to include a state-of-the-art nursery with two, 1,100-square-foot greenhouses;

DID YOU KNOW?

Due to a shortage of agricultural workers in recent years, adoption of new technologies and processes have never been more prevalent for local farms. Many growers have large machine shops on their properties to fabricate and repair mechanical field equipment. Demand for occupations related to the fabrication and repair of mechanized equipment is expected to rise.

a headhouse and lab; a 4,000-square-foot shade area; a small vineyard; and an orchard with 40 apple, pear, fig, olive, plum, peach, and apricot trees. Soil and plant sciences courses were added in the fall of 2017, along with a transfer degree in Agricultural Plant Science and a certificate in Mechanized Agriculture and Equipment Technician. The most recent additions: a Certificate of Achievement in Viticulture and a Certificate of Achievement in Farm Management that began in the fall of 2020.

"Strong Workforce funds have allowed us to bring skills to our students through hands-on experience and training that we would not otherwise have been able to offer," said Amy Stapp, an Agriculture Business instructor and Agriculture Program Lead. "This program has meant so much not only for our students, but it's also meant so much for our community, which has been so remarkably supportive of our efforts."

That support includes an Agriculture Advisory Committee that comprises local industry leaders and farmers.

Bodine is sold. "The Agriculture program at Cuesta College includes several subjects related to the field from agriculture business and economics to plant and soil science," she said. "The professors are at the top of their industry and love teaching their subject material. The experience and love for their subject matter is contagious. Enrolling in Cuesta College's Agriculture Program is by far one of the best decisions I've made."

Growing the Region

7

Number of regional community colleges offering courses in the agriculture, water, and environmental technologies sector.

1,526

Number of students taking courses in the agriculture, water, and environmental technologies sector.

22%

Median change in earnings for students earning a degree or certificate in the agriculture, water, and environmental technologies sector.

MOORPARK COLLEGE

SUPPORTING A GROWING DEMAND FOR CYBERSECURITY PROFESSIONALS

Nathan Orlina was employed part-time as a sort of jack-of-all-trades at a Ventura County architecture firm when a supervisor discovered his knack for working with computer systems and urged Orlina to enroll at Moorpark College's Computer Network Systems Engineering (CNSE) Program.

It was great advice. After just two semesters at Moorpark College, Orlina landed an internship at Western NRG, a Camarillo-based IT company that handles security and networking support for about 2,000 customers composed of mostly small- to medium-sized businesses. Today, Orlina is Western NRG's senior engineer.

"I really do owe everything to what I learned at Moorpark," said Orlina, who was able to enroll at Moorpark College through the Board of Governors Fee Waiver program, now known as the California College Promise Grant. "The skills in their CNSE Program transfer immediately."

Orlina, who returns to Moorpark College for a class or two each year to update his skills, is among the up to 1,200 students at the Ventura County campus enrolled in CNSE courses annually.

And for good reason. Nearly two-thirds of students are employed in the profession within six months of completing a CNSE program and 63 percent of those enrolled in the program come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. ***Strong Workforce Program dollars,*** said lead faculty member Ed Garcia, ***have further strengthened the program with top-of-the line computer systems and project specialists.*** Funding has also helped build a

DID YOU KNOW?

Entrepreneurs and small business owners are critical to California's economic development as contributors to innovation and new job growth. Additionally, these individuals provide local business revenue, create networks, invest in local projects, and support community efforts.

burgeoning pathway involving local high schools, the college, and industry partners to mold the next generation of computer science professionals through an abundance of for-credit internships – more than 100 CNSE internships are filled each semester – and top-notch education.

"Anyone going into the computer networking industry needs to understand everything there is to know about secure communications and how to leverage the cloud, and we are doing our best to prepare our students to enter the digital technologies job market by having the necessary skills in cybersecurity and cloud computing," Garcia said.

Moorpark College's CNSE Program offers an associate degree in Cybersecurity and certificates of achievement in Cybersecurity Penetration Tester, Cybersecurity Administration, and Cyber I nvestigations and Computer Forensics. Future plans include a certificate in Microsoft AZURE Cloud Computing. Cloud Practitioner, Architect, and Sysop are among Amazon Web Services course offerings, with Data Science and Certified Machine Learning on the immediate horizon.

"Everybody has to be cyber literate today. It's not an option," said Robert Cabral, Interim Dean of Student Learning, Physical Sciences & Career Education. Indeed, the global cloud computer market stood at more than $199 billion in 2019 and is projected to reach up to $761 billion by 2027, prompting a growing demand for cloud security professionals.

Orlina embodies Moorpark College's success. "From introductory courses to hands-on labs, what Moorpark offers is absolutely fantastic," he said.

"I really can't say enough about what we offer," said Cabral. ***"We have brilliant faculty building and strengthening industry partnerships that are leading to internships and jobs for our students and the impact has been tremendous."***

Open for Business in the Region

8

Number of regional community colleges offering courses in the business and entrepreneurship sector.

1,617

Average number of regional students who transfer to a four-year institution each year after completing studies in business/entrepreneurship.

42%

Average increase in earnings for students who complete a business/entrepreneurship degree or certificate.

OXNARD COLLEGE

FILLING A NEED

It is a solid investment. Virtually every student completing the Oxnard College Dental Hygiene Program – which is fully accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation and recognized by the Dental Hygiene Board of California as being fully compliant with all state-mandated regulations – has passed the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination administered by the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations for the past 11 years.

Dulcemaria Rodriguez is among the success stories. The 37-year-old Oxnard resident, who had been a dental assistant for nearly 15 years before she enrolled in the Dental Hygiene Program in 2018, had multiple job offers upon completing her training.

"It's a very rigorous program that requires effort and dedication, but the results are worth it," Rodriguez said. ***"The instructors are competent, they all enjoy what they are doing, they have a passion for teaching, and they push you to do your best. It's a high-quality education that prepares you for the real world."***

No wonder the Oxnard College Dental Hygiene Program was one of two at the campus – the other being the award-winning Fire Technology Program – named a 2020 National Bellwether Award finalist.

Indeed, with a 100 percent pass rate, the Dental Hygiene Program is far exceeding goals set out by the California Community College District's Vision for Success. This includes increasing by at least 20 percent the number of students statewide annually who earn degrees, credentials, certificates, or specific skill sets to prepare them for an in-demand job while also increasing the percentage of career education students employed in their field of study from 60 to 69 percent.

In fact, **the program's graduates enjoy a 100 percent job placement rate,** said Armine Derdiardian, Oxnard College's Dean of Career Technology Education. "We take students who are told that they can't do it and we show them that they can do it, and they can do it well," she said.

Strong Workforce Program dollars, Derdiarian added, have allowed Oxnard College to purchase equipment for students to become proficient in digital radiography and certified in using dental lasers. "Without these dollars, we could not invest in the technology needed to stay current and have our students job ready," she said.

OXNARD COLLEGE LAUNCHES ONE-YEAR CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM AND CERTIFICATION

Oxnard College has a new Cybersecurity Program that prepares graduates for in-demand jobs protecting computer networks from the growing threat of security breaches.

"There is a shortage of cybersecurity professionals, not only in our region but all over the globe, and this training will help our graduates build secure and comfortable lives for themselves and their families," said Oxnard College President Luis Sanchez.

The new offering supported in part by Strong Workforce Program funding was developed in partnership with an advisory council of networking and cybersecurity professionals intent on boosting the pipeline of students with hands-on training and interdisciplinary expertise.

"We at Oxnard College want to equip cybersecurity trainees with the certifications we know are valued in the industry and which will help fill the increasing need companies have to protect their networks and data," said Alex Lynch, professor of computer networking/IT at Oxnard College. "This program is streamlined to help students train for cybersecurity careers in a reasonably short timeframe while learning the essential skills of the cybersecurity industry."

Advancing the Region Technologically

8

Number of regional community colleges offering courses in the information and communication technologies/digital media sector.

16,813

Average number of students annually enrolled in the information and communication technologies/digital media sector.

39%

Average increase in earnings for students who complete an information and communication technologies/digital media degree or certificate.

DID YOU KNOW?

There's never been a better time for students to enter the IT workforce, as thousands of high paying jobs remain unfilled across California. Since many entry-level jobs don't require a 4-year degree, community colleges are positioned to help students with little or no technical experience get training and industry certifications that lead to well-paying, in-demand jobs in computer networking and cybersecurity.

SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE

STRENGTHENING STUDENT SKILLS THROUGH STRONG WORKFORCE FUNDING

Equipped with wooden benches and a limited selection of hand tools, Santa Barbara City College's Auto Technology Program was, said Auto Tech Program Chair Russell Granger, "like a high school facility."

Not anymore. Thanks to approximately $250,000 in Strong Workforce Program dollars, Auto Tech students at Santa Barbara City College now have access to modernized service bays, new laptops, digital storage oscilloscopes, professional auto scan devices, and more.

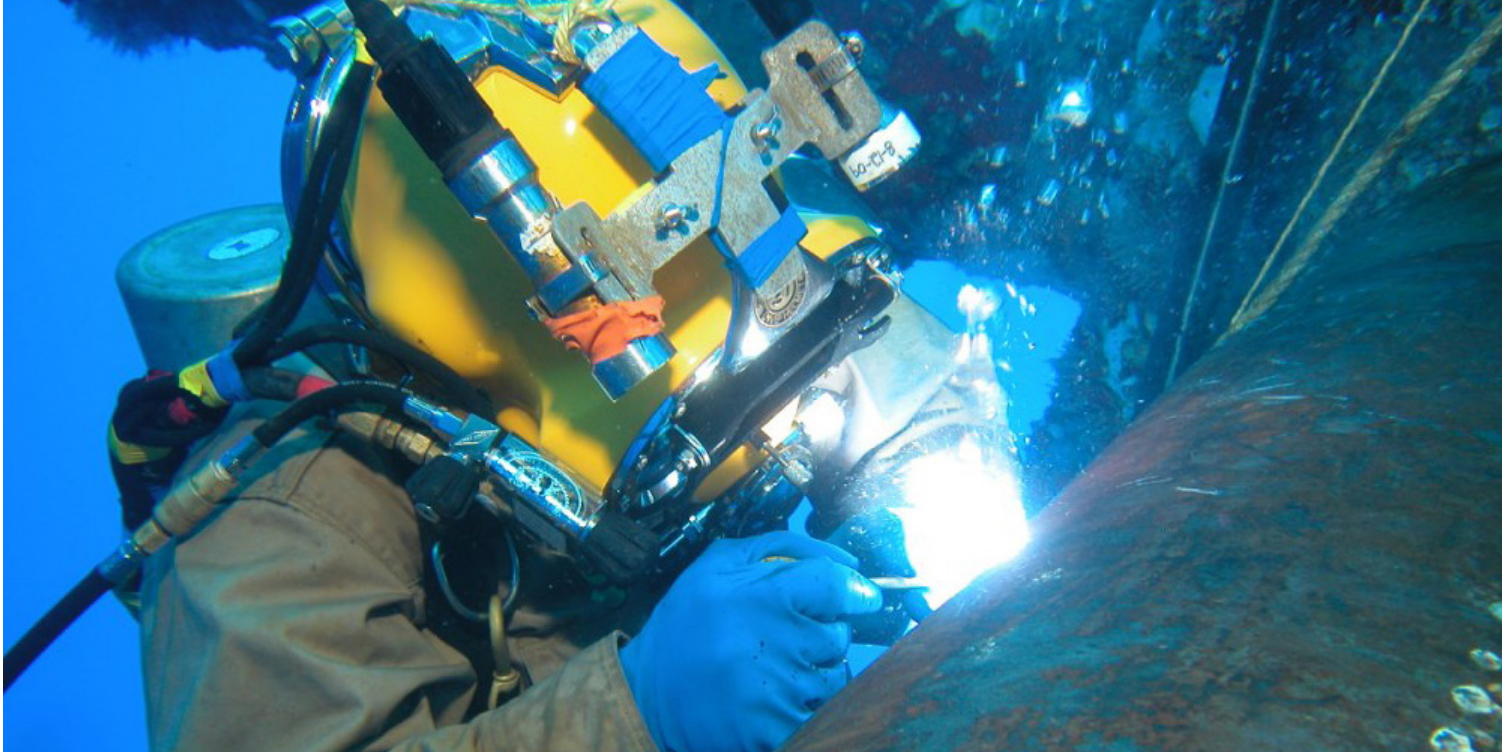
"The Strong Workforce Program literally transformed our program and local industry has definitely noticed the improvement," Granger said.

Auto Tech graduate Jack Dookie is a believer. He enrolled in the program in the fall of 2017 after working as a medical courier for some 15 years and watched the transformation first-hand. "When I first got there they only had one alignment rack, just three outdated computers, and very few tools that people had to share," Dookie said. "Now the computers are updated, the engine and transmission shops have been updated, the facilities couldn't be better. It's a great program. ***They taught me everything I needed to know about repairing and maintaining vehicles, which led directly to the job I have now as an automotive technician at Mercedes-Benz in Santa Barbara."***

Similar success stories can be found at Santa Barbara City College's Nursing and Marine Diving Technologies programs.

DID YOU KNOW?

Students who earn a California Community College degree or certificate nearly double their earnings within three years.



"The Strong Workforce dollars allowed us to refurbish a facility that was just downright derelict," said Marine Diving Technologies Director Geoff Thielst. Today, the only community college degree program of its kind in the nation has a rebuilt crane, a new hydraulics unit with upgraded tools, new flooring, and an abundance of modern technology – all of which is training the next generation of commercial divers, crane operators, boat operators, bridge inspectors, and oil rig repair workers.

"We really can't say enough about the improvements we've seen the past few years," Thielst said. "It is really making a difference."

SANTA BARBARA CITY COLLEGE BOASTS NEW, STATE-OF-THE-ART EQUIPMENT

Santa Barbara City College also invested Strong Workforce Dollars to completely update its Allied Health and Nursing Laboratory with state-of-the-art simulators and patient care equipment. The success of that investment is embodied by students such as Kaitlin Shipley. After working as a medical assistant for several years, Shipley enrolled at the award-winning program and graduated with an associate degree in nursing in 2019. Today she is working in the isolation room at Lompoc Valley Medical Center as one of the local heroes in the battle against COVID-19. She credits Santa Barbara City College with providing her "excellent clinical instruction."

"I became a nurse because I wanted to do something in my career that is challenging, interesting, and patient-focused," added Shipley. "I feel the greatest sense of fulfillment by improving someone's day and making them feel cared for. Being amongst my fellow nurses and working as a team makes me realize I am part of something important, especially in times like these."

Keeping the Region Running Strong

7

Number of regional community colleges offering courses in the advanced transportation and renewables sector sector.

68%

Percentage of students who complete an advanced transportation and renewables degree or certificate who are employed within 6 months.

$27.33

Advanced transportation and renewables median hourly wage for middle-skilled workers.

VENTURA COLLEGE

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM EMBODIES INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

Ventura College is going all in. Armed with state Strong Workforce dollars, Ventura College has been slashing textbook costs and removing other financial barriers for those looking for a clear pathway to a solid-paying profession; boosting services at its Career Center; expanding work-based learning and internship opportunities; and upgrading equipment in its Nursing, Paramedic, Emergency Medical Technician, and Manufacturing career education programs.

Success is rooted in collaborating with business and industry in designing programs that fill local needs. Nowhere is that more evident than with the new Veterinary Technology program at Ventura College's East Campus in Santa Paula, a program that launches in spring of 2021 with a cohort of 26 students. Ohana Pet Hospital, a full-service veterinary hospital located in Ventura, is partnering with the college in building a new teaching lab facility, and Ohana Pet Hospital's founding partner, Dr. Jill Muraoka Lim, has been named Interim Program Director.

"Every single pet hospital, probably across the country, will tell you they are in need of veterinary assistants and veterinary technicians," said Dr. Lim, who noted there are currently only 13 institutions that offer an accredited Veterinary Technology program in California. "There are a lot of career opportunities for the program graduates and we are proud to partner with Ventura College."

Indeed, the job market for veterinary technicians and technologists is projected to grow much faster than average through 2029, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, with the regional average wage surpassing $41,000 annually.

DID YOU KNOW?

Twenty percent of all community college students nationwide are enrolled in a California Community College.

VENTURA COLLEGE'S NEW EQUIPMENT PREPARES STUDENTS FOR IN-DEMAND CAREERS

Success can also be found at the Ventura College Nursing Program, where Strong Workforce dollars have contributed to a state-of-the-art simulation lab equipped with high-fidelity medical manikins that incorporate the latest in computer hardware technology.

"If you don't have the latest equipment that's being used in hospitals and medical centers, you're not training your students for the jobs that are in demand," said Debbie Newcomb, Ventura College Dean of Career Education I. The program's success can be found in its students, **97 percent of whom pass the NCLEX-RN on their first attempt** in Spring 2020.

Similar investments have bolstered the Paramedic Studies and EMT programs. The Ventura College Paramedic Studies Program is the only one of its kind fully accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs in Ventura County, and nearly **93 percent of students** pass the required National Registry of EMT Paramedic/State Cognitive Exam on their first try. What's more, virtually every graduate from the most recent cohort is now fully employed or continuing their education.

"From faculty and professional staff building relationships with and pathways to business and industry, to help with textbooks and resume development, we're supporting students from entry to exit, all with an eye on equity," said Felicia Duenas, Dean of Career Education II.

Providing Educational Opportunities for Regional Graduates

$1,380

Average annual tuition at a regional community college.

$1.6M

The average lifetime earnings of a graduate with an associate degree.

51%

Percent of graduates of the California State University system who transferred from a California Community College.

SCCRC REGIONAL INVESTMENTS

REGIONAL DIRECTORS: KEEPING SUPPLY AND DEMAND IN ALIGNMENT

Anyone wondering how the SCCRC Regional Directors can help build solid pathways to careers need look no further than Holly Nolan Chavez, one of seven Regional Directors supporting the colleges' and region's sector-specific efforts. A Regional Director of Employer Engagement in the areas of agriculture, water, and environmental technologies, Nolan Chavez has played a key role in facilitating a revived agricultural program at Ventura College, building a new agricultural campus at Cuesta College, and expanding agricultural offerings at Allan Hancock College to include plant science, pest control, food safety to help support a $4 billion regional industry.

"Our focus is to promote sector-specific, career education programs in the region by evaluating the needs of business, industry, and government agencies and interfacing with K-12 and community colleges to develop pathways and training programs for students interested in pursuing careers in a particular field," said Nolan Chavez. "Our job runs the gamut: sitting on curriculum development committees, sponsoring trainings, attending a variety of industry-related meetings, hosting all kinds of events, you name it."

The South Central Coast Regional Consortium includes Regional Directors supporting Advanced Manufacturing; Agriculture, Water, and Environmental Technologies; Global Trade; Heath Care; Information and Communication Technology and Digital Media; Business and Entrepreneurship; and Energy, Construction, and Utilities.

Taken together, those sectors are seeing a growing demand for skilled workers, including nearly 9,000 annual job openings in business and entrepreneurship; more than 5,800 annual job openings in health care; and more than 1,300 annual job openings in agriculture, water and environmental technologies.

THE SCCRC REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Name	Sector	Host College
Mike Bastine	Advanced Manufacturing	College of the Canyons
Paula Hodge	ICT & Digital Media	College of the Canyons
Gayla Jurevich	Business & Entrepreneurship	Cuesta College
Holly Nolan Chavez	Agriculture, Water & Env Technology	Allan Hancock College
Irene Ornelas	Health	College of the Canyons
Adilene Polis	Global Trade	Santa Barbara City College
Dave Teasdale	Energy, Construction & Utilities	Kern Community College District

REGIONAL JOB DEVELOPERS: PLACING STUDENTS IN THE WORKFORCE

Their titles vary by college but the responsibilities are nearly identical and couldn't be more critical: working with business and industry in connecting students to a variety of work-based learning opportunities and employment in living-wage, high- demand career fields.

At Allan Hancock College, the position is titled College and Career Readiness Specialist. At Santa Barbara City College, the position is called CTE Internship Coordinator/Job Placement Specialist. Other colleges in South Central Coast Regional Consortium have dubbed the position as Job Developer. All are supported through an annual investment of $112,500 at each college through the South Central Coast Regional Consortium's Strong Workforce Program.

> ***"Job development and placement services play a key role in supporting and advancing student persistence, completion, and successful transition to the active workforce,"*** said Margaret Lau, Dean of Academic Affairs at Allan Hancock College. ***"And the ability to recruit and retain skilled workers in an ever dynamic, technology-dependent, globally competitive workforce is the key to the economic vitality and prosperity of individuals, families, communities, state, and nation."***

"This position is responsible for identifying high-demand jobs, building relationships with local businesses, and being a point of contact between our local labor market and our college," said Alan Price, Dean of Educational Programs at Santa Barbara City College.

THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE: SUPPORTING DATA-DRIVEN DECISION-MAKING

The Center of Excellence (COE), South Central Coast provides regional and local workforce data customized for community college decision-making and resource development. Effective use of labor market information, provided by the COE, enables the colleges to offer programs that reflect what employers need, prepare students for related opportunities, and strengthen the role the institution plays in contributing to local economic development.

C·O·E

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FOR LABOR MARKET RESEARCH

COE Director, Dr. Adele Hermann, focused this past year on completing an in-depth sector analysis project. Key to this work was consistent review of the labor market information with stakeholders across the region. The COE convened faculty from across the region to review the data in their sector of expertise. Faculty feedback was then compiled and shared, along with summary data from the COE, with community college and regional leadership. These stakeholders came together, in meetings facilitated by the COE with support from the State and Regional Directors for each sector, to determine regional sector priorities and related recommendations. Summary reports were created containing regional sector priorities and recommendations (including COVID-19 impacts) that will drive local and regional planning going forward.

South Central Coast Regional Consortium
Hosted by Santa Barbara City College
721 Cliff Drive
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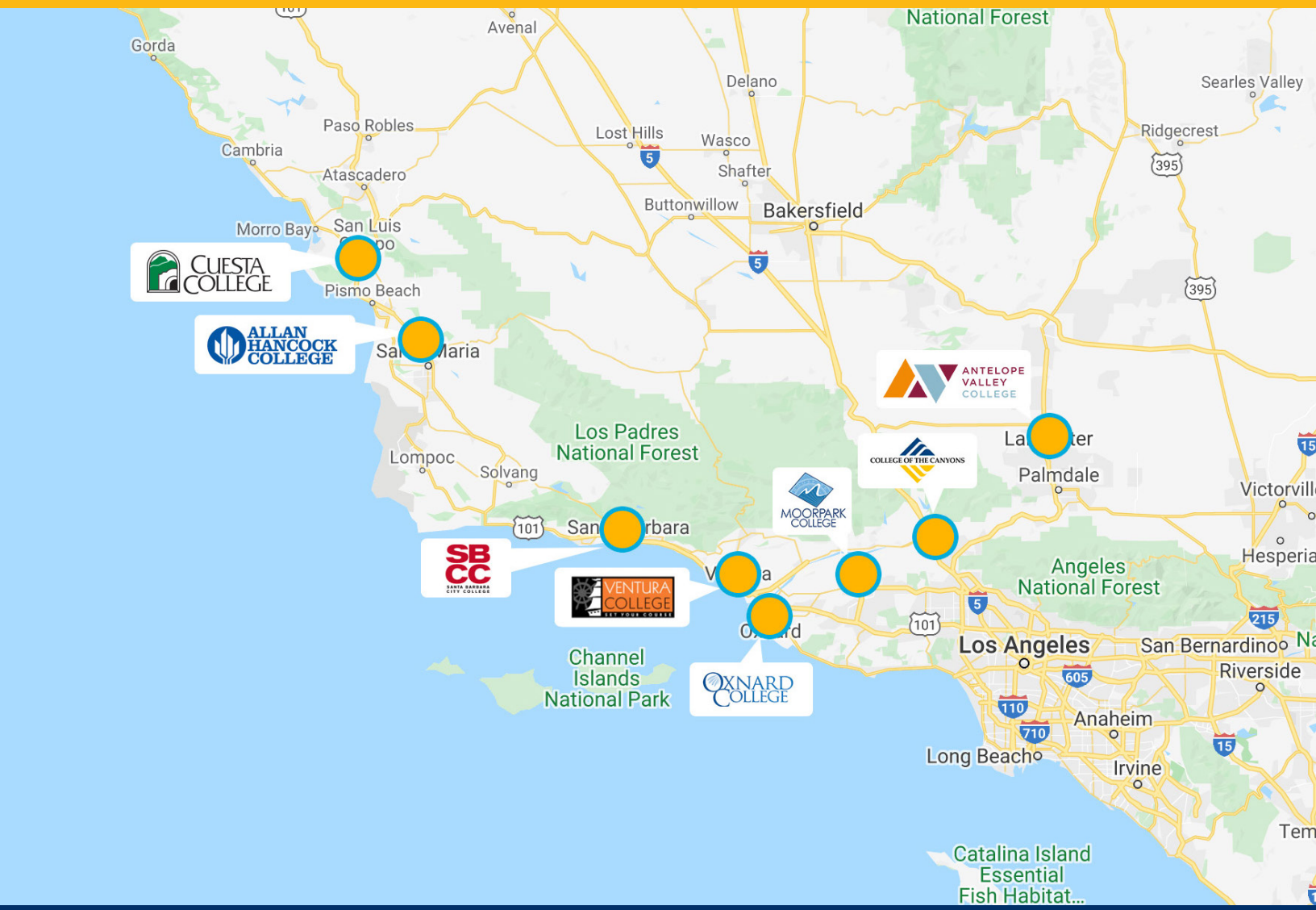
THE COLLEGES OF THE SOUTH CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL CONSORTIUM



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