

Community College Can Expand Transitions into the Workforce

Excerpt from January Governor's 2016-17 Budget Proposal, Page 46

In 2015, the Community College Board of Governors Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation, and a Strong Economy identified an opportunity to align the myriad of career technical education programs at the community colleges and local education agencies with the state's regional workforce needs and four-year undergraduate programs. Community college career technical education serves as a gateway for a large and diverse number of careers in the California economy.

The Budget proposes \$200 million Proposition 98 General Fund to support the Strong Workforce Program, which will enable community colleges to expand access to additional career technical education courses and programs and to implement a regional accountability structure that is aligned with the Task Force's recommendations.

As part of the Strong Workforce Program, community colleges will be expected to collaborate regionally with their educational, workforce, labor, and civic partners to expand access to career technical education programs that meet each region's workforce needs. These collaboratives will develop regional plans that align programmatic offerings with local workforce demand. Community colleges will use the strategic plans to inform the development, coordination, and availability of new and existing career technical education courses and programs. The CCC Board of Governors is expected to adopt guidance, policies, and regulatory reforms that enable community college districts to develop and expand access to career technical education courses and programs in a timely manner.