



Career Ladders Project
www.CareerLaddersProject.org

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The Career Ladders Project (CLP) works to strengthen educational and career advancement for Californians. Through research, policy initiatives, and direct assistance to community colleges and their workforce partners, CLP fosters career ladders in California.

Project Background

The Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges (CCC) adopted a major policy statement, Ladders of Opportunity, calling for a comprehensive career ladders initiative in California. Founded on this framing document, CLP aims to improve post-secondary career pathway access and advancement. The Board also incorporated CLP policy recommendations into its current system strategic plan.

Current Initiatives

The Career Ladders Project works statewide to impact education and workforce development policy and practice in California. CLP works across multiple venues—including the CCC system, the CCC Basic Skills Initiative, the California EDGE Campaign, the legislature and other state level arenas—to raise issues, share effective practice, address barriers and pose systemic solutions. A founding member of the California EDGE Campaign, CLP provides ongoing executive level leadership to this non-partisan effort to lift up workforce development and to forge coherent state strategies that address the skill needs of employers and provide opportunity for all Californians.

CLP works with a number of large-scale innovative and systematic initiatives to build career pathways. CLP provides technical assistance, documents lessons learned, and fosters a community of practice across the sites. CLP assists with: professional development; resource development and sustainability planning; independent evaluation and data tracking processes; program development and improvement; regional career pathways; and partnerships among K-16 educational institutions, workforce boards, community organizations, labor and employers.

As initiatives mature, CLP works with state leadership and policy makers to promote expansion and replication of successful projects and to identify and implement systemic policy changes that can better support effective practices. Current initiatives include:

- The Gateway Project, creating bridges to college and career for disconnected young adults;
- The California Community College Career Advancement Academies, regional demonstration projects designed to establish pipelines to college and high wage careers for under prepared and underemployed young adults—in partnership with the California Community College system;
- The CCC Linking Afterschool Employment to Career Pathways Project preparing community college students for careers in education, youth development and human services—while they gain paid work experience in K-12 Afterschool programs;
- The Community College Pathways Project, improving post-secondary access and success for former foster youth;
- The Concurrent Courses Initiative: Pathways to College and Careers, providing low-income youth with career-focused dual enrollment opportunities—in partnership with the Community College Research Center (Teachers' College, Columbia University).



The Career Ladders Project operates under the auspices of the Foundation for California Community Colleges, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and the official auxiliary to the CCC system.

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