



# Workforce Initiative

## 2006-07 Highlights

---

### Vision

Create a seamless system of transition for students from high school to post-secondary education, training and careers.

### Goals:

- Develop a workforce pipeline to serve Contra Costa's high-wage, high-skill, high-demand careers in major industry sectors including: Health; BioTechnology; Environmental Sciences; Engineering, Construction & Manufacturing.
- Move from an organizational (K-16, business, labor and government) structure that supports working in silos to a more collaborative system focused on student success connected to real people doing real things in the Contra Costa workforce.
- Create, strengthen and/or support high school career pathways/academies in strategic industry sectors.
- Serve as an intermediary to convene, connect, communicate, collaborate and coordinate sustained bridging activities between business and education to secure a workforce pipeline and seamless system of student transitions to the workplace.

### 2006-07 Accomplishments:

#### Health & BioTechnology Industry Sector:

- **Health/BioTech Summer Science Camp**--Fifty-one students, 10 high school teachers, and 13 industries representatives participated in the fourth annual summer camp. Presenting Sponsor: Bio-Rad Laboratories | Major Sponsor: John Muir Health | CCCOE | Contra Costa College | CCEP | CSU-EB, Concord Campus. Students received college credit. (July 9-13, 2007)
- **Teacher Job Shadowing (BEST Day)**--Ten high school teachers shadowed in the health industry for one-day to help integrate relevancy into core academic curriculum. In all, 56 teachers shadowed in a variety of industry sectors on BEST Day. John Muir Health and Concord Chamber of Commerce sponsored the event. (February 22, 2007)
- **Health Career Fair**--More than 400 high school students and 15 teachers from 10 Contra Costa high schools attended this one-day event focused on hard-to-fill careers in healthcare including Diagnostic Imaging, Clinical Laboratory, Pre-hospital Care, Technology & Health. In addition, more than 20 careers were explored through the Exhibition Hall. Presenting sponsors were John Muir Health, Sutter Health. Major sponsor was Kaiser Permanente. (February 2, 2007)
- **Workshop for Counselors**--Representatives from 5 health care professions participated in an Industry Breakfast for Counselors throughout Contra Costa County to inform school professionals about the pre-requisite skills and training required to access high-paying jobs in health care. Presenting sponsor was Diablo Valley College. (April 12, 2007)
- **Contra Costa Science & Engineering Fair**--65 industry judges reviewed over 100 student projects related to biology, physics, environmental, behavioral, engineering and math at the second annual event. Fifty-one projects were focused on Biological Studies. Two students and 4 teachers attended the international science competition as a result. Presenting sponsors including Bio-Rad Laboratories, Dow, and Chevron. (March 22, 23 & 24)
- **Preparing for a Changing World**--A video project was completed which highlighted the technical transformation in the health care industry as a part of an 8-minute presentation which also included the voice of government, education and labor. The project was sponsored by John Muir Health, IBEW/NECA and the Contra Costa County Workforce Development Board.
- **Health Career Academies**--Supported ongoing dialogue with and industry engagement around the strengthening of the high school health/biotech academies in Contra Costa County. Of particular interest were Ygnacio Valley High School, Richmond High School, Deer Valley High School and Liberty High School.
- **Industry Sector Dialogue**--Held 12 monthly meetings of industry, K-12, government, and community college representatives to discuss strategies to create a seamless system.

#### Environmental Sciences Industry Sector

- **Environmental Sciences Summer Camp**--A week-long curriculum was developed and "tested" at an inaugural summer camp which engaged 12 students, 2 teachers and 22 industry partners representing water, wastewater, watershed, bioremediation, air quality, climate change, vector control, alternative energy (wind, fuel cell, solar, traditional power generation), endangered species (Delta Smelt, Checkerspot Butterfly), and career exploration. Presenting sponsors included Los Medanos College, Delta Diablo Sanitation District, CCCOE, Dow, Central San, and CCEP (June 25-29, 2007)

- **Teacher Job Shadowing (BEST Day)**--Five high school teachers shadowed in the environmental sciences industry for one-day to help integrate relevancy into core academic curriculum. In all, 56 teachers shadowed in a variety of industry sectors on BEST Day. John Muir Health and Concord Chamber of Commerce sponsored the event. (February 22, 2007)
- **Workshop for Counselors**--Representatives from 5 environmental sciences professions participated in an Industry Breakfast for Counselors throughout Contra Costa County to inform school professionals about the pre-requisite skills and training required to access high-paying jobs in environmental sciences. Diablo Valley College was the presenting sponsor. (March 16, 2007)
- **Contra Costa Science & Engineering Fair**--65 industry judges reviewed over 100 student projects related to biology, physics, environmental, behavioral, engineering and math at the second annual event. Seven projects were related to environmental sciences. Two students and 4 teachers attended the international science competition as a result. Presenting sponsors include Bio-Rad Laboratories, Dow, and Chevron. (March 22, 23 & 24)
- **Environmental Sciences Career Academies**--Supported ongoing dialogue with and industry engagement around the strengthening of the high school environmental sciences academies in Contra Costa County. Of particular interest were Pinole Valley High School and Heritage High.
- **Industry Sector Dialogue**--Held 12 monthly meetings of industry, government, K-12, and community college representatives to discuss strategies to create a seamless system.

#### **Engineering, Construction & Manufacturing Industry Sector**

- **Engineering, Construction & Manufacturing Summer Camp**--Sixty-one high school students, 7 high school teachers and 22 business, labor and government representatives participated in the third annual summer camp focused on this industry sector. Presenting sponsor was Diablo Valley College. (June 18-22, 2007)
- **Teacher Job Shadowing (BEST Day)**--Ten high school teachers shadowed in the engineering, construction & manufacturing industry for one-day to help integrate relevancy into core academic curriculum. In all, 56 teachers shadowed in a variety of industry sectors on BEST Day. John Muir Health and Concord Chamber of Commerce sponsored the event. (February 22, 2007)
- **Workshop for Counselors**--Representatives from 5 building & construction professions participated in an Industry Breakfast for Counselors throughout Contra Costa County to inform school professionals about the pre-requisite skills and training required to access high-paying jobs in this career area. Presenting sponsor was Diablo Valley College. (October 6, 2006)
- **Contra Costa Science & Engineering Fair**--65 industry judges reviewed over 100 student projects related to biology, physics, engineering and math at the second annual event. Fourteen projects were related to engineering and math. Two students and 4 teachers attended the international science competition as a result. Presenting sponsors including Bio-Rad Laboratories, Dow, and Chevron. (March 22, 23 & 24)
- **Engineering, Construction & Manufacturing Career Academies**--Supported ongoing dialogue with and industry engagement around the strengthening of the high school construction-related academies in Contra Costa County. Of particular interest were Kennedy High School, Mt. Diablo High School and Pittsburg High School.
- **Preparing for a Changing World**--A video project was completed which highlighted the technical transformation in public and private sector as a part of an 8-minute presentation which also included the voice of government, education and labor. The project was sponsored by John Muir Health, IBEW/NECA and the Contra Costa County Workforce Development Board.
- **Industry Sector Dialogue**--Held 12 monthly meetings of industry, government, K-12, and community college representatives to discuss strategies to create a seamless system.

*These highlights would not be possible without the strategic engagement of partners like industry, Contra Costa Community College District and the Contra Costa County Office of Education. We thank all who have been supportive of creating a seamless system in Contra Costa County.*

#### **Other Efforts:**

- **Legislative Advocacy**--Met with Senator Tom Torlakson, Assemblywoman Loni Hancock and Assemblyman Mark DeSaulnier and County Supervisor Susan Bonilla to discuss CCEP's intermediary work and to share key accomplishments. Supported the development of SB21 which, if passed, will support intermediary pilot projects in California. Supported the passage of SB830 to increase to 390 the number of funded California Partnership Academies. In addition, SB70 implementation strategies included the State Chancellor's office investment in a portion of the Contra Costa Economic Partnership's Workforce Initiative through 2009.
- **CCEP Intermediary Voice on Countywide Panels**--Represented the Workforce Initiative on several panels in Contra Costa including: East Bay Business Council's Joint Work Session on "Who Will Build the Proposition 1B Projects"; Industrial Association of Contra Costa's panel on innovative career technical programming; and Candidate for State Schools Superintendent Tom Torlakson's inaugural Contra Costa event focused on Career Technical Education in California.
- **CCEP Support to DVC for Industrial Technology 2-year Degree/Certificate Program Introduction--2008**
- Year-long exploration and dialogue to consider implementing **ACE Mentoring** at key Contra Costa high schools.
- Year-long exploration and dialogue to consider introducing a 4-year pre-engineering strand (**Project Lead the Way** curriculum) in existing Industrial Technology and/or Construction Academy programs in Contra Costa including Kennedy, Mt. Diablo and Pittsburg high schools.