



Central Valley  
HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

# MOVING FORWARD

**The Central Valley Higher Education Consortium (CVHEC)** is a non-profit, incorporated partnership of 26 accredited public and private colleges and universities, and community college districts. Serving a 10-county region from Stockton to Bakersfield, CVHEC was established in 2000 by the presidents and chancellors of the region's colleges and universities. Together, CVHEC's higher education institutions are making a positive impact on the educational achievement of our region.

The Consortium uses collaboration and innovation in promoting college going and outreach and college readiness efforts.

Continued emphasis is on supporting efforts to improve outcomes including productivity, student learning and success of underrepresented groups, advancing partnerships with business and industry, and providing incentives for inter-segmental collaboration. This proactive and strategic approach will advance student learning and success of the underrepresented students and create more "home grown" success stories that escalate gains in college attainment and completion over time.

## STRATEGIC GOALS

- Goal 1** Strengthen and promote a collective regional voice that advocates higher education in the Central Valley
- Goal 2** Continually reinforce and nurture a college going culture in the Central Valley
- Goal 3** Lead efforts to improve student success and completion of post-secondary goals
- Goal 4** Develop new partnerships and leverage existing relationships to support CVHEC goals

## MISSION

The Mission of the Central Valley Higher Valley Higher Education Consortium is to provide effective leadership that promotes programs, policies, and performance designed to increase higher education attainment by the people in the Central Valley.

## VISION

The Vision of the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium is for the Central Valley to be a place where higher education is valued and attained by an increasing percentage of our population resulting in an enhanced quality of life in our region.

**By accomplishing the above goals, the Consortium institutions will MOVE FORWARD in improving the quality of life for more residents in the Central Valley through higher education.**



## Message from the Executive Director

*The leaders of California's three public higher education systems recently united in a call to update the state's 50-year-old Master Plan for Higher Education.*

*While the once innovative master plan opened college doors to millions of Californians in the 1960s and decades that followed, Janet Napolitano, president of the University of California, correctly notes, "We can do more."*

*"Average Won't Do It," a recent report by the Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy, noted California is falling short in preparing and graduating college students. Researchers contend the master-planned public education system that bolstered California's standing as a world economic and education leader has fallen into mediocrity.*

*At an appearance before the UC Regents' January meeting, the education leaders, who also included CSU Chancellor Timothy White and California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice Harris, stressed the need to make college education more affordable and accessible to all Californians by streamlining the student transfer process; increasing student outreach programs; and promoting communication between higher education systems. The key to achieving these goals, they said, is collaboration.*

*According to the Legislative Analyst's Office, the Central Valley has fewer high school students seeking college degrees or job skills training than the statewide average. About 51 percent of secondary school students statewide attend college to obtain a degree, or specialized technical training. In the Central Valley, that number is 25 percent.*

*There are many reasons for this disparity. With agriculture being a Central Valley dominant industry, farm work often creates seasonal jobs that do not require college educations. The tuition and fees universities charge leave even those who qualify to enroll believing that higher education is beyond their financial reach.*

*Years ago, the leaders of the Central Valley's colleges and universities recognized the need to collaborate. They realized working together, rather than competing, would benefit students, higher education institutions, taxpayers and regional businesses.*

*Our public and private colleges from Stockton to Bakersfield participate in the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium since 2000. With 26 colleges and university members now participating, the consortium is focused on helping an increasing number of Central Valley students succeed in college.*

## CollegeNext! Boot Camp

On January 6th more than 60 high school students met at University Square to register for 30 hours of instruction designed to teach them how to get into college and succeed once they get there. The high school juniors were recruited from campuses in Fresno, Kings, and Tulare counties. The idea of attaining a college degree or advanced skills training was just a dream to many of the students, who would be the first generation in their families to go to school beyond grade 12. Boot Camp will translate their dreams into reality.

The four day camp hosted at Fresno State prepared students for the college admission process. In addition, those students will be trained to become college opportunity ambassadors and go back and empower their high school peers. They will be visible on their campuses wearing t-shirts that state, "Ask Me How to Go."

The program was offered by the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium and funded by a grant from the Fresno Regional Foundation.

A second grant was recently awarded to host a summer program June 16- 20, 2014 funded by the Walter S. Johnson Foundation.



**Translate dreams into reality.**

**CollegeNext  
BOOT CAMP  
Jan. 6-9**

## The Central Valley Higher Education Consortium is Moving Forward Degree Completion

College readiness continues to be a top priority. As we come near to an end of our funding support from the California Education Policy Fund, (CEPF), we are boastful of our efforts. We have invested two years in the capacity building of a region-wide standards and accountability that better prepares students to “be ready” and to succeed in college from the first assessment/placement test through graduation. Consortium staff and college faculty are near completion of a pilot project encompassing a series of innovative approaches to educational policy reform efforts focused on college readiness. The first priority has been on assessment and placement into college English and math courses. Our pilot project policy reform efforts focus on interrelated educational areas and will utilize action-oriented advocacy as a comprehensive strategy to policy making. As a result we are working on a streamlined, common assessment system that will serve to revolutionize testing for students in the Central Valley region.

Nine of the Central Valley Community Colleges and one college center (Modesto, San Joaquin Delta, Merced, Fresno City, Willow/International Center, West Hills Coalinga, West Hills Lemoore, Porterville, Cerro Coso, and Bakersfield) participated in the pilot project. The tests are now going through the state validation and approval processes, and the data used in these processes come from the participating colleges. Once the tests receive approval, the colleges can begin using them for student placement into English and math courses. Approval is anticipated for Fall 2014 classes. The tests will also be available for any California community college to use.

## Expanded Involvement

The Consortium is unique in that it brings college and university leaders together with K-12 administrators to develop programs to expand and streamline job training, improve the college readiness of high school graduates, and regional alignment of curriculum. Discussions on a regional basis are taking place among K-12 superintendents and higher education CEOs relative to the impact of the new Common Core Standards and Smarter Balanced assessment on both the K-12 institutions and higher education institutions. Collaborative meetings took place February, 7, 2014 (North Valley - CSU Stanislaus, Turlock, CA ), March 7, 2014 (South Valley - CSU Bakersfield, Bakersfield, CA ), March 21, 2014 (Central Valley - State Center Community College District, District Office North).

## Department of Labor TAACCCT Grant

The award marks an unprecedented opportunity for our region to develop accelerated, intensive programs of study so students earn a degree or credential of value in a reasonable amount of time, enabling them to enter the workforce of critical industries with growing occupational demand in an accelerated time-frame. This project is grounded in Valley expertise and input from regional employers and county Workforce Investment Boards which will transform the design, structure and delivery of education at 13 Central Valley Community Colleges. Our Board believes that our experience and research-based project can be replicated as a state and national model.

CVHEC hosted a one day Convergence at the Fresno Piccadilly Inn on September 26 focused on sustainability, job placement, resource allocation, and evaluation. Two sessions were facilitated by Bill Craft and Kathleen Guy from the Eaton Cummings Group, and participants left with a plan and ideas for how to implement these important elements at each college. One of the afternoon sessions was especially designed for CEOs, VPs, Deans, and faculty leaders. The convergence was a one-day event hosted at Fresno Piccadilly Inn Airport.

A second convergence was hosted on Friday March 7 at the University of California Center, Fresno. An event highlight included a student panel that shared their classroom experiences as a result of the innovation brought forth from the grant.



## EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Dr. Dorothy Leland, President  
Chancellor, University of California, Merced

Dr. Frank Gornick, Chancellor  
West Hills Community College District

Mr. Don Warkentin, Treasurer  
President, West Hills College-Lemoore

Mr. Joseph Coppola, Secretary  
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Dr. Joseph Sheley, President  
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Dr. Rosa Carlson, President  
Porterville College

Dr. Joseph Castro, President  
California State University, Fresno

## CVHEC BOARD

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Alliant International University

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National University

Dr. Sandra Serrano, Chancellor  
Kern Community College District

Dr. Carole Goldsmith, President  
West Hills College-Coalinga

Dr. Joan Smith, Chancellor  
Yosemite Community College District

## CVHEC Educational Outreach

College faculty leads, Executive Director, Dr. Barbara Hioco and Associate Director, Cheri Cruz joined Matthew Schultz, Director Psychometric Services, McCann Associates presenting at the 2013 Community College League of California Conference. The presentation was titled Developing a Next Generation Common Placement Assessment for the C6 Consortium.

The presentation was also made on February 26, 2014, at the **2014 ACCCA Conference**. The conference theme this year was Targeting Change: Rebuilding the Dream for Student Success, and it was selected to reflect the adjustments being made to create a focus around the Student Success agenda. The interactive session included insights shared on the project development and results.

Associate Director, Cheri Cruz led a group of Fresno State Student Affairs and College Counseling graduate students, Aide Navarro, Byron Harwell, Lauren Welch to the **NACADA 2014 Region 9** Conference in Berkeley, CA on March 25-26, 2014, Innovate and Collaborate: Advising a Diverse World. The students, who served as mentors for the College Boot Camp, provided a poster board featuring the event as a model for non-traditional, intrusive college advising using "Self-Authorship" as their theory premise.

Additionally, the graduate students presented on March 28, 2014 at the **20th Conference on Character and Civic Education** to an audience of Valley K-12 teachers and administrators. The Boot Camp was selected as a model service learning project by the Bonner Center for Character and Civic Education.

## CVHEC Marketing Committee

The CVHEC Marketing Committee meets quarterly and is made up of college and university Public Information Officers. One priority is to communicate the wide range of degrees and certificate programs available at our Central Valley Colleges and Universities. In addition the focus this next year will be on supporting the new strategic plan and goals.



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## MOVING FORWARD

For more information about the CVHEC mission and other related initiatives, visit our website: [www.collegenext.org](http://www.collegenext.org)

To contact the editor of **MOVING FORWARD**: Email: Cheri Cruz: [ccruz@csufresno.edu](mailto:ccruz@csufresno.edu)

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