

## WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION TEAM

**Team Leaders:** Renee John, Valley Vision, [renee.john@valleyvision.org](mailto:renee.john@valleyvision.org)  
Francisco Ruiz, Improve Your Tomorrow, [francisco@improveyourtomorrow.org](mailto:francisco@improveyourtomorrow.org)  
Xanthi Soriano, Sacramento County Office of Education, [xsoriano@scoe.net](mailto:xsoriano@scoe.net)

---

## ACCELERATED ALIGNED LEARNING PATHWAYS

The Sacramento Region is internationally known as a vibrant, diverse and abundant community of over 2.5 million people. Strategically located, it is also home to a number of major industries, including healthcare, agriculture and technology, which provide a stable base for economic growth and contribute to the competitiveness of our nation. The strength of our education system is critical to ensure our standing in the world and ensure our population is prepared to meet the current and future demands of work. Congress must place a high priority on all levels of education, including adult learners. Seamless transitions between systems are needed to ensure learners move to the next step in their education or upskilling journey as efficiently as possible. The accelerated pace of change within occupations and industries requires investment in rapid training, retraining, and certification to meet industry demand for skilled workers. Additionally, removing unnecessary regulatory barriers and administrative burdens allows for responsive and flexible learning models to meet the diverse needs of students, jobseekers and employers. Because workforce development, preK-12 education, and higher education are interconnected and complementary, leaders representing each of these areas across the Sacramento region urge members of Congress to adopt legislation that sustains and enhances the success of every student from cradle to career, including the ongoing training for adult learners for competitiveness, with the following actions:

### Requested Actions

- Reauthorize and thoughtfully reform WIOA at funding levels necessary to address United States worker competitiveness and increase alignment between programs utilizing strategic performance measures across systems
- Reauthorize and expand the National Apprenticeship Act, addressing access to apprenticeships through improved data systems, reduced administrative burdens, and clear connection with existing workforce and education systems
- Increase funding of Perkins Basic State Grant funds to address the significantly underfunded investment in short term, career connected certificate programs

*2023 Capitol-to-Capitol*

*For additional information, please contact Jack Blattner, Director of Government Affairs at (530) 219-0804 or [jblattner@metrochamber.org](mailto:jblattner@metrochamber.org) | [www.metrochamber.org](http://www.metrochamber.org)*

# CA CAPITOL — TO — CAPITOL DC

- Provide federal support for universal, easy-access post-secondary training accounts

## Brief Background

Reauthorize and thoughtfully reform WIOA at funding levels necessary to address United States worker competitiveness and increase alignment between programs utilizing strategic performance measures across systems.

As the primary funding backbone for worker training in the United States, WIOA is a critical component of developing and maintaining a future ready workforce and ensuring American competitiveness in an increasing global marketplace for talent. For too many years, WIOA has been too lowly funded to address the significant needs of individuals with unique and complex employment barriers, which is its primary objective. It's necessary to expand and maintain funding levels for WIOA commensurate with the increasing need, while improving alignment with other workforce and education systems. Strategic, industry aligned performance measures need to be adopted across workforce systems including WIOA, higher education, and in some respects TK-12.

Reauthorize and expand the National Apprenticeship Act (NAA), addressing access to apprenticeships through improved data systems, reduced administrative burdens, and establishing clear connection with existing workforce and education systems.

Work-based learning is a proven model to provide training to job seekers, specifically addressing the needs of low-income students by providing wages concurrent with a hands-on learning experience. While apprenticeships have a strong history of leading to high wages, equal access to these opportunities has been limited. Reauthorization of the NAA is an opportunity to improve and expand this model to better work for all Americans and businesses. We request the reduction of administrative burdens wherever possible while maintaining quality to encourage additional employer participation, the launch of new apprenticeships, and the ability to meet the needs of small and medium sized employers and nontraditional industries. We further request improvement in data systems including a national database of apprenticeships with clearly defined onramps to participation. We ask Congress to require clear linkages between apprenticeships and existing workforce and education systems including community college, WIOA, and higher education systems including credit for learning to encourage ongoing learning/upskilling.

Increased funding of Perkins Basic State Grant funds to address the significantly underfunded investment in short term, career connected certificate programs.

The CTE teacher shortage is significant, as resources are too limited to pay instructors commensurate to the salaries within industries. Additionally, the equipment costs to ensure classrooms are equipped with the latest technology aligned with employers requires significant, ongoing investment (1). Funding CTE programs appropriately will align with addressing the nation's

*2023 Capitol-to-Capitol*

*For additional information, please contact Jack Blattner, Director of Government Affairs at (530) 219-0804 or [jblattner@metrochamber.org](mailto:jblattner@metrochamber.org) | [www.metrochamber.org](http://www.metrochamber.org)*

# CA CAPITOL — TO — CAPITOL DC

needed Infrastructure and STEM workforce to implement the Infrastructure and Jobs Act and the CHIPS and Science Act and address the needs of our region and nation's employers.

Federal support for universal, easy-access post-secondary training accounts.

Provide federal funding for an easy-access, national post-secondary training account model with benchmark funding for priority populations. Funding must include community-based navigators to ensure engagement, education, and ongoing guidance for unbanked and financially illiterate families.

---

1. Association for Career and Technical Education