



LEED
LINKING EDUCATION AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



LEED and ConnectEd announce partnership to develop a regional civic initiative to prepare students for success in school and the workplace

LEED – Linking Education and Economic Development recently announced a partnership with ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career to support existing and new programs at area high schools that utilize integrated studies and applied learning —also known as “Multiple Pathways.”

Often found in high school career academies are Multiple Pathways programs that leverage integrated studies and applied learning have been proven to reduce the drop-out rate, increase academic performance, increase post secondary progress and degree completion, deliver work readiness skills and even increase students’ life-long earnings. For more information about multiple pathways, integrated studies and applied learning, please see the attached information page.

“To compete and succeed in an increasingly competitive global economy, students of today must not only master core academic content but they must understand how to apply that knowledge in the real world,” notes John DiStasio, chair of the LEED board of directors and general manager of SMUD. “The broad implementation of relevant, rigorous coursework in high schools throughout our region will not only benefit our students, but will benefit all employers in our region by delivering us a more competitive, highly capable workforce.”

The partnership between LEED and ConnectEd is intended to support all school districts in the six county region in developing quality high school programs of study that prepare students for success in post secondary education and in the workplace.

“Many districts throughout the Sacramento region already have implemented career academies aligned with regional workforce needs and many others are in the planning stages,” noted Pat Godwin, LEED board member and Superintendent of the Folsom Cordova Unified School District. “However, we all can benefit from additional resources and support, including funding, expertise, employer engagement and post secondary connections.”

The Multiple Pathways strategy has developed significant support in California among elected officials and corporate philanthropy. State Senator Darrell Steinberg expressed his support for the partnership between LEED and ConnectEd stating, “Since becoming President Pro Tem of the Senate, I have said that California’s top priority must be to change the way we educate our state’s young people...We must better prepare them to complete and to succeed in the full spectrum of industries and careers that comprise the 21st Century economy, including clean energy technology.” The James Irvine Foundation has invested significantly to support and advance the Multiple Pathways approach in local school districts throughout California and within the state Legislature.

Gary Hoachlander, president of ConnectEd described the Sacramento region as the best equipped to implement a regional strategy to support multiple pathways, thanks in large part of the work of LEED and its network of employer and education partners.



Three Year Initiative

Valley Vision, a non-profit collaborative organization that serves the six-county Sacramento region, will support the effort by assisting with the project planning, collaboration and outreach. The initiative is envisioned to last at least three years and will seek to engage a full spectrum of the community, including employers, K-12 educators, post secondary institutions, civic leaders, community organizations, parents and students.

Year 1 (2010): Outreach

Year 2 (2011): Implementation

Year 3 (2012): Implementation and Baseline Measurement

Funding

LEED will seek external sources of funding to support the initiative and has already been successful in positioning this strategy as the preferred project in a regional application managed by the Sacramento County Office of Education to access funds from the US Department of Education's Innovation in Education program.

Result of LEED Strategic Plan

LEED's board of directors, comprised of 29 local employer, education and civic leaders, recently determined in its 2010-12 Strategic Plan that this regional, collaborative strategy will be an effective way to assist K-12 education in difficult economic times and will be a transformational strategy that the Board believes will:

- Benefit both employers and education
- Enhance local communities and the regional economy
- Benefit the full spectrum of education
- Leverage existing good work of K-12 education
- Attract outside resources and leverage existing sources of funds
- Establish regional outcomes
- Provide the Sacramento region with a competitive edge in economic development

Other Partners

The Ford Motor Company Fund (FMCf) a pioneer in establishing theme-based academies, has committed to work with LEED to provide technical assistance and support for school districts to implement academy-type curriculum that delivers enhanced academic content and 21st century skills linked to regional workforce needs.

The FMCf already has invested in the region via a teacher development academy at Elk Grove Unified District and the entrepreneur initiative in Sacramento City Unified School District. The FMCf has also formed a partnership with ConnectED to support its strategic objectives in California.



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Existing planning partners in this initiative include The Los Rios Community College District, the Sacramento County Office of Education and the UC Davis School of Education. The expertise these institutions bring to the Regional Career Academy Initiative are the foundations in Career Technical Education, Workforce Development and education innovation. The “real-world” curriculum, training and articulation offered by the Sacramento County Regional Occupational Program will support students in a seamless transition between high school and post-secondary work.

About LEED

LEED—Linking Education and Economic Development is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization serving the six county Sacramento region (Yolo, Yuba, Sutter, Sacramento, El Dorado and Placer). For 16 years, LEED has been the Sacramento region’s key leader in aligning educational objectives to meet workforce needs. Through dynamic educational, business and economic development partnerships, LEED is guiding the Sacramento region to growing an innovative and well educated and prepared workforce, developing a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Pipeline, and ultimately, providing the Sacramento region a competitive advantage in a very competitive economic marketplace.

About ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career

Founded by the James Irvine Foundation in 2006, ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career is dedicated to advancing practice, policy, and research aimed at helping young people prepare for both college and career through multiple pathways—a high school improvement approach.

ConnectEd's mission is to support the development of multiple pathways by which California's young people can complete high school, enroll in postsecondary education, attain a formal credential, and embark on lasting success in the world of work, civic affairs, and family life. For more information about ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career, please visit their website at: www.connectedcalifornia.org.

About Valley Vision, Inc.

Valley Vision is a nonprofit association of people and organizations working to secure the social, environmental and economic health of the Sacramento Region. Founded in 1994, Valley Vision is an objective, nonpartisan “action tank” committed to regional problem-solving as well as impartial research for sound decision-making. For more information about Valley Vision, Inc., please visit their website at: www.valleyvision.org.

For More Information:

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About Multiple Pathways, Integrated Curriculum, and Applied Learning

Multiple Pathways

Multiple pathways help students gain an advantage in high school, college, and career by connecting strong academics with real-world experience in a wide range of fields, such as engineering, arts and media, and biomedical and health sciences. Pathways that link learning with student interests and job preparation lead to higher graduation rates, increased college enrollments, and higher earning potential. Used in schools throughout California, this integrated approach helps students build a strong foundation for success in the classroom, in the workplace and in life.

Multiple pathways are flexible. The approach can be implemented using different models and in various educational settings. Models may include, but are not limited to, California Partnership Academies, career academies, National Academy Foundation schools, and small-themed schools. These programs and school types have distinct characteristics and requirements that may coincide with the core components and guiding principles of multiple pathways.

What is integrated curriculum and applied learning?

A multiple pathways approach relies on teachers to increasingly blend academic and technical curriculum in ways that connect theoretical knowledge and real-world applications. Integration can occur in two directions—infusion of appropriate and related academic concepts into technical courses to provide a theoretical foundation, and application of technical skills into academic courses to bring relevance. For example, when a carpentry instructor teaches students how to calculate volume in order to determine how many sacks of cement are needed to lay a foundation of a house, the teacher is reinforcing the geometry standards that students must master. Similarly, when a geometry teacher directs students to study architectural plans to figure out how much sheetrock is needed to line the walls and ceilings of a new home in order to master their understanding of surface area, the teacher makes mathematics more relevant and understandable. Students are able to answer the question, "Why do I need to know this?"

Source:

ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career (2009).

www.connectedcalifornia.org/about/faq.php