



WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD OF VENTURA COUNTY

MANUFACTURING COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 11, 2015
8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.

NOTE: CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION

Moorpark College
(Campus Center Conference Room A)
7075 Campus Rd., Moorpark

(REVISED) AGENDA

- | | | |
|-----------|---|---------------------|
| 8:00 a.m. | 1.0 Call to Order and Agenda Review | Tavi Udrea |
| 8:02 a.m. | 2.0 Public Comments
<u>Procedure:</u> The public is welcome to comment. All comments not related to items on the agenda may be made at the beginning of the meeting only. | Tavi Udrea |
| 8:05 a.m. | 3.0 Committee Vice Chair Comments | Tavi Udrea |
| 8:08 a.m. | 4.0 Approval of Minutes: December 10, 2014 | Tavi Udrea |
| | 5.0 Ventura County Regional Strategic Workforce Development Plan | |
| 8:10 a.m. | • AMP SoCal Pillar Committees: Update | Jason Miller |
| 8:15 a.m. | • Biomedical Device Manufacturing Certificate: Update | Committee Member |
| 8:20 a.m. | • VC STEM Regional Network: Update | Committee Member |
| 8:25 a.m. | • Career Pathways: Update | Committee Member |
| 8:30 a.m. | • Work Readiness Skills Curriculum Development | Committee Member |
| 8:45 a.m. | 6.0 Maker Space | David S. Armstrong |
| 9:00 a.m. | 7.0 Workforce Accelerator Grant: STEPS Program | Kay Faulconer Boger |
| 9:10 a.m. | 8.0 Transition from WIA to WIOA | Cheryl Moore |
| 9:25 a.m. | 9.0 Committee Member Comments | Committee Members |
| 9:30 a.m. | 10.0 Adjournment | Tavi Udrea |

Next Meeting

April 8, 2015 (8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.)
VCCF Nonprofit Center (Community Room)
4001 Mission Oaks Blvd, Camarillo

Individuals who require accommodations for their disabilities (including interpreters and alternate formats) are requested to contact the Workforce Investment Board of Ventura County staff at (805) 477-5306, at least five days prior to the meeting. TTY line: 1-800-735-2922.



WIB Manufacturing Committee Meeting
December 10, 2014

MINUTES

Meeting Attendees

Committee Members

Bill Pratt (Chair)*
Vic Anselmo*
Mark Fegley*
Teresa Johnson*
Jason Miller
Subhash Karkare
Scot Rabe
Tiffany Morse
Alex Rivera*
Marybeth Jacobsen
Sharon Woolley

**WIB Members*

WIB Staff

Talia Barrera
Cheryl Moore

Guests

Loredana Carson (Ventura County Adult Education Consortium)
Rebecca Chandler (Ventura County Office of Education - VCOE)
Michael Clark (Ventura College)
Bill Cunneen (Evolving Resources, Inc.)
Lisa Eklund (VCOE)
Mike Etchart (VCOE)
Kay Faulconer Boger (Workforce Accelerator Grant)
David Finn (Organizing for Action Ventura County)
Fred Garcia (Community Services Department/WIA)
Ken Goss (MWS Wire Industries)
Brad Hudson (Congresswoman Julia Brownley)
Gayle Hutchinson (California State University, Channel Islands)
Yvonne Jonason (Employment Training Panel)
Debi Kehoe (VCOE)
Emily Lewis (Santa Susana High School)
Jeff Lindell (Simi Valley High School)
Velma Lomax (Career Education Center-CEC, Ventura Unified)
Sulin Rebaker (VCOE)
Justin Rieye (Ventura High School)
Juan Rodriguez (CEC)
Mary Ann Rooney (Ventura County Civic Alliance/Alliance for Linked Learning)
Wendy Tafton (Ventura County Office of Education)

1.0 Call to Order and Agenda Review

Chair Bill Pratt called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. No changes were made to the agenda.

2.0 Public Comments

No public comments

3.0 Committee Chair Comments

Bill Pratt welcomed representatives from both of the California Career Pathways Trust grant recipients: *Alliance for Linked Learning* and *VC Innovates*.

4.0 Approval of Minutes: October 8, 2014

Motion to approve: Alex Rivera
Second: Vic Anselmo
Motion approved

5.0 Ventura County Regional Strategic Workforce Development Plan

- Advanced Manufacturing Partnership for Southern California (AMP SoCal)

Talia Barrera provided an update on the AMP SoCal Pillar Committees. The role of the Pillar Committees is to convene key stakeholders, examine trends of the respective industrial ecosystem pillar, and make recommendations to the AMP SoCal Executive Board. Also, Pillar Committees review the progress of AMP SoCal implementation Strategy Working Groups quarterly. Each of the four counties (Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, and Ventura) is to have representation on the six Pillar Committees, providing report-outs to a coordinating group in each county. In Ventura County, the coordinating group will be the WIB Manufacturing Committee. WIB staff are working on Ventura County representatives for Workforce and Training, Supplier Networks, Research and Innovation, Infrastructure and Site Development, Trade and International Development, and Operations Improvement and Capital Access.

- AB 86 Planning Grant

Teresa Johnson reported on recent grant activities. She indicated that the Ventura County Adult Educational Regional Consortium received good feedback after the statewide summit and that new practices to better serve education will be announced soon.

- VC STEM Regional Network Grant

Cheryl Moore announced that the Amgen Foundation had approved a grant to support California State University, Channel Islands, on a new VC STEM Network project. Supported by the P-20 Council as a Ventura County steering committee, this project will plan for and implement Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) regional networking to enhance K-16 education in Ventura County.

- Work Readiness Skills Curriculum Development

Scot Rabe provided an update on work readiness skills curriculum development for the community colleges and asked Committee members for additional feedback on the content.

- Manufacturing/Engineering Pathways Standards, Industry Advisory and Steering Committee

Cheryl Moore introduced the next segment of our collaborative meeting, indicating that the WIB Manufacturing Committee would be providing a neutral platform for facilitating employer feedback to support the Career Pathways Trust Grants (*Alliance for Linked Learning* and *VC Innovates*) in developing curriculum aligned with manufacturing industry needs. The Manufacturing Committee members and guests broke into three career pathway discussion groups: Engineering and Technology Pathway, Welding and Materials Joining Pathway, and Machining and Forming Technologies Pathway. Referring to information provided by the *VC Innovates* team, the groups engaged in facilitated discussions and responded to questions on curriculum standards for each of the career pathways. The feedback also will be considered in the development of a career pathways map for Ventura County.

6.0 Committee Member Comments

No comments

7.0 Adjournment

Bill Pratt adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Next Meeting

February 11, 2015 (8:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m.)
Moorpark College (Campus Center)
7075 Campus Rd., Moorpark, CA

VC-STEM

Planning for and Implementing
a STEM Regional Network to
Enhance PK-12 Education in
Ventura County



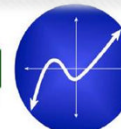
Science



Technology



Engineering

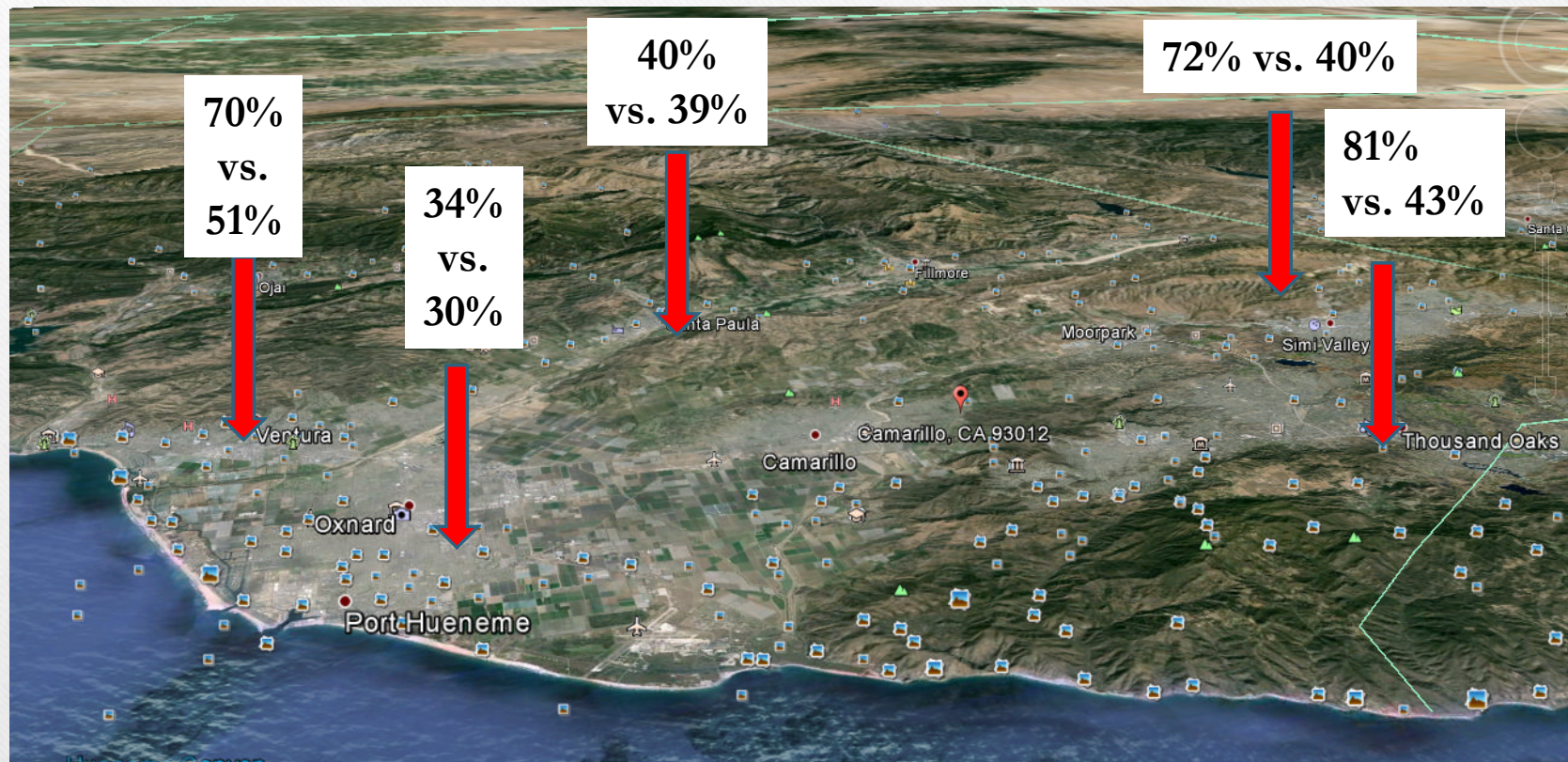


Mathematics

Opportunity



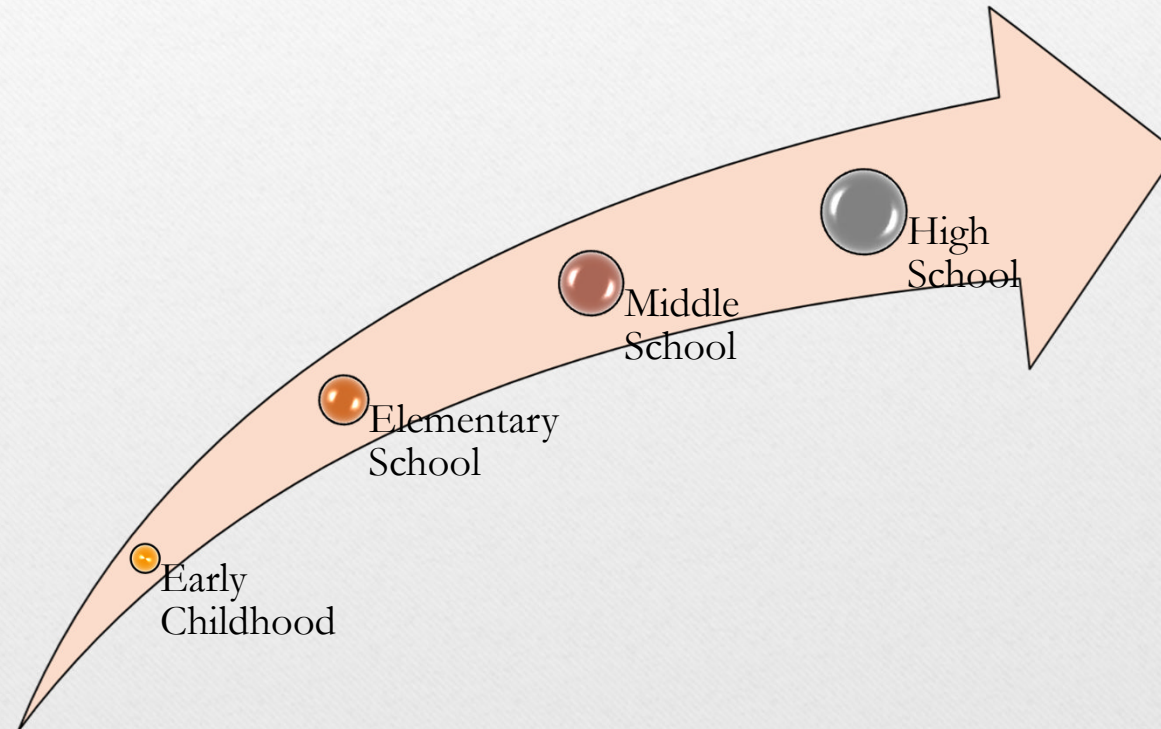
Challenge: STEM Preparation of Ventura County Students



Opportunity



Integration of Efforts



STEM-Capable
Graduates

- Career
- Community College
- 4-Year College

California STEM Network

Vision & Mission Statement

Regional Networks

Our Team

Contact

Partner Portal

Our Mission

CSLNet's mission is to help California prepare the nation's most STEM-capable graduates.

Regional Networks

Regional Networks are the central organizing structure of CSLNet. CSNet provides technical assistance and tools to help launch and build the capacity of regional networks as well as assess their progress. In addition to convening network leaders in a peer learning community through regular meetings and conference calls, we are working to harness the power of new communications technologies to increase information sharing, learning and collaboration among network partners.

Gateways East Bay STEM Network

The Gateways East Bay STEM Network, based at California State University, East Bay, is a leadership hub for regional stakeholders working together to improve educational outcomes in STEM for young people "from cradle to career" across Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

[VISIT >](#)



California STEM
Learning Network

Current Steering Committee

P-20 Council

- Duarte

Pre-K

- Harrison

VCOE

- Inouye

PTA

- Steck

CC

- Herrera

CSU

- Kinsey
- Hampton

WIB

- McNeal

Private Univ

- Hanrahan

Non-Profit

- Klein-Williams

Draft Mission Statement

The Ventura County STEM Network serves as a leadership hub for regional stakeholders who are working together to improve educational outcomes in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) for all students throughout Ventura County.

Draft Vision Statement

- Students benefit from high quality STEM learning opportunities,
- Graduate with the STEM knowledge, skills, and applied learning opportunities necessary for success in college and/or careers

Preliminary Strategies

PK-3

- Early STEM Learning
- Emphasis on early numeracy

K-8

- STEM Learning in Out-of-School Time
- Professional Learning Communities for Teachers

9-16

- STEM College/Career Pathways (CPT Grants)
- Retention & Graduation Initiatives

Timeline

**Phase 1:
Jan. – Feb.
Exploring and
Collecting Info.**

- Form Steering Committee
- Background Research

**Phase 2:
Mar. – July
Framing
Possibilities**

- Stakeholder meetings
- Strategic Planning Meeting
- Action Groups

**Phase 3:
Aug. – Dec.
Cementing
Partnerships &
Plans of Action**

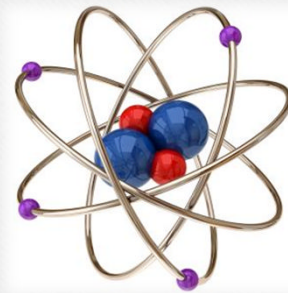
- Finalize plan of action
- Pursue identified funding strategies
- Launch Event

Role of WIB

- Recruit stakeholders to attend meetings
- Identify regional assets and gaps
- Participate in VC-STEM strategic initiatives

Thank you!

Phil Hampton, Ph.D.
Professor of Chemistry
Director, HSI-STEM Grant
CSU Channel Islands
philip.hampton@csuci.edu
(805) 437-8869





Alliance for Linked Learning



REDESIGNING
THE HIGH
SCHOOL
EXPERIENCE



FOR THE
21ST
CENTURY
LEARNER



Channel Islands Marine Science Academy

OVERVIEW

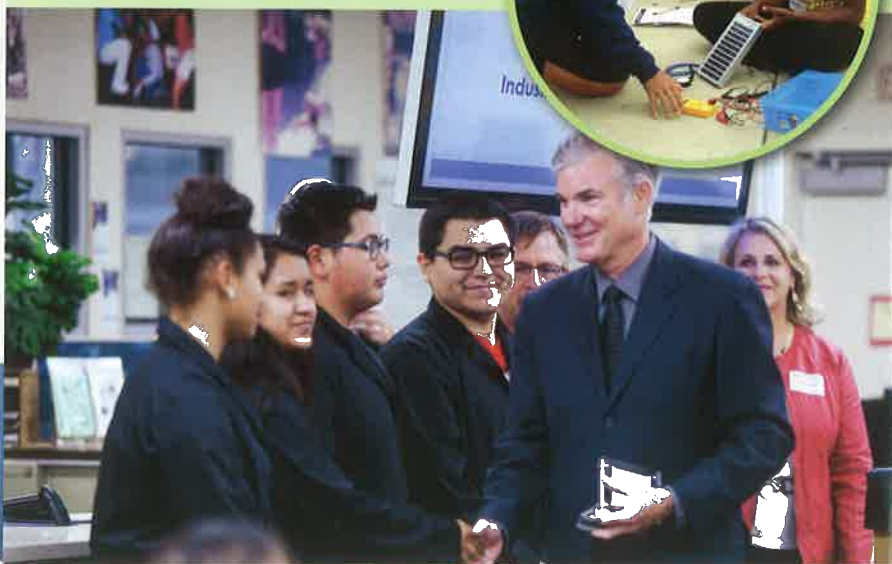
The Oxnard Union High School District (OUHSD) was awarded a \$6 million grant to implement Linked Learning and to develop partnerships with community and business leaders.

The Linked Learning academy model:

- Is supported by the National Academy Foundation; and
- Provides the District with the most complete resources, tools, curriculum and professional development available for implementation.

The National Academy Foundation (NAF):

- Is a leader in the movement to prepare young people for college and career success;
- Brings 30 years experience; and
- Has a proven educational model which includes industry-focused curricula, work-based learning experiences, and business partner expertise.



WHAT IS AN ACADEMY?

An Academy is a small cohort of students taking a sequence of rigorous college-ready courses throughout their four years that integrates academic classes with a specific industry sector.

WHY USE THE ACADEMY MODEL?

The Linked Learning model is a comprehensive four-year program of study that:

- Prepares students for College, Career, and Life;
- Connects academics to real-world application by integrating challenging academics with a rigorous curriculum;
- Leads to a full range of postsecondary and career opportunities, keeping all options open after high school; and
- Improves overall student achievement.



Academies produce strong outcomes. Research shows that 96% of seniors who participate in the Academy model graduate.



OUTCOMES 96% OF SENIORS

HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

You can improve our workforce by becoming involved in Work-Based Learning experiences that offer Career Awareness, Exploration and Preparation.

BENEFITS TO INVOLVEMENT

- Create a diverse talent pipeline
- Lower recruitment and training costs
- Increase interest in your industry
- Improve graduation rates
- Meet a corporate social responsibility

OPPORTUNITIES

- Classroom speaker
- Mentoring
- Worksite visit
- Job shadowing
- Interviews
- Paid internships



RS IN ACADEMIES GRADUATED

OXNARD UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ACADEMIES

Adolfo Camarillo
High School



Agriculture Science*
Business and Technology*

Channel Islands
High School



Business and Finance
Marine Science
Transportation Technology

Hueneme High School



Youth and Education Services
Engineering and Design

Oxnard High School



Green Technologies
Law and Public Services
Multimedia Business
Aviation*

Pacifica High School



Culinary Arts
Health Science
Teaching and Educational Careers
DECA Business
Environmental Engineering*
Information Technology*

Rio Mesa High School



Manufacturing, Engineering, Robotics &
Industrial Technology (MERIT)
Hospitality and Business*

Rancho Campana
High School



Medical Sciences*
Engineering*
Arts & Entertainment*

The Ventura County Civic Alliance is serving as the business/ education intermediary to recruit and manage employer and community involvement.

For more information or to participate, contact:

Mary Anne Rooney
Project Director
MARooney@CivicAlliance.org
(805) 415-2787



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Dr. Gregory O'Brien, Asst. Supt. Educational Services
Dr. Robert "Rocky" Valles, Asst. Supt. Human Resources
Stephen Dickinson, Asst. Supt. Administrative Services
Consuelo Williams, Exec. Dir. 21st-Century Learning and Innovation
Jim Rose, Dir. of Career Pathways and Community Partnerships
jim.rose@ouhsd.k12.ca.us / 805-278-1607

309 South K Street
Oxnard, CA 93030

www.ouhsd.k12.ca.us
AllianceForLinkedLearning.org



The Oxnard Union High School District Linked Learning Model:

- Prepares students for College, Career, and Life;
- Connects academies to real-world application by integrating challenging academics with a demanding technical curriculum;
- Leads to a full range of postsecondary and career opportunities, keeping all options open after high school; and
- Improves overall student achievements.

The success of our students is possible through strong community partnerships with businesses and community leaders who participate with OUHSD in time, knowledge and/or financial resources. Whether your goal is to give back to the community, shape public opinion about your business or industry, network with other business and civic leaders, or recruit future talent from the District, we can tailor a win-win partnership that will meet your exact needs. We will provide you with students who are interested in real-world business experiences to help them succeed in college, career, and life.

Name: _____

Company/Organization: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Prior experience with youth: _____

I prefer to be contacted by: ☐ Phone ☐ Email

Comments: _____

Please check which Academy you are interested in:

- ☐ Agriculture Science
- ☐ Arts and Entertainment
- ☐ Aviation
- ☐ Business and Finance
- ☐ Culinary Arts
- ☐ Engineering and Design
- ☐ Environmental Engineering
- ☐ Green Technologies
- ☐ Health Sciences
- ☐ Hospitality
- ☐ Information Technology
- ☐ Law and Public Services
- ☐ Manufacturing
- ☐ Marine Science
- ☐ Multimedia Business
- ☐ Transportation Technology
- ☐ Youth and Education Services

Please check where you would like to become involved:

CAREER AWARENESS

- ☐ Classroom guest speaker or presenter
- ☐ Tours of your workplace
- ☐ Field trip host

CAREER EXPLORATION

- ☐ Job shadowing
- ☐ Mentoring
- ☐ Informational interviews
- ☐ Mock interviews

CAREER PREPARATION

- ☐ Paid/Unpaid internships
- ☐ Virtual or school-based enterprise
- ☐ Senior presentation

LEADERSHIP & GUIDANCE

- ☐ Advising on projects and curriculum
- ☐ Serving on an Academy Advisory Board

SCHOLARSHIPS & DONATIONS

- ☐ Scholarships
- ☐ Donations of equipment and materials

OTHER SUPPORT

- ☐ Hire a teacher short-term
- ☐ Other:

A collaboration between

Alliance for Linked Learning Academy for a Day - Save the Date! Tuesday, February 17, 2015

Academy for a Day

February 17, 2015

9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Check in begins at 8:30 AM

Pacifica High School

600 East Gonzales Road, Oxnard

On February 17, the Alliance for Linked Learning will be hosting Academy open houses at every OUHSD campus. Start your day at Pacifica High School and hear from National Academy Foundation President J.D. Hoyer.

After the presentation, tour academies at the campus of your choice to learn how you can help build the workforce that will sustain your organization and Ventura County.

The Linked Learning approach ensures that economic development is delivered through rigorous and relevant education models that create a strong, ready workforce.

Business leaders are encouraged to attend and learn how to be part of an Academy Advisory Board.

Go to this link to register: www.eventbrite.com/e/alliance-for-linked-learning-academy-for-a-day-event-tickets-15384467356

Contact:

Mary Anne Rooney, Project Director,

MARooney@CivicAlliance.org



Ventura County Civic Alliance
(805) 500 - 6610 | CivicAlliance@vccf.org | www.CivicAlliance.org
VCCF Nonprofit Center | 4001 Mission Oaks Blvd., Suite A, Camarillo, CA 93012



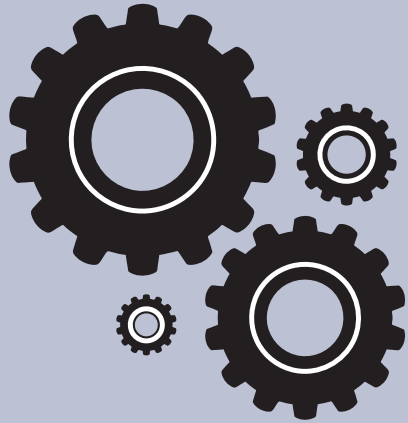
**ALREADY
KNOW YOU
WANT TO
ATTEND?**

**CLICK HERE
REGISTER NOW**

A collaboration between



**Oxnard Union
High School District**



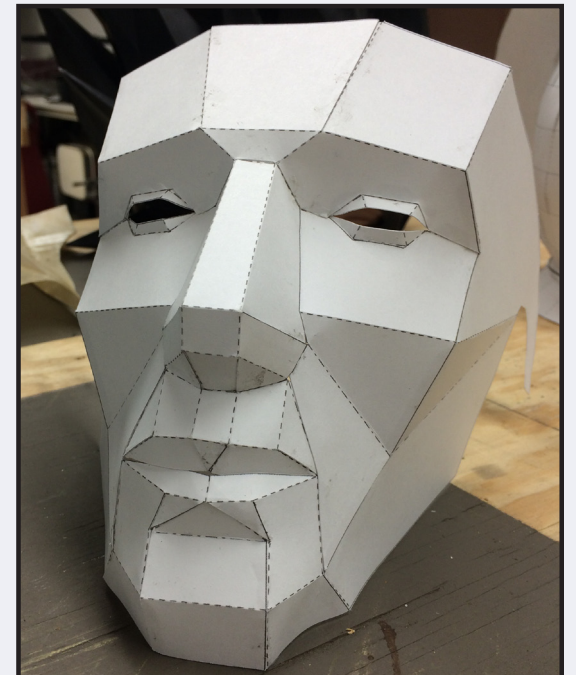
Designing an Innovation Eco-system



"Chance favors the connected mind."

Steven Johnson

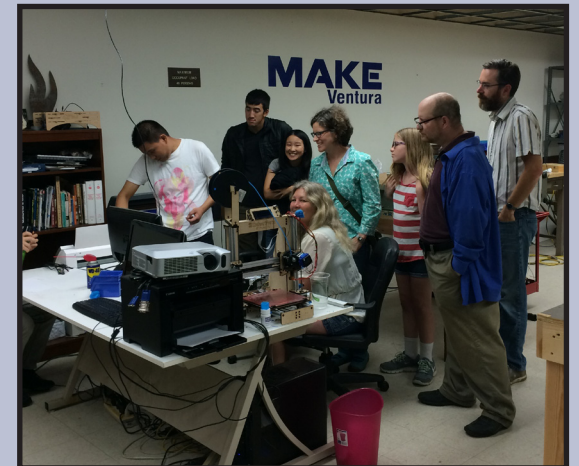
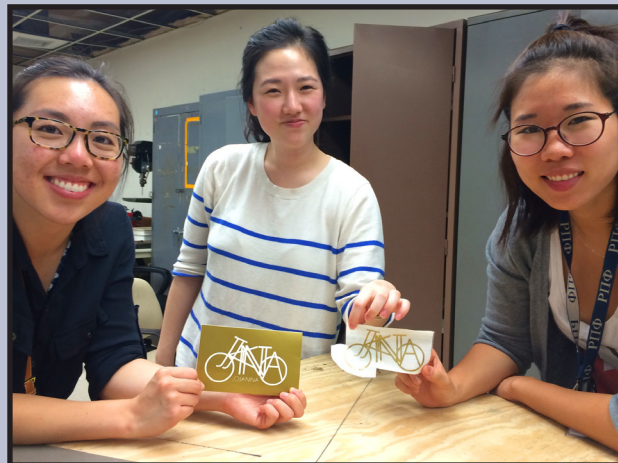
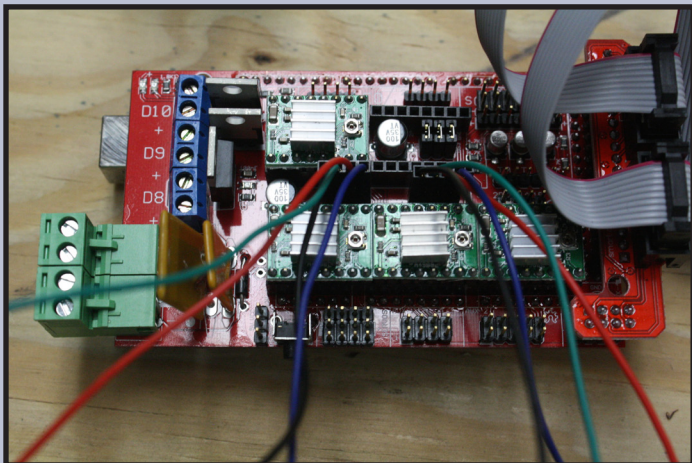
**Build Ventura County's
maker infrastructure
to develop, attract & retain
the skilled, adaptable workforce
necessary for a
changing & competitive economy**



Education & Skills

Opportunity

Coordination



Education & Skills

Complement existing initiatives

Accessibility

Compelling



Opportunity

Create greater connections



Engagement

Eco-System



Escape Room
MELBOURNE

THE GAME

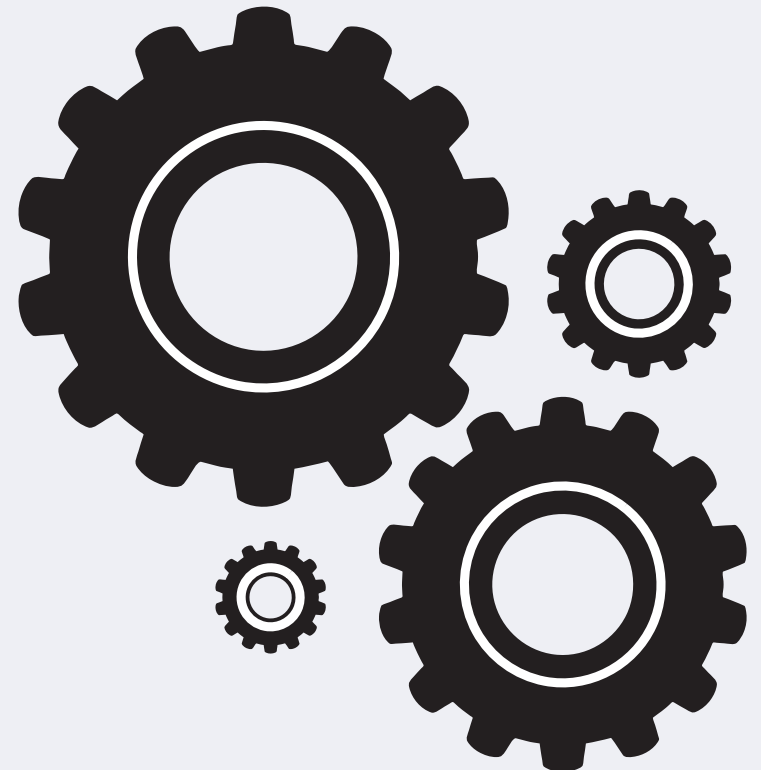
WORK TOGETHER IN A TEAM OF TWO	THE CLOCK IS TICKING...	A CHALLENGE FOR ALL TYPES	THE FIRST IN MELBOURNE
			
It'll take more than one brain to decipher the challenges packed into Escape Room Melbourne. Choose your puzzling partner wisely!	Can you puzzle your way to the intriguing conclusion and escape the room in 60 minutes?	Our puzzles will test all of your abilities – be prepared to flex your mental muscles to solve lingual, visual, mathematical, spatial, physical and lateral brain teasers.	Australia's definitive escape room experience. Be one of the first to experience the new wave of interactive entertainment.

Coordination

Too small

Complementary assets

Provide a full spectrum





STEPS *Key Partners*

- Citizens
- Community Support Services
- Correctional Agencies
- Educational Institutions
- Employers
- Employment Services
- Faith-based Organizations
- Judicial Systems
- Social Services
- Supervision Agencies

Ventura County *Probation Agency*



To promote dynamic leadership in community corrections as we design and implement innovative, efficient, and fiscally sound programs that are models of success in the criminal justice system.

Human Services *Agency*



We strengthen families, support self sufficiency and promote safety, health and well being.

All Human Services Agency program services operate and perform at the highest level to meet individual, family, and community needs by providing assistance, aid, protection, and help.

BELIEVE IN *Second Chances!*



Ventura County **Probation Agency**

800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura, CA 93009

www.venturaprobatation.org

Human Services Agency

855 Partridge Drive
Ventura, CA 93003
www.vchsa.org

1-(800) 500-7705



STEPS

Specialized Training & Employment Project for Success

*Re-Entry Employment Services
for Prepared Job Seekers*

*A Community Service from
County of Ventura*

*Human Services Agency &
Ventura County Probation Agency*

STEPS *Profile*

The County of Ventura Human Services Agency and the Probation Agency have partnered to provide a business services model to connect reentry workers with employers.

STEPS uses an employment services method to develop a pool of job seeker candidates prepared for employment with employers throughout Ventura County.

STEPS *Goals*

- Prepare job seekers for employer workforce recruitment opportunities
- Match qualified job seekers with employers that hire general services, production, retail, food service, and other entry level to skilled level workers
- Make STEPS staff contact easy through e-mail, online, telephone, and in-person

STEPS *Specialized Services*

- STEPS job seekers receive personalized services in professional development
- STEPS employers are recognized as innovators and community workforce leaders
- STEPS staff can tailor an employee hiring plan that could include Employer On-the-Job Training services. STEPS employer can access information and services about training funding to assist with training costs.

EMPLOYER *Benefits*

- The STEPS Project provides reentry job seekers with ongoing education, training and employment guidance.
- STEPS staff provide support to employers who may be hesitant to consider qualified reentry workers.
- STEPS staff are able to coordinate employee Fidelity Bonding that can financially protect employers.
- STEPS staff are able to coordinate (when available), employer tax incentives commonly known as WOTC/Work Opportunity Tax Credit

EMPLOYER *Incentives*

- No-cost business workforce consulting
- STEPS staff can meet you at your business location
- No-fee job opening sourcing with the STEPS candidates
- No-fee referral to other online job posting services
- No-fee job postings on the County of Ventura labor exchange website:
venturacountyjcc.org/employerservices
- No-fee business referrals to other community business services
- Staff assisted recruitment services

Learn *More*

Human Services Agency/Job & Career Centers
[www.venturacountyjcc.org/employerservices/
accountexecutives](http://www.venturacountyjcc.org/employerservices/accountexecutives)

Ventura County Human Services Agency
www.vchsa.org

E-mail: HSA-Employer-Services@ventura.org

GETTING *Started*

STEPS can help you fill that job opening or refer you to the Job & Career Centers for additional employer services.

- Call 1-800-500-7705
- Click www.venturacountyjcc.org or www.vchsa.org
- E-mail HSA-Employer-Services@ventura.org
- Meet with the STEPS Account Executive at your place of business



“We are looking for employers willing to give our clients a second chance for a brighter future. Our clients need the opportunity to work and provide for their families.”



Maker's Mark

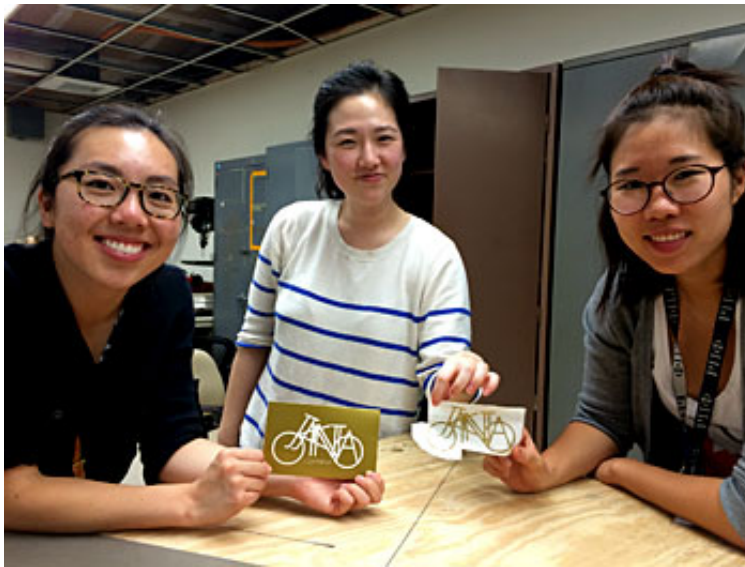
Ventura becomes one of few So Cal cities with a maker space

By [Michel Miller](#) 01/08/2015



There's a lot happening at 420 Santa Clara St. in Ventura. Upon entering, several things come immediately to mind: middle school shop class, the suburban garage, Radio Shack kits, that relic known as the hobby shop. Make Ventura is all those things, but with the added benefit of community. And you don't have to be a science nerd to join in the fun.

For the uninitiated, "maker spaces" are cooperative, open-source environments where people interested in making things can access a range of tools and assistance in the company of other creative and curious types. Where "making" veers slightly away from traditional handcrafting is where it intersects with technology.



Fun with the vinyl cutter at Make Ventura.

The most popular example of this is 3-D printing, but other exciting maker tools include the Raspberry Pi, a fully functional minicomputer; and Arduino, a microcontroller board. Make Ventura members have unlimited access to all of the above in addition to a laser cutter, vinyl cutters, a paper cutter, a button maker, soldering irons, sewing machines, an eggbot, screen-printing supplies and an array of carpentry and blacksmithing tools.

The maker movement began to take shape during the early aughts in response to increased availability of relatively inexpensive manufacturing tools and open-source blueprints that happened to coincide with a surge in DIY interest. Suddenly it became a lot easier for tinkerers to make stuff that didn't even seem possible a few years before.

Already familiar with the movement before founding Make Ventura, Dave Armstrong invited SparkTruck (a mobile maker space that introduces people of all ages to cutting-edge creative technologies) to Ventura. The truck's arrival effectively coaxed local makers out of the woodwork to play and interface, among them Jason Briggs and Paul Billock, who had a 3-D printer and a burning desire to open a maker space. Chris Kahler, an environmental scientist with experience in the nonprofit arena, signed on as executive director; and last spring Make Ventura, one of only a handful of similar spaces in California, opened its doors.

Already with 81 members paying \$35 per month for use of all tools and free or discounted entry to classes, the future looks promising for the county's only maker space.

"The community seems to want this," said Kahler. "People were looking for a place where they could have access to tools and the space to use them, and to share ideas. So all that together is what's attractive."

"Making things seems to be part of Ventura's DNA," says Armstrong. "I'm always amazed to find people quietly making these incredible things."

Becky Haycox, who volunteers her marketing and social media services to Make Ventura, was thrilled when she heard a maker space had opened locally. "I think that it's a really exciting movement," she said. "As more people move [to the area] and don't have the space for tools it [becomes] incredibly invaluable."

So what are people making? Haycox used the space to finish a quilt and plans to learn leatherworking so she can duplicate a handbag she likes, as well as soft-circuit sewing to light up her unique quilts. Member Lincoln Kamm made his Halloween costume there (the cosplay possibilities are truly limitless) as well as jewelry for his Etsy store. He's also creating a puppet for a YouTube series. Other members have worked on everything from carpentry projects to chainmail accessories. "Maker spaces are important to communities because they help people turn their ideas, art and inventions into reality," Kamm says. Armstrong made his daughter's Halloween costume using the vinyl cutter and is in the process of converting an old Cuban upright piano into a bar.

"There are definitely people trying new things," says Kahler "and others just use it like their garage. The people who want new skills and the ones who have a backlog of projects are thankful to have the tools now. One guy wanted to try sandcasting aluminum so he built a crucible, sandcasting boxes and molds, melted aluminum scrap and poured it into the mold and made an aluminum skull."

While access to all the tools with plenty of room to use them is a tremendous benefit, the communal aspect of maker spaces is what distinguishes them from a room full of machines. "They are places where creative people can inspire and be inspired. Where people who don't think they are creative can get in touch with their creative side by meeting other creative makers," says Kamm. "People like to be able to share their knowledge and we hope to build a dynamic educational community," says Armstrong.

"It warms my heart to see a retired dude and my nephew who's a mechanical engineer and my friend who's a quilter all coming together to help each other," says Haycox. "It's not only a source for tools but also knowledge. There's always someone there who can answer a question for you."

Armstrong says he enjoys being privy to "aha moments when people make unusual connections" at Make Ventura. "Hey, if we did these three things, we could convert this thing I found on Craigslist into a laser cutter," or "What if we used the 3-D printer to make molds for aluminum castings? You never know where a great idea will come from."

In addition to various maker meetups, Make Ventura in partnership with ArtLab offers an array of classes. January's calendar affords a glimpse at the range of learning possibilities, from gum transfer for mixed media to solar printmaking and collagraph printing. Members are able to market their wares via Make Ventura's Etsy store, and a brick-and-mortar shop is in the works.

Ultimately, Armstrong and Kahler see Make Ventura bridging the gap between creativity and economics, a place where people can prototype their ideas, maybe do some small-scale manufacturing and jump-start businesses.

Sort of a rocket-fueled incubator.

“I want it to help people be able to make a decent living doing something they love,” Armstrong says. “The grand vision,” says Kahler, “is that it’s a community of ideas, sort of like crowd-sourcing in person.”

To learn more about Make Ventura membership and classes, visit www.makeventura.com.

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