



ConnectEd

The California Center for College and Career

Transforming today's education
for tomorrow's economy

Dear Friend,

ConnectEd: The California Center for College and Career invites you to join us in an ambitious effort to transform today's education for tomorrow's economy.

Strengthening Career and Technical Education (CTE) has a vital role to play in helping students succeed—as you probably have heard a lot about in recent months. Along with the Governor and many other advocates, *ConnectEd* strongly supports making CTE more academically and technically challenging. But focusing on CTE alone is not enough.

To focus California education squarely on the challenges of the new economy, CTE has to be connected to core academics. It needs to become an integral part of a much broader program of study, delivered through multiple pathways focused on major industry sectors in California—like Biomedical and Health Science, Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing, Building and Environmental Design, Arts, Media and Entertainment, Agriculture and Renewable Resources, Information Technology, Business and Finance and others.

With the support of the James Irvine Foundation, *ConnectEd* promotes innovative practice, policy, and research designed to expand the number of education *pathways* that prepare high school students for college and career—both objectives and not just one or the other.

We'd like to enlist your support for *ConnectEd* and its mission to:

- Expand the number of education pathways that prepare students for college *and* career.
- Advance the role that academically rigorous career and technical education plays in reforming California high schools so more students master the knowledge and skills they will need to succeed in tomorrow's economy.
- Help increase the number of students who will graduate from high school prepared for college and career.

A *multiple pathways approach* allows students to choose from several options. Each pathway option is designed to equip them with both the career skills and the strong academic foundation they need to pursue two- or four-year college, apprenticeships, military, or formal employment training and transition successfully into the careers of their choice. Essential features of each pathway include:

- A challenging academic core that prepares students for success, without remediation, in California's community colleges and universities, as well as apprenticeship and other post-secondary programs;
- A demanding technical core delivering industry-related knowledge and skill required for high-skill, high-wage employment and emphasizing real-world applications of academic and technical learning;

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- Work-based learning offering young people opportunities to participate in intensive internships, virtual apprenticeship, and school-based enterprise; and
- Supplemental services including counseling and additional instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics.

Ideally, each pathway spans grades 9–12 and articulates clearly to future postsecondary options. Multiple pathways eliminate the isolation of academics from technical instruction and offer a challenging, exciting option for students seeking education that is both rigorous *and* relevant.

There is growing evidence that strategies integrating challenging academics with CTE improve student outcomes. For example, one of the most rigorous recent evaluations found that, five years after completing high school, males who had enrolled in career academies earned \$2,500 annually more than their peers. Along similar lines, a recent examination of data from California’s Partnership Academies found academy students passing the High School Exit Exam at much higher rates than other high school students.

If we are to significantly reduce the unacceptably high dropout rate and prepare youth for the demands of California’s evolving economy, we need to offer high school programs that engage students and motivate them to achieve and pursue further training and education. In a phrase, our youth need real-world learning for real-world success.

Your support for multiple pathways that better prepare students for college and career is vital to the future of our state. It demonstrates real commitment to making the essential reforms needed to transform today’s education for tomorrow’s economy.

Please join the Coalition for Multiple Pathways by visiting our website at <http://www.ConnectEdCalifornia.org/coalition/join.php>. If you would like more information, feel free to call me at (510) 849-4945.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Hoachlander". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Gary Hoachlander, Ph.D.
President