



San Luis Obispo Partnerships in Education (SLOPE) Executive Summary

San Luis Obispo Partnerships in Education (SLOPE), formed under the aegis of the San Luis Obispo County Office of Education in Fall of 2014 and funded in 2015 by the California Career Pathways Trust, will build a sustainable Career and Technical Education (CTE) infrastructure that provides students in San Luis Obispo County high schools with CTE counseling and planning, education, and work opportunities and that facilitates the involvement of local industry and businesses in this process.

Through training and support services that seamlessly join high school, community college, and industry partners, students will be exposed to career opportunities in local high skill, high wage and high growth industries. To develop the workforce needed for these industries, SLOPE will promote Career Technical Education for students by developing eight career pathways--hospitality/tourism; performing arts; patient care with an emphasis in sports medicine; manufacturing and product development; design, visual, and media arts; engineering design; applications development/software design; and public services/legal practices—as well as strengthening pathways currently in the schools. High school career pathways will also articulate with area community colleges to enable a smooth transition from high school to post-secondary education or training and finally into high-wage, high-need jobs.

A critical aspect of SLOPE is the implementation of an infrastructure that will sustain and grow CTE in the county. In addition to a CTE director in the county office of education and an Executive Council composed of representatives from key partner industries and businesses, three regional Workplace Experiences Coordinators (WECs) will connect with individuals, industries and community organizations to provide relevant workplace experiences for all SLOPE pathways. Additionally, the Workplace Experience Coordinators will build a clearinghouse/database of such experiences so that industries have one point of contact and there exists a central site for securing guest speakers, mentors, internships, shadowing opportunities, and other workplace experiences.

SLOPE will also identify industry specialists who will support the development of rigorous, standards-based academics that reinforce critical CTE skills; conduct professional development for educators and businesses for the sustainability of career pathways and workplace experiences; maintain the clearinghouse/database for the availability of workplace experiences; support student leadership organizations to develop industry skills; and coordinate an Advisory Council for each industry pathway sector.

Career coaches, located at every high school, will provide support services, assist in career choices, provide career counseling, help students with their career and education plans, as well as provide professional development to the existing high school counselors so that by the end of the grant period, the high school counselors possess the same skills and knowledge as the career coaches to assist students with career planning and counseling. Counseling services at each high school will also record employability through documentation of certifications and workplace experiences. The ultimate goal of the SLOPE initiative is for the county to graduate 70% of high school students with employability skills as documented by dual enrollment, industry certifications, or workplace experiences.

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**SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
OFFICE OF EDUCATION**
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