



May 2026

New Release: Expanding Opportunity Through Dual Enrollment



April 2026

Expanding Opportunity:

A Regional Landscape of Dual Enrollment
in the Northern San Joaquin Valley

By Career Ladders Project

Funded by the WE Will! K-16 Workforce and Education Collaborative

We are thrilled to share the release of this important new publication highlighting the growing impact and opportunities of dual enrollment across our region. This resource provides valuable insights into how students are gaining earlier access to college courses, building confidence, and creating stronger pathways to future success.

A huge thank you to our incredible partners, Career Ladders Project (CLP) and WE Will! Workforce & Education Collaborative, for their leadership, collaboration, and commitment to expanding educational opportunity for students throughout the Northern San Joaquin Valley. Together, we are creating brighter futures and stronger pathways for the next generation.

HERE TO ACCESS:

[Landscape of Dual Enrollment in Northern San Joaquin Valley](#)

WE Will! K16-Collaborative: Site Visit with Grant Sponsors

The WE Will! K-16 Collaborative recently had the opportunity to host a two-day site visit with our grant sponsors, bringing together partners from across the region to share the story, progress, and impact of our collective work.

Over the course of the visit, partners highlighted the collaborative's successes, discussed emerging opportunities, and demonstrated the power of intersegmental partnership in advancing education-to-career pathways across the Northern San Joaquin Valley. The visit served as an important reminder that this work is only possible because of the commitment, leadership, and shared vision of our K-12, community college, university, workforce, and community partners.

A special highlight of the visit was the student panel featuring students from Escalon High School's EMT and First Responder pathway. Their reflections brought the work to life and underscored why these pathways matter. Hearing directly from students about their experiences, goals, and sense of purpose was a powerful reminder of the real impact this collaborative is having in classrooms, programs, and communities across our region.

We are deeply grateful to every partner who participated, presented, hosted, shared data, elevated student voice, and helped tell the WE Will! story. Your time, preparation, and continued partnership made the site visit meaningful and successful. Thank you for helping showcase what is possible when our region works together to expand opportunity, strengthen pathways, and support student success.

PROJECT PARTNERS SUCCESS STORIES

Escalon High School

Project 95 :LifeSavers Learning Center: ER Simulation Skills Training Lab

We're excited to share this featured video spotlighting valuable insights from our partners at Escalon High School. We invite you to take a moment to watch and learn more about the impactful work, opportunities, and vision highlighted from Project:95 LifeSavers Learning Center: ER Simulation Skills Training Lab.

Please click on the image below to access the video presentation.



Gustine High School

Project 129 : Expanding College & Career Readiness Enhancing Student Support for Future Success

On March 18, Gustine High School proudly hosted an exciting College and Career Fair that brought incredible energy to campus. More than 43 representatives from colleges, trade programs, small businesses, and community organizations joined us, creating a dynamic space for students to explore a wide range of future pathways.

Students were engaged and enthusiastic throughout the event, moving from table to table, asking thoughtful questions, and connecting with professionals eager to share their experiences and guidance. The strong participation and meaningful conversations reflected how valuable and enjoyable the day was for our students.

To create a welcome and memorable atmosphere, the space was decorated for the occasion, and refreshments and meals were provided for our visiting representatives. These thoughtful touches helped ensure all guests felt appreciated and supported.

Events like this reflect our continued commitment to providing high-quality college and career exploration opportunities that connect students with real-world pathways and expand their awareness of postsecondary options. Overall, it was an impactful day that brought college, career, and community connections directly to our students in an engaging, accessible, and inspiring way.

Check out the awesome picture slideshow below!



Merced College

Project #49- Career Support

Student Leaders Build Skills and Teamwork at March Retreat

In March 2026, our student leaders came together for a dedicated training retreat focused on career and transfer updates while strengthening collaboration and team connection. The session was designed to empower students to take ownership of high-impact campus operations and career-ready initiatives.

We extend our sincere appreciation to WE Will! K-16 Collaborative for providing grant funding that supports students in education-affiliated work opportunities.



San Joaquin A+

Project #77 Growing Futures: Career-Connected Learning in the San Joaquin Valley

SJA+ is proud to celebrate the continued growth and regional impact of our Career Connected Learning Integrated Program of Study (CCL IPOS) Community of Practice in partnership with Merced Union High School District, Patterson High School, Ripon High School, Denair High School, and Bear Creek High School across eight school sites. Together, these partners are transforming the high school experience through

intentional systems centered on stakeholder partnerships, dual enrollment, student project consultancies, work-based learning, and soft skills development. Grounded in access and equity, this work ensures all students have meaningful college and career opportunities while building sustainable systems at each campus. A key focus is leadership development, empowering educators and administrators to sustain, expand, and continuously improve these efforts. Through tailored partnerships that reflect each region's unique strengths and workforce needs, SJA+ continues to strengthen the connection between education and long-term economic vitality.

SJA+ Supported

Career Connected Learning Integrated Program of Study

Launched in 2024

Hands-On Projects- Project Based Learning
9 schools visiting Gold Certified Linked Learning Sites
12 Core/CTE teacher pairs co-designed and implemented Project Based Learning experiences

Academics & College Credit
\$800,000 in grants awarded to school partners expanding CTE Healthcare Pathways
100% of all CTE Healthcare Pathway capstones are articulated or dually enrolled with a higher ed partner via CCAP across **8 schools, 5 districts, and 3 counties**

Paid Internships
110 Intern placements open for 2026
74 Interns placed in 2025
34 Interns placed in 2024

Student Led Consultancies
2025-2026 SY: **380 students, 13 employer partners** (Medical & Agricultural Pathway Consultancies)
2024-2025 SY: **100 students, 3 employer partners** (Medical Pathway Consultancies Offered)

Soft Skills
2025-2026 SY **134 students, 32 workshops, 4 schools**

Work-Based Learning

2025-2026 SY **Job Site Tours and Industry Panels with 30 Employer Partners** arranged for 23 schools

2024-2025 SY: **Job-Site Tours with 13 Employer Partners** arranged for **25 schools**
Pathway Specific In-Person and Virtual **Speaker Panels** reach **500+** students each year

WHAT'S GOING ON NOW:

Expand Opportunity Through Dual Enrollment — Register Now!

Join us for an engaging 3-part workshop series designed to help educators, counselors, and leaders strengthen dual enrollment access and student success. Learn practical strategies to expand pathways, build staff capacity, and improve communication that connects more students to college opportunities earlier than ever before.

Whether you are new to dual enrollment or looking to enhance existing efforts, this series offers valuable tools, expert guidance, and actionable ideas you can bring back to your campus right away.

Click the flyer below to access the registration link!

Expanding Dual Enrollment

CLP | Career Ladders Project

A 3-PART WORKSHOP SERIES

Expanding Pathways and Early Access

April 14th
3:30pm - 4:30pm

Increasing Staff and Instructional Capacity

April 28th
3:30pm - 4:30pm

Clear Communication and Outreach

May 14th
3:30pm - 4:30pm



[REGISTER HERE](#)



WE Will! K16 Events for 2026/2027



Save The Date 2026-2027

Impact Network Virtual
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Executive Steering Council
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

September 10, 2026
December 3, 2026
May 13, 2027

September 17, 2026
December 10, 2026
May 20, 2027

Professional Learning Opportunities

CCGI Workshop Fall	September 15, 2026
Regional Industry Sector Summit-Education	October 21, 2026
2nd Annual Transformative Counseling	November 18, 2026
Virtual CCGI Workshop	December 9, 2026
Regional Industry Sector Summit-Healthcare	January 21, 2027
3rd Annual Work Based Learning Summit	February 3, 2027
CCGI Workshop Spring	May 5, 2027

<https://wewill-k16.org>



IMPORTANT REMINDERS



State Audit: Fiscal Reporting Requirement Revisions

IMPORTANT! All revisions for prior reporting expenditures from the start of your contract to February 28th are due May 15th.

This is a solid deadline and unable to be moved as it is due to the State to complete the audit.

Please see the Partner Repository Folder to access the slides that provide guidance to meet the requirements of reporting. Feel free to reach out for any questions.


AUDIT REQUIREMENTS FISCAL REPORTING PROCESS

Monthly Expenditure Reports

As a reminder fiscal monthly expenditure reports are due monthly on the 15th day of each month. Reporting period is the month prior to the reporting month.

Example: May 15th reporting will report expenditures for the month of April.

MONTHLY EXPENDITURE REPORT EXCEL SHEET



Quarterly Narrative Reporting

All Projects will continue to submit quarterly narrative reports in our data tool.

This years narrative reports are due:

- July 31, 2026

Reminders will be sent out to the lead contact.

BE IN THE KNOW

WE Will! Calendar of Events

Be sure to reference our Calendar of Events linked below to find any upcoming WE Will events as well as those within the region.

Please share all the great work going on within the region! To get it placed on calendar please email:

Diana Hernandez dianahernandez@ucmerced.edu

We look forward to sharing and being apart of your events!

[CALENDAR OF EVENTS](#)

UC Merced Center for Educational Partnerships | 550 E Shaw Ave | Fresno, CA 93710 US

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