



USDOL Registered Apprenticeship Technical Assistance Center of Excellence Newsletter *Strategic Partnerships & System Alignment*

September 2022 Edition

In this issue of the CoE Newsletter learn about:

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California Regional Apprenticeship Strategy Sessions

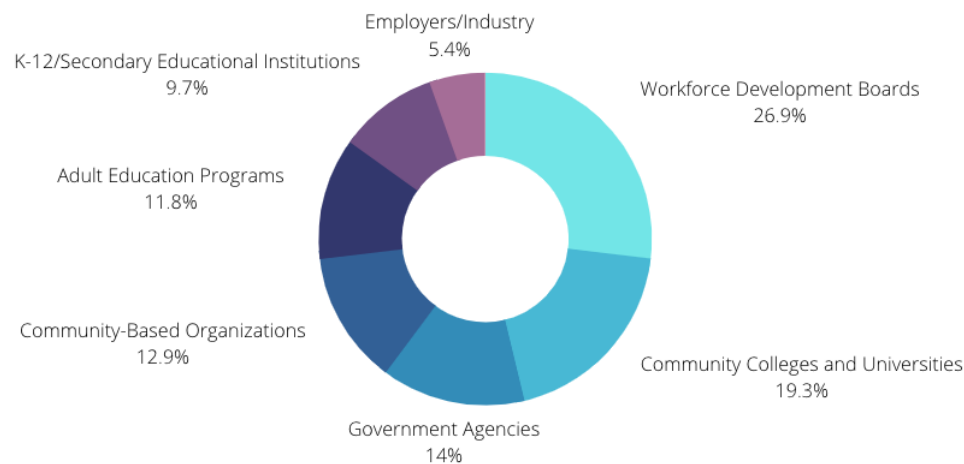
To launch and inform the Center's focused work in the state of California to advance registered apprenticeship (RA) alignment, [Safal Partners](#), the [California Workforce Association \(CWA\)](#), the [California Division of Apprenticeship Standards \(DAS\)](#), and the California [US Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship \(USDOL OA\)](#) formed a Leadership Team of 26 members from industry, workforce, education, government, and labor, with representation at both state and local levels.



The team determined that a series of regional RA strategy sessions convening key stakeholders from education (K-12, post-secondary, and adult education), workforce (state and local workforce development boards), industry, labor, and community-based organizations would both facilitate delivery of key alignment-oriented technical assistance (TA) and accelerate strategic partnership formation around apprenticeship.

Three sessions were held in the northern region (Sacramento - 8/2), central region (Clovis - 8/4), and southern region (Long Beach - 8/9). Representatives from DAS, including Division Chief Eric Rood, and the Foundation of California Community Colleges provided state-specific RA background and updates before an engaged working session facilitated by Safal Partners SMEs. A total of 258 participants across each targeted constituency group (*see below*) actively collaborated in creating locally-informed and participant-driven action plans to accelerate RA adoption and alignment forward for their area. This approach allowed

participants who are currently engaged in apprenticeship at varying levels to build and strengthen partnerships for RA acceleration and modernization.



The Center created an initial session report out which it has shared with the CA Leadership Team and USDOL OA. Center SMEs are doing follow-up outreach to session attendees and will coach working groups through the Fall until a virtual reconvening in January 2023.

New Tool, Webinar Series on Driving System Alignment

National Disability Institute (NDI), a national partner on the Center of Excellence has developed an "Apprenticeship Driver Alignment Assessment" for leadership teams for use in evaluating system alignment. Doug Keast, Project Manager at NDI, recently spoke about the assessment tool on a three-part webinar series hosted on Center partner NAWDP's "30 Minutes of Excellence" series.



Three Part Webinar Series: Increasing Service Alignment in Apprenticeship Initiatives

- (Listen Now): **Part One** - Guidance in WIOA and How States Currently Approach Alignment
- (Listen Now): **Part Two** - The Value of Leadership vs. "Being Leveraged"
- **Register for Part Three** - Doug will be speaking (see "Events. andFor more information see the event on October 19th below.

The Center offers a facilitated half-day process for leadership teams to assess driver alignment and inform strategic planning if a need for increased driver alignment is desired. The Center will provide facilitation for three teams in both assessment completion and results analysis. To learn more and request facilitated TA using this Assessment tool, contact Doug Keast at dkeast@ndi-inc.org.

Aligning Workforce to Accelerate Youth Apprenticeship

CWA MMM Session with San Joaquin County, CareerSource USA

As part of its work to increase apprenticeship alignment with education and workforce systems, the Center presented

on "The WHAT and WHY of Youth Apprenticeship" at CWA's annual Meeting of the Minds (MMM) conference held on September 6th-8th.

The panel session, moderated by Adam Peck, Executive Director of the Tulare County Workforce Board, featured federal and state leaders in youth registered apprenticeship work including:

- Patricia Virgen - Executive Director, [San Joaquin County Workforce Development Board](#)
- Katie Wipfli - Director of College and Career Readiness, [San Joaquin County Office of Education](#)
- Ryan Gensler - Senior Director, National Partnerships at [CareerWise USA](#)
- Katie Adams - Senior Director, [Safal Partners](#)



Long-term structural changes in the nation's labor market, as well as projected long-term drop in both birth rates and workforce participation, are drivers for the increased focus on youth apprenticeship. In addition to being aligned with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), youth apprenticeship is a proven strategy for getting students both work-ready for day-one employment post-high school, as well as providing them with industry-aligned knowledge, workplace experience, and industry-valued credentials prior to graduation. Katie Wipfli shared [San Joaquin County's ARCH Program](#), which dovetails education and workforce and can serve as a replicable model for youth apprenticeship. The Center will be releasing a new Promising Practice resource on the program next quarter.

Opportunity: Building New Apprenticeship Occupations

The [USDOL RA TA Center of Excellence on Occupational Development](#) is building an industry-driven, easily accessible infrastructure of occupational skills for registered apprenticeship (RA) programs. The Urban Institute, which is leading the Center's work, is seeking input from employers and RA stakeholder partners to document occupations and their on-the-job competencies for apprenticeship across a wide array of industries. Urban Institute researchers will compile data and best practices to create a national compendium of quality-driven occupational standards for registered apprenticeships. [Learn more about how you can provide input on your recommendations for new occupations.](#)

Upcoming Webinars and Important Dates

10/4 - Webinar: Get involved with National Apprenticeship Week (NAW)

Time: 3:00pm EDT

APPRENTICESHIPUSA™
★★★

NAW is a nationwide celebration where industry, labor, equity, workforce, education, and government leaders host events to showcase the successes and value of Registered Apprenticeship for re-building our economy, advancing racial and gender equity, and supporting underserved communities.

This webinar will share all you need to know about how to get involved, including how

to register your events and proclamations, resources for planning and promoting events, and how to find events near you to participate in. You'll also learn about previous NAW events and activities for ideas on events to host during NAW 2022.

[Register Here](#)

10/19 - Webinar: System Alignment with Apprenticeship - Increasing Service Alignment in Apprenticeship Initiatives

Time: 1:00 - 2:00pm CDT



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In this second part of a three-part series on system alignment around apprenticeship, Doug Keast from NDI will speak on next steps in using initial assessment results to strengthen an apprenticeship initiative. In this session we look at what assessment results tell us about "where we are" and moving to "where we would like to be" in overall system alignment. Using lessons from Implementation Science we consider the engagement of critical drivers including their roles and their importance to systems change that is often required in expanding apprenticeship

[Register Here](#)

10/30- "30 Minutes of Excellence" Webinar: How do I Communicate the Benefits of RA to Career Seekers?

Time: 1:00-1:30PM CDT



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Engaging job seekers in apprenticeship can present a multitude of barriers to overcome depending on the community. For instance, younger generations may not be interested because it can be perceived as a long-term effort to receive monetary rewards. Job seekers for whom English is a second language may find apprenticeship daunting. This session provides tools and information on how to address potential barriers to apprenticeship from a job seekers' perspective.

[Register Here](#)



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Safal Partners | 19019 Windsor Crest Dr, Houston, TX 77094

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