

## **Collaborative Partner: SCCCD (w/SCAEC, FCC + FPU, NU, BU)**

### **Project #14: Adult Learners – Fresno K-16 Collaborative**

#### **Pathway(s): Accounting**

##### **Project Summary**

State Center Community College District/State Center Adult Education Consortium with the Collaborative partners will be executing their proposal (attached) to support adult learners in obtaining education in a Fresno K-16 Collaborative's pilot pathway to increase employability, educational attainment and socioeconomic mobility; as well as promote prior learning assessment/credit for prior learning (PLA/CPL) to recognize previously acquired education or vocational experiences.

The region's vision is to intersegmentally provide adult learners with the skills needed for employment, continuing education, career advancement and personal growth. Working intersegmentally, the Fresno K16 Collaborative along with community partners, will direct efforts to strengthen adult education and ensure students have access to high quality programs leading to their success in college and career.

In the pilot pathway Accounting and Financial Management, Collaborative partner State Center Community College District (SCCCD) through State Center Adult Education Consortium (SCAEC) and Fresno City College (FCC) will offer two cohorts (Spring 2021 and Fall 2021) of Bookkeeping Fundamental which is a 4.5 unit certificate program as either dual enrollment (SB 554) and/or general college credit.

Collaborative partners Fresno Pacific University and National University will work with SCAEC to develop coordinated outreach and recruitment effort targeted towards adult learners to increase awareness of Prior Learning (PLA)/Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) opportunities, available student support services, and financial aid resources to accelerate and increase education attainment.

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Background: Serving almost 55,000 adults, the SCAEC is one of the 71 adult education consortia in California, and its region is located within the San Joaquin Valley, and includes Fresno and Madera counties and borders portions of Kings and Tulare counties. The SCAEC is comprised of 20 members with the largest, aligning with the Collaborative, being Central Unified School District - Central Learning Adult School Site, Clovis Unified School District - Clovis Adult

Education, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools - Adults in Corrections - Delma Graves Adult School, Fresno County Superintendent of Schools - Career Technical Education/Regional Occupational Program, Fresno Unified School District - Fresno Adult School, Sanger Unified School District - Sanger Adult School, SCCCDC - Clovis Community College, Fresno City College, and Reedley College.

This Collaborative proposal will solidify adult education's importance and place in our region. The SCAEC has identified the need for more short-term courses aligned with local workforce needs to increase the employability of adult students in the region, as well as creating stronger career pathway development connecting adult schools to college and career. There is also an overarching need to provide more easily accessible, no cost programs in entry level, high demand occupations. Furthermore, there is a need to increase online and distance learning opportunities due to COVID-19 restrictions and lack of transportation throughout the region.

O\*NET recognizes Bookkeeping, Accounting and Auditing Clerks (43-3031.00) are a career category as a "Bright Outlook" occupation with median wage jobs above the living wage in California. The entry level wages of the occupations of Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks (SOC 43-3031), Payroll and Timekeeping Clerks (SOC 43-3051) and Brokerage Clerks (SOC 43-4011) exceed the Central/Mother Lode Region's (as defined by the CCCCCO) average living

wage. Furthermore, within the region, there is an undersupply of trained workers in the region with skills and certifications in Microsoft Excel and specialized accounting skill.

Further, the Fresno K-16 Collaborative's Accounting and Financial Management Pathway supports accounting related programs for adult learners to address the needs and increase employability with labor market desired skill sets.

## Project Progress Report

In coordination with the Fresno K-16 Collaborative staff, two courses were identified for a special adult education cohort. Bookkeeping Fundamental Certificate Program includes two courses: BT 24 – Beginning Excel and BT 131 Applied Accounting. Once the partnership was established between FCC, SCCCDC (SCAEC) and the Fresno K-16 Collaborative, the SCAEC Transitions Team began reaching out to potential adult school students. The group held

multiple coordination meetings to establish marketing materials, outreach and enrollment protocols. Arrangements were also made with the college for procurements and distribution of materials for students. FCC also provided equipment loans to students as needed. Due to the limited recruitment time and because of winter break and COVID challenges, the Transitions Team had only two weeks to work with the FCC counselors to verify and enroll students. A follow up meeting will be held to share reflections on how the first pilot went, including best practices, gaps and lessons learned. Adjustments will be made as needed for the next cohort.