Fresno-Madera K-16 Collaborative Executive Steering Committee

Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2026, 3PM – 4PM
Madera Community College
Zoom: https://fresnostate.zoom.us/j/83088098514?pwd=py1vy0zuIZbQ0S2bE4By0zhXQdQQnA.1&jst=2

Link to Meeting Materials: https://bit.ly/4giuFpF

Meeting called to order by Co-Chairs Á. Reyna (MCC) and J. Buckley (RC) at 3:03pm.

Present: J. Buckley (RC), J. Campos Bautista (Tulare WDB), L. Castillo (COJUSD), T. Cox (FLDUSD), M. Cantwell-Copher (FCSS), B. Dooley (EECU), L. Flores (FMK16C), B. Griffin (LUSD), J. Gladney (NU), K. Hammerstrom (FMK16C), O. Largo (UCM), J. Martinez (Kings County JTO), R. Mederos (KCOE), S. Medina (Farmersville USD), M. Mendez (Farmersville USD), P. Monarrez (PC), S. Navarro (RC), B. Peters (HJUHSD), M. Vang (Madera WDB), M. Bueno (TJUHSD), T. Overstreet (FUSD), C. Peña (WUSD), G. Pacheco (COS/TCOE), A. Pecina (CUSD), A. Ramirez (CVHEC), J. Preston (LC/TKCCC), Á. Reyna (MCC), N. Rico (FMK16C), V. Rosa (HJUHSD), T. Ryan (WUSD), M. Snell (CTFF), C. Tweed (CC), L. VanScyoc (TJUHSD), T. Wan (CTFF), D. Whisenhunt (FCC), D. Wiechmann (SUSD)

ESC Business - Approval of May 27, 2026 ESC and K-16 Partnership Meeting Minutes (Action: M/S/A to Receive and File): Motion made by M. Snell (CTFF). Seconded by B. Dooley (EECU). Motion carried.

Executive Director Report

- K. Hammerstrom (FMK16C) reported that FMK16C submitted its August 2026 report to the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC), combining project narrative reports and data collections. The report demonstrated implementation of the Health pathway, following the 2024 demonstration of the Education pathway, withFMK16C meeting original deadlines for both pathway and Recovery With Equity (RWE) implementation obligations under the grant. The report is available at bit.ly/K16_Aug2026_Report.
- K. Hammerstrom (FMK16C) shared that K-16 funding has directly contributed to touchpoints of 38,028 students across Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare counties, as well as 14,975 teachers, administrators, faculty, staff, community members, and parents, for a total impact of 53,003. These results exceed the Collaborative's original goals.
- K. Hammerstrom (FMK16C) reminded projects with approved No Cost Extensions (NCEs) that they are expected to continue implementing their approved scopes of work. Partners that have received NCE approval but have not yet received contract amendments may continue project activities, and invoices will be processed accordingly while amendments are forthcoming.
- K. Hammerstrom (FMK16C) explained that OPSC now requires an expense worksheet with invoices. The worksheet provides an additional level of expenditure detail beyond supporting documentation and is required as part of OPSC's audit processes for K-16 Collaboratives.
- K. Hammerstrom (FMK16C) announced that Aylin Cantor Castillo will join the FMK16C team as Operations and Finance Coordinator on September 8, 2026. Partners can expect future communications, meeting invitations, requests, and business-office coordination from her.

Other Grant Updates

- K. Hammerstrom (FMK16C) congratulated regional partners receiving Regional Investment Initiative (RII), Round 2.0 awards. More than $10 million was awarded to the Central San Joaquin Valley through the advanced

manufacturing proposal led by the San Joaquin Valley Manufacturing Alliance (SJVMA), with FMK16C serving as a subawardee for the K-16 High School Instructor Upskilling Initiative.

- J. Buckley (RC) provided background on the statewide RII investment, also known as California Jobs First. Round 2.0 funded 18 projects totaling approximately $48.5 million, with the intent of supporting approximately 20,000 new jobs across California. Within the regional advanced manufacturing award, Fresno State received approximately $4.4 million to renovate an existing facility and develop The Forge, an expanded makerspace; Fresno City College received approximately $1.7 million to establish a CNC machining program; and Reedley College's FAME program received approximately $1.3 million. The award also includes funding to upskill K-16 educators in manufacturing-related fields.
- N. Rico (FMK16C) shared that the High School Instructor Upskilling Initiative is intended to expand manufacturing pathways beyond welding by increasing awareness of in-demand careers and technical skills. Ten (10) high school instructors will participate in training with Reedley College and an externship with placements facilitated by SJVMA. The initiative will supplement existing curricula with industry knowledge, hands-on experience, and exposure to modern manufacturing practices. A nomination form will allow self-nominations and principal nominations, with an anticipated one (1) to two (2) participants selected per county with flexibility as needed. The program is expected to begin in Spring 2027. Funding will support participant training and externship stipends, instructional materials, supplies, equipment, and substitute-teacher costs.
- N. Rico (FMK16C) reported that the Regional Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (RAMP), supported with FMK16C Heritage Funds outside of the K-16 grant, held its launch meeting earlier that day at the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board Workforce Connection. The initiative will strengthen manufacturing-sector partnerships across Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare counties. Participants began mapping existing partnerships, initiatives, resources, and opportunities and scheduled future meetings and training. Tulare County Workforce Investment Board representative John Gonzalez will serve as the convening partner.
- N. Rico (FMK16C) provided an update on the Good Jobs Challenge-funded CNC Precision Partnership Upskilling program. Following the conclusion of business and manufacturing certificate programming with Fresno City College in June 2026, remaining funds were used with SJVMA, Fresno State's Jordan College of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (JCAST), and Fresno Economic Development Corporation to launch CNC upskilling at Fresno State and develop a CNC-focused model manufacturing lab. The first cohort of six employees from Total Concept Enterprises, Inc. began training on August 22, 2026, and a second cohort subsequently began. Participants received hands-on instruction from JCAST instructor Mike Lucchesi. Additional CNC shops may send employees for customized upskilling based on employer needs. Funding is available through May 2027. A public launch event to unveil the completed model manufacturing lab at Fresno State is anticipated in October or November 2026, with additional information forthcoming.

New Project Updates

- L. Flores (FMK16C) provided an update on the $150,000 initiative approved by the ESC to support high school instructors completing master's degrees to meet minimum qualifications that may qualify them to teach dual enrollment at California Community Colleges. The initial goal is to support approximately six (6) to ten (10) instructors. Participation will not guarantee employment, but the initiative is intended to create a stronger pipeline of qualified applicants. This initiative builds on a regional pilot involving National University, Fresno Pacific University, and CVHEC that supported 116 K-12 teachers in completing master's degrees in English or mathematics. The new model is intended to be smaller, more flexible, and subject-area agnostic. K-12 districts and community college partners will jointly identify instructional needs and strong candidates, research appropriate master's programs that align with community college minimum qualifications and confirm that the programs can be completed within the project timeline. Participating K-12 districts will be expected to support instructors and plan for related high school course offerings. Community college partners will help confirm alignment between graduate programs and intended disciplines, connect participants with faculty mentors, and work with districts to offer aligned college-level courses through dual enrollment, subject to established hiring protocols. FMK16C has begun planning conversations with representatives from CVHEC, Fresno Pacific University, National University, and Fresno Unified School District. The team is also exploring whether partner districts have teachers already pursuing relevant master's degrees who could receive support to complete their programs. Supporting educators who have already invested in their degrees may improve completion feasibility by May 2028 and could allow the initiative to serve more than the initially

projected six to ten participants. The overall project deadline is June 30, 2028, and degree completion will likely be required by May 2028. Additional details, including a nomination process, are in development.

- K. Hammerstrom (FMK16C) reported that the paraprofessional teaching-credential initiative is being developed with Fresno State for paraprofessionals who already hold bachelor's degrees. Participants would complete Fresno State's Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) to earn teaching credentials. Initial planning has involved Fresno Unified and Central Unified, with participation open to additional districts. The program may be completed in three semesters, making early nomination and admission planning important for completion by May 2028. Dr. Selena Van Horn will lead Fresno State's involvement through the Kremen School of Education and Human Development.
- M. Snell (CTFF) provided an update on the proposed special education certificate for classroom aides, paraprofessionals, and staff from community-based organizations working in schools. Fresno Pacific University has offered to help develop, host, and deliver the certificate. The initiative is intended to address knowledge and skill gaps as schools and expanded-learning programs serve increasing numbers of younger students and students with special needs. The goal is to certify approximately 100 participants over the next two years. The initiative will cover certificate costs but will not include participant stipends.
- K. Hammerstrom (FMK16C) explained that participating partners will help determine the certificate's final title, focus, and content based on identified needs. The approximately 20-hour program is expected to combine online and in-person instruction. A train-the-trainer component is also planned so participating schools and organizations can continue offering the training internally without additional cost. Planning will continue in October, and interested partners were asked to contact the FMK16C team for inclusion.
- L. Castillo (COJUSD) emphasized the need for specialized preparation among paraprofessionals serving preschool, transitional kindergarten, early-grade, and expanded-learning students, particularly as districts experience increased behavioral needs and paraprofessional vacancies. She expressed interest in participating in the certificate planning process.
- J. Buckley (RC) shared an update on a CVHEC workforce-alignment work group involving Lori Bennett, retired president of Clovis Community College, and Stan Carrizosa, retired superintendent/president of College of the Sequoias. The group is developing an inventory of existing programs in the central portion of the Central Valley and connecting with related efforts in the northern and southern parts of the valley. The initial emphasis is on aligning and scaling existing programs and upskilling faculty in modern manufacturing technologies rather than immediately creating new programs.
- J. Preston (LC/TKCCC) affirmed the importance of regional manufacturing workforce preparation. Manufacturing is among Kings County's five leading sectors, and Lemoore College will become a West Coast training provider for Rockwell Automation beginning in January 2027. He also noted growing business interest and anticipated job development in Kings County.

Announcements & Adjournment

- K. Hammerstrom (FMK16C) reminded of upcoming meetings:
    - Monday, November 9, 2026, 11:00am-12:00pm: Central San Joaquin Valley K-16 Partnership Advisory Council meeting via Zoom.
    - Wednesday, November 18, 2026, 3:00-4:00pm: FMK16C Executive Steering Committee meeting via Zoom.
- K. Hammerstrom (FMK16C) noted a special screening of The Class at Fresno State's Resnick Student Union. A flyer was included with the meeting materials.
- K. Hammerstrom (FMK16C) shared information about a one-day Pathways to Water Careers event for high school counselors, intended to increase awareness of career opportunities within the water industry. Information had been distributed to counselors, teachers, and career navigators, and a flyer was included with the meeting materials.
- K. Hammerstrom (FMK16C) advised members that she may participate virtually more often and limit some in-person meetings due to a personal medical matter.
- J. Buckley (RC) reminded members of the Maddy Institute lecture at Fresno State featuring author Doris Kearns Goodwin later that evening.
- Meeting adjourned at 3:44pm.