

# LAUNCH:

## Expanding apprenticeship opportunities to high schoolers in the Inland Empire

Youth apprenticeship is LAUNCH's strategy for connecting youth to prosperity in a region where educational and economic opportunities have been historically out of reach.

Local Apprenticeships Uniting a Network of Colleges and High Schools (LAUNCH), an established apprenticeship intermediary in Southern California, has embarked on an effort to make the region's apprenticeship system accessible to high-school aged youth, including in- and out-of-school learners. LAUNCH brings together a wide range of partners, including:

- **Riverside Community College District**
- **Corona-Norco Unified School District**
- **Riverside Unified School District**
- **San Bernardino City Unified School District**
- **Riverside County Office of Education**
- **California Family Life Center**
- **Mt. San Jacinto College**
- **Riverside County Workforce Department**

The LAUNCH Apprenticeship Network was formed in 2018 by the Inland Empire Desert Region College Consortium to increase apprenticeship adoption by businesses in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. LAUNCH leverages the region's community colleges, K-12 districts, and two workforce development boards to streamline the process for developing new apprenticeships. Since its founding at Riverside Community College District, LAUNCH has registered programs in over 20 occupations, in manufacturing to cybersecurity to health care.

Also in 2018, newly elected Governor Newsom announced an ambitious goal to expand California's apprenticeship system to serve 500,000 workers by 2029. LAUNCH has been a key partner in this goal. In 2022, LAUNCH was featured as a successful model of a regional intermediary in the Division



PAYA Grantee Snapshot



of Industrial Relations' action plan for advancing apprenticeships in the state.

With support from PAYA, LAUNCH will build on this experience to develop youth apprenticeship pathways that span high school and community college. These curricular pathways will integrate credit for on-the-job learning and culminate in academic credentials. LAUNCH will pilot youth apprenticeships in industries where it has existing Registered Apprenticeships, including advanced manufacturing, automotive, education, health care, and information technology.

LAUNCH will pursue this strategy by:

- **Identifying industry champions**, from within its network who will serve as employers for the first group of youth apprentices;
- **Developing dual-enrollment and competency based education pathways** for youth apprentices that span high school and community college; and,
- **Advising state policymakers** on how to support youth apprenticeship development and expansion.



"In an increasingly global world, apprenticeships provide the education and training necessary to prepare Californians for the jobs of today and tomorrow."

**GAVIN NEWSOM**  
*Governor of California*