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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Central San Joaquin Valley K-16 Partnership Awarded \$18.13M Grant from the State

**Fresno, CA – May 26, 2022** – Today, the Fresno State Foundation on behalf of the Central San Joaquin Valley K-16 Partnership (Partnership) was awarded \$18.13M by the California Department of General Services, Office of Public School Construction's [Regional K-16 Education Collaborative Grant Program](#) to equitably strengthen education-to-workforce pathways and ensure that educational, vocational, and workforce programs work in partnership to address the income, racial, and gender inequalities in education and employment. The Partnership is one of six collaboratives to receive the maximum award.

The macro-regional **Central San Joaquin Valley K-16 Partnership - A Collaboration of the Fresno-Madera K-16 Collaborative and the Tulare-Kings College + Career Collaborative (TKCCC)** was created to strengthen our region's leadership and impact by combining these two successful micro-region collaboratives for the purpose of achieving the equity-focused goals of this large-scale project.

The two collaboratives, who collectively represent the entire Central San Joaquin Valley Community Economic Resilience Fund (CERF) region comprised of Fresno, Kings, Madera and Tulare counties, will support and lead the work in their current region and come together to learn and impact in the work of the new collaborative. They will share their resources across all pathways and projects, coming together as one with efforts related to this work. Both collaboratives are designed to create and scale regional, intersegmental work to reimagine race equity, diversity and inclusion in education and the workforce as they serve K-16 students and adult learners.

"Higher education is the economic engine that will allow all Californians to recover from the pandemic as we respond to changing workforce needs. This recovery requires addressing the inequities of credential and degree attainment by race and geography and focusing on the removal of barriers to earning a college degree. Through collaboration with our K16 partners we can utilize best practices and sustainable policies to provide inclusive educational institutions, student support for an easier transition from kindergarten to the university and streamline pathways to postsecondary graduation. Together we can build a more equitable future for all students to fulfill their potential," said Fresno-Madera K-16 Collaborative Chair and SCCCDC Chancellor Carole Goldsmith.

Fresno-Madera K-16 Collaborative Vice Chair and Fresno State President Saúl Jiménez-Sandoval shared, "It is an honor to have the Fresno State Foundation be the lead fiscal entity for this grant. We appreciate the funding Governor Newsom has dedicated to K-16 collaboration and his support for the creation of equitable educational systems that empower all students to achieve social and economic well-being. Fresno State is pleased to partner in a project that shatters glass ceilings and unleashes the creative potential of our talented Central Valley students—they are the future of California."

"For nearly a decade, the Tulare Kings College and Career Collaborative has worked to streamline and strengthen student transitions to post-secondary institutions and the workforce," said Tim A. Hire, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools and TKCCC board member. "As valley educators, we see firsthand the challenges all of our students face in making those transitions, so equity has been a key component of our work. We are delighted to partner with Fresno-Madera K-16 Collaborative to share our successes and to learn from theirs in supporting the unique needs and challenges of Central Valley students."

Kings County Superintendent of Schools Todd Barlow and TKCCC board member offered, "It's exciting to imagine the benefits this partnership will bring to our students - and ultimately to our communities. Our future is bright when such dedicated people combine efforts to broaden their collective reach. We are happy the Tulare-Kings College and Career Collaborative and the Fresno-Madera K-16 Collaborative have joined in this opportunity to serve our students."

With an emphasis on dual enrollment and early college credit, and implementing recommendations from the California Governor's Council on Postsecondary Education Recovery Taskforce's [February 2021 Recovery with Equity report](#) to promote student success, this four-year grant will focus pathway and related work in the following sectors: Business Management, Education, Engineering or Computing, and Healthcare.

### **About the Central San Joaquin Valley K-16 Partnership**

The Central San Joaquin Valley K-16 Partnership is a collaboration of the [Fresno-Madera K-16 Collaborative](#) and the [Tulare-Kings College + Career Collaborative](#). The Partnership was created to strengthen our region's education and socio-economic equity, leadership, support and impact on the 516,574, K-16 students and adult learners we serve. Our aim is to eliminate intersegmental silos and unite our partners to build relationship infrastructure for future work. By braiding our approaches and resources, we are confident there will be a significant increase in filling our LMI-supported job talent pipeline to ensure that individuals thrive personally and professionally.

### **About the Fresno-Madera K-16 Collaborative**

The Fresno-Madera K-16 Collaborative, newly renamed to reflect the inclusive and intentional expansion across both Fresno and Madera counties, is a signature initiative of both the California Governor's Council on Postsecondary Education and the [Fresno DRIVE](#) (Developing the Region's Inclusive and Vibrant Economy) that aims to increase college degree attainment in high demand-industries, align educational preparation with the demands of the regional employer's, and close race and equity gaps by developing an integrated system and seamless set of educational experiences across the region's K-12 districts, community colleges, and four-year universities.

### **About the Tulare-Kings College + Career Collaborative**

The Tulare-Kings College + Career Collaborative is a regional collaborative of twelve K-12 school districts, two county offices of education, eight post-secondary institutions, and over 500 workforce development partners. Together, we foster relationships across these segments through data driven strategies, high quality career pathway development, work-based learning experiences, college and career readiness, shared outcomes and structures, and transitional alignment to provide students with the greatest potential for their success. The Tulare-Kings College & Career Collaborative was named as a Linked Learning Regional Hub of Excellence by the James Irvine Foundation for its work scaling and elevating high-quality Linked Learning pathways.

To learn more, visit [fresnomaderahigheredforall.org](https://fresnomaderahigheredforall.org) or [tkccc.org](https://tkccc.org).

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