



CENTER FOR A  
COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE

**SOCIAL AND HUMAN  
SERVICE ASSISTANT**

REGIONAL PROGRAM ADVISORY MEETING

# Los Angeles Community College Meeting Look Book

---

POWERED BY



California  
Community  
Colleges



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

*Collaboratively Advancing Growth and Prosperity for All*

In partnership with the Center for a Competitive Workforce,  
and the Los Angeles County Economic Development  
Corporation



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>MEETING AGENDA .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CENTER FOR A COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Mission .....	3
Contact Information .....	4
<b>REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>INDUSTRY REPRESENTATION .....</b>	<b>6</b>



# MEETING AGENDA

<b>Date and Time</b>	April 16, 2021 from 10am-12pm
<b>Occupation</b>	Social and Human Service Assistant
<b>Opening Remarks</b>	Welcome and Introductions   Isabel Duran, LAEDC Center for a Competitive Workforce   Richard Verches, CCW
<b>Discussion Moderated by Claire Anderson</b>	Topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Industry workforce trends</li><li>- COVID-19 and the future of work</li><li>- Core competencies – soft and hard skills, technology</li><li>- Opportunities to bridge knowledge, talent, and certification gaps</li><li>- Entry-level talent, hiring, and career pathways</li></ul>
<b>Colleges represented include:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Cerritos College</li><li>- Citrus College</li><li>- East Los Angeles College</li><li>- Glendale Community College</li><li>- Los Angeles City College</li><li>- Los Angeles Trade Technical College</li><li>- Los Angeles Valley College</li><li>- Long Beach City College</li><li>- Pasadena City College</li><li>- Rio Hondo College</li><li>- Santa Monica College</li><li>- West Los Angeles College</li></ul>
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	Next Steps and Adjournment   Claire Anderson, LAEDC



# CENTER FOR A COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE

## Mission

Center for a Competitive Workforce (CCW) was established in 2017 as a Strong Workforce Program regional project of the 19 community colleges in the Los Angeles region in collaboration with the LA/OC Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research (COE) hosted at Mt. San Antonio College and the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC).

In partnership with the COE and LAEDC Institute for Applied Economics, CCW has published multiple labor market reports that analyze labor supply and demand data for middle-skill occupations in high-growth industries to inform and influence the development of new or modified career education and workforce development programs and curricula. CCW supports quarterly convenings with education, workforce, nonprofit, government and industry leaders in three of the LA region's most highly concentrated and fastest growing industry sectors of advanced transportation, bioscience and digital media/entertainment, with the co-equal goals to strengthen industry engagement with community college faculty and to connect more community college students to meaningful work-based learning opportunities, as one of the best ways to constructively prepare them for the 21st century jobs and careers in the fast-emerging and rapidly-changing knowledge-intensive industries that will drive our regional economy today and tomorrow.

CCW, in partnership with the regional directors for employer engagement, is piloting seven regional advisory committees to further strengthen regional alignment of and ongoing connections between faculty and industry. CCW has developed two online platforms: a biosciences industry portal and a regional Workforce and Education Partner Portal that employs technology to increase the speed and richness of industry-college connections, to seamlessly access and deploy the economic intelligence gleaned through industry engagement, and to rapidly expand and scale the number of work-based learning and employment opportunities for career education students and graduates with certificates and degrees.

Learn more at [www.CompetitiveWorkforce.LA](http://www.CompetitiveWorkforce.LA).



California  
Community  
Colleges



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Funded by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office under the Strong Workforce Program (SWP) as a Los Angeles Regional Project.

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) was founded in 1981 as a nonprofit, public-benefit organization to harness the power of private sector in collaboration with L.A. County, to guide economic development and create more widely shared prosperity. LAEDC collaborates with all stakeholders in the region including education, business, and government. Learn more at [www.LAEDC.org](http://www.LAEDC.org).



## Contact Information



**Richard Verches, Executive Director, Center for a Competitive Workforce**  
[Verches@verizon.net](mailto:Verches@verizon.net)



**Jessica Ku Kim, Senior Director of Workforce Development, LAEDC**  
[Jessica.Kim@LAEDC.org](mailto:Jessica.Kim@LAEDC.org)



**Claire Anderson, Workforce Development Program Manager, LAEDC**  
[Claire.Anderson@LAEDC.org](mailto:Claire.Anderson@LAEDC.org)



**Isabel Duran, Administrative Manager, LAEDC**  
[Isabel.Duran@LAEDC.org](mailto:Isabel.Duran@LAEDC.org)



# REGIONAL DIRECTORS OF EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

Regional Directors play a key role in implementing activities and achieving outcomes for their designated sector by working with community colleges in the designated region to strengthen connections between career education and business and industry.

The Regional Directors develop partnerships with business and industry, working closely with key talent including Regional Chairs, Centers of Excellence, Technical Assistance Providers, Pathway Coordinators, Statewide Directors, and other Regional Directors of Employer Engagement.

For more information regarding Regional Directors and their industry sectors, use the following link:  
[www.laocrc.org/member-resources/rdee](http://www.laocrc.org/member-resources/rdee)

## Los Angeles County Regional Directors

### **Bruce Noble, Energy, Construction and Utilities**

[Bruce.noble@riohondo.edu](mailto:Bruce.noble@riohondo.edu)

### **Charlotte Augenstein, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Digital Media**

[Caugenstein@hotmail.com](mailto:Caugenstein@hotmail.com)

### **Judy Fox, Business and Entrepreneurship**

[Jfox@cerritos.edu](mailto:Jfox@cerritos.edu)

### **Katie Mishler, Advanced Transportation and Logistics**

[Kmishler@cerritos.edu](mailto:Kmishler@cerritos.edu)

### **Ozzie Lopez, Health**

[Olopez63@mtsac.edu](mailto:Olopez63@mtsac.edu)

### **Ruth Amanuel, Global Trade**

[Ramanuel@lbcc.edu](mailto:Ramanuel@lbcc.edu)

### **Shari Herzfeld, Health**

[Sherzfeld@riohondo.edu](mailto:Sherzfeld@riohondo.edu)



# INDUSTRY REPRESENTATION

## **Debbie Yadow, Senior Director of Pathway Development at Futuro Health**



Debbie has over 37 years of nursing experience in both the clinical setting and in higher education and administration. She joined Futuro Health out of retirement and has been instrumental in its formation, driving the creation of the year one and year two catalog. This initial phase established the momentum for Futuro Health's prospects, including navigating several pivots during the pandemic. Soon, Debbie will re-retire to spend time with her grandchildren and cap her career having led Futuro Health's participation in the largest public health crisis of modern times – the vaccination campaign. Debbie has her Masters Degree in Nursing Administration from the University of San Diego and spent almost 30 years at Grossmont College first as a Nursing Professor, then as Sr. Dean of Nursing and Allied Health.

## **Emily Van Cise, Director of Health & Wellness at the Downtown Women's Center**

Emily is the Director of Health and Wellness at the Downtown Women's Center in Los Angeles. The Downtown Women's Center manages 119 units of permanent housing and serves more than 5,400 women annually – providing a wide array of resources to decrease barriers and end homelessness for all women, for good. The Health and Wellness services she leads include individual and group counseling, medical care, mental health services, preventative screenings, trauma recovery services, and enrichment activities. Emily has also held roles at the Salvation Army, Throop Memorial Church, the Women's Room at ECPAC, and Providence Row Homeless Shelter. She holds her Masters Degree in Leadership Studies and Community Ministry from Meadville Lombard Theological School.

## **Joel Jacinto, Business Service Representative at West Adams WorkSource Center**



Joel is the Business Service Representative for the West Adams WorkSource Center, operated by the multi-service community-based organization titled the Asian American Drug Abuse Program (AADAP). He has extensive experience in the non-profit sector in the areas of health and human services and community economic development. He is a culture and arts steward and has a lifelong pursuit of being a servant leader always, in all ways.

## **Shawn Bolton, Assistant Vice President of Program Operations at Chrysalis**



Shawn is an integrity-driven and passionate nonprofit professional dedicated to enhancing and motivating under-represented communities. Serving as Assistant Vice President of Program Operations, she provides clients with the resources and skills they need to get ready for, find, and keep a job. Shawn has been grounded in her work through fostering a culture of collaboration, mutual respect, innovation, and continuous improvement. Leading by example, she encourages professional excellence among her staff and promotes an organizational culture of excellent customer service, innovation, and quality services. Prior to Chrysalis, Shawn spent eight years providing leadership at Youth Policy Institute (YPI) – first, within the Health & Wellness department and later as Director of Community & Family Support. At YPI, she provided oversight and coordination of community-based services and crime reduction programs at two community centers, city parks, and schools. She has fourteen years of experience in teaching, coaching, mentoring, supervising, coordinating, community outreach and student/family training. Shawn holds a Master of Public Administration and Nonprofit Management, a Master of Education in Leadership and Change, and a Bachelor of Science in Public Health/Kinesiology. Shawn believes



the key to a successful community-based approach is embedded in the intersections of these disciplines, each acting as an anchor to provide wrap-around services and eradicate poverty.

**Venise Russ, Clinical Social Work Director at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center**



Venise is the Clinical Social Work Director at Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center in Downey – a part of the Department of Health Services in the County of Los Angeles. Ms. Russ oversees a team of 30 personnel who provide biopsychosocial assessment, mental health support, community resources and medical placement to patients who have been hospitalized and devastated by a life-altering disability. Her department also includes a small group of staff who deliver services to patients coming for outpatient rehabilitation and medical treatment. This outpatient team partners with nursing to address the mental health and substance abuse needs of patients as well as social determinants of health. Ms. Russ has been a director for 3 years, but has a wealth of experience in direct patient care and middle management. Her past work experience includes being a Clinical Social Work Supervisor at Rancho Los Amigos Hospital and a Clinical Social Work Consultant with a Collaborative Project with the Probation Department and the Department of Health Services. Before Ms. Russ joined the Department of Health Services, she spent nine years with the Los Angeles County Public Defender's Office. She was a middle manager for 7 years and a Psychiatric Social Worker for two years. Her forensic social work experience focused on partnering with attorneys in preparing the criminal defense of juveniles and evaluating the underlying factors leading to the delinquency behavior. This mitigation work included resource linkage to specialized adolescent services, school advocacy and court testimony.

**Wendy Blanco, Director of Counseling Services and Trauma Recovery at Peace Over Violence**



Wendy is a licensed clinical social worker with more than 18 years of experience working in the field of trauma. She has an expertise in sexual assault, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS, and clinical work as it relates to how trauma impacts individuals, families, and communities. Wendy has been asked to train on topics such as trauma informed care, domestic violence, sexual assault, and sexual harassment. She has also done radio and television interviews in Spanish that raise awareness of mental health in the Latinx community.