



LINKED LEARNING CONVENTION | ANAHEIM, CA | FEB. 12-14

Pulling Back the Curtain: What Colleges Need to Systematically Support Pathways



Valerie Lundy-Wagner, PhD
Associate Research Director
Jobs for the Future



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Overview

- Context Setting
- Impetus for the Study
 - Research Questions
- Methodology
- Preliminary Findings
- Discussion
- Closing

Scaling Linked Learning

Linked Learning **REGIONAL HUB**

A network of partners from across sectors working to help students succeed.



About the Initiative

Linked Learning Regional Hubs of Excellence is an initiative of The James Irvine Foundation to **expand the scale and sustainability of Linked Learning** — helping more young people in California gain equitable access to this practical, promising approach. The initiative focuses on building and strengthening regional hubs — area networks that apply the four components of Linked Learning to increase rates of student success.

Impetus for the Study

- Linked Learning requires attentiveness to postsecondary education and training;
- Community colleges struggle to systematize support for Linked Learning students that matriculate;
- Need to understand how community colleges understand LL and barriers for systematic support.

What should Linked Learning champions know to get community college support?

Research Questions

- What do community college stakeholders know about Linked Learning?
- How does their understanding of Linked Learning connect to their departmental and/or organizational goals?
- What opportunities and barriers exist for community colleges to champion and incentivize the Linked Learning approach and graduates who matriculate to their institution?

Methodology

- Identified Linked Learning region
- Shared project overview
- Discussed focus group process
- Identified diverse set of campus stakeholders
- One, 1.5hr focus group on-campus

Preliminary Findings

- Political and ethical dilemmas
- Availability and accessibility of data
- Challenges with priority registration

Political and Ethical Dilemmas

- Distribution of LL in and outside of schools/districts;
- Community college open access policies
- “We tend to focus on problem students, as opposed to gifted students”

What can be done to support political and ethical dilemmas for community college admin, faculty, and staff?

Data Availability and Accessibility

- LL not on transcripts;
- Underdeveloped K-12 and community college data technology infrastructure;
- Pathway participation not part of counselors/advisor intake and engagement;
- Students don't know or mention participation in a LL pathway;

What can be done about data availability and accessibility concerns?

Recommendations

- Develop a student ambassador program
- Consider digital badging or certification for work-readiness
- Support for student chapters of professional and industry organizations (e.g., SkillsUSA or AWS)
- Develop more on-the-job (or work-based learning) opportunities

Closing Reflection

- Should Linked Learning's connections to community colleges lie only with CTE programs?
- How can high schools and districts better champion Linked Learning graduate matriculation to community college (CTE and non-CTE) programs? And,
- To what extent can Linked Learning workforce partners become champions of the postsecondary strategy at community colleges?

Discussion, Questions, Feedback



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Thank you!

[Linkedlearning.org](https://linkedlearning.org)