



RURAL COLLEGE ACCESS

OVERVIEW OF RURAL COUNTY COLLEGE
ACCESS WORKING GROUPS

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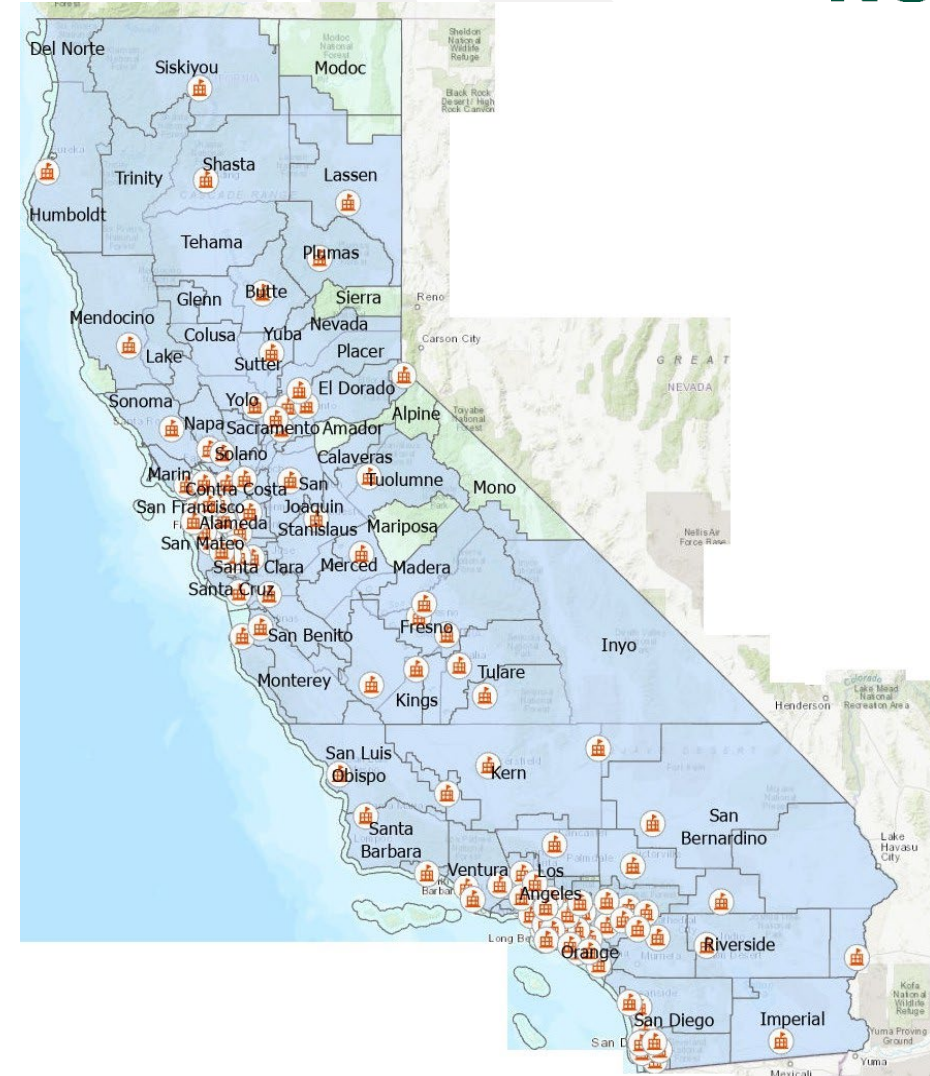
SEPTEMBER 2024



Community College Districts in California



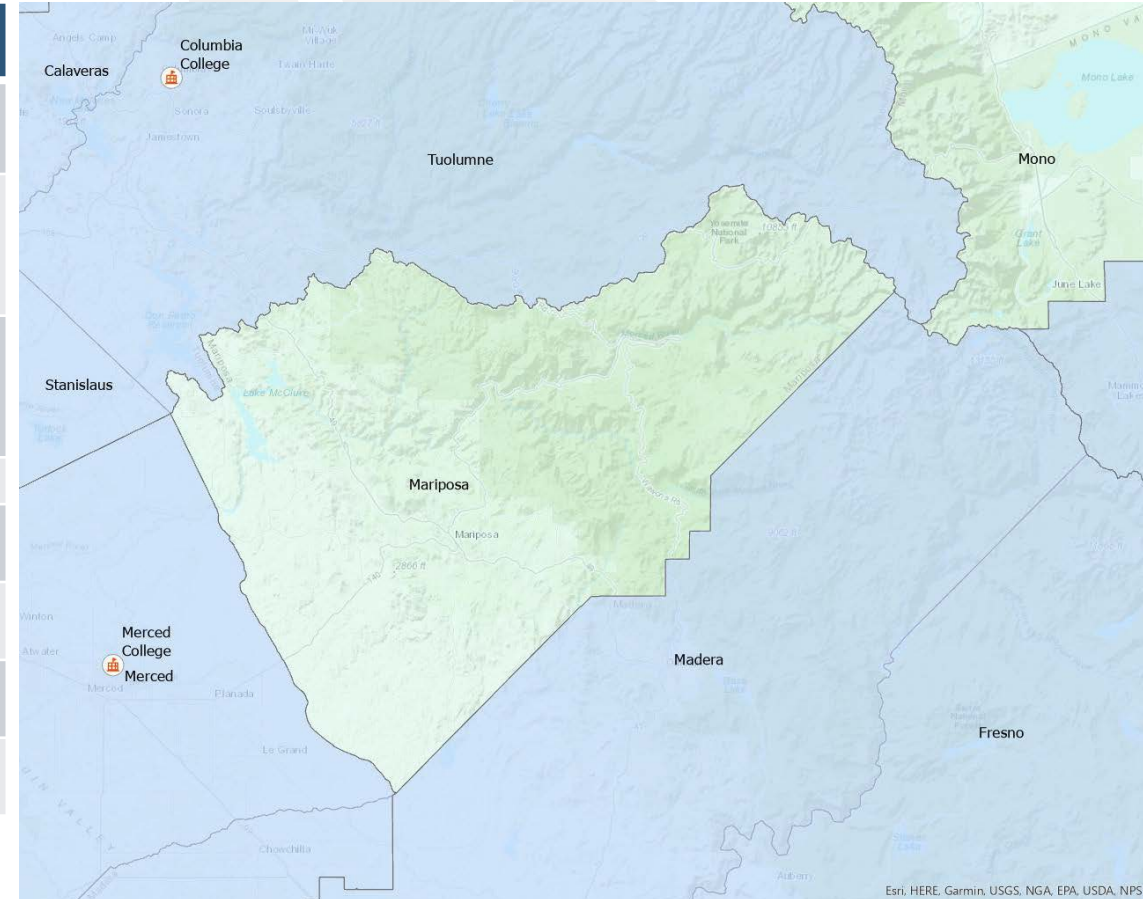
- Rural counties without community college districts within their boundaries are more likely to experience lower levels of high school graduates attending community colleges, lower overall college enrollment rates, and fewer students qualifying for CSU/UC minimum admission standards.
- The five counties without community college districts had roughly one-third of the rate of CSU freshman and undergraduate transfers compared to counties with both community college and CSU campuses.
- Every rural county without a community college district had a unique set of attributes and obstacles, thus the formation of the Rural County College Access Working Groups to address individual hurdles.



Mariposa County Education and Demographic Statistics

Description	Mariposa County	CA Average
College Going Rate (20-21)	47%	62%
Percent High School completers Enrolled at CA CC (20-21)	28%	32%
Percent of HS graduates meeting CSU/UC requirements (2022-23)	26%	52%
Med Age	51.6	37.9
Veterans	9.6%	4.3%
Med HH Income	\$ 60,021	\$ 91,551
Bach or higher	28.9%	37.0%

*Our data analysis shows a strong and positive correlation between the college-going rate and per-capita income. As per-capita income increases, the college-going rate increases as well (correlation coefficient = .6).



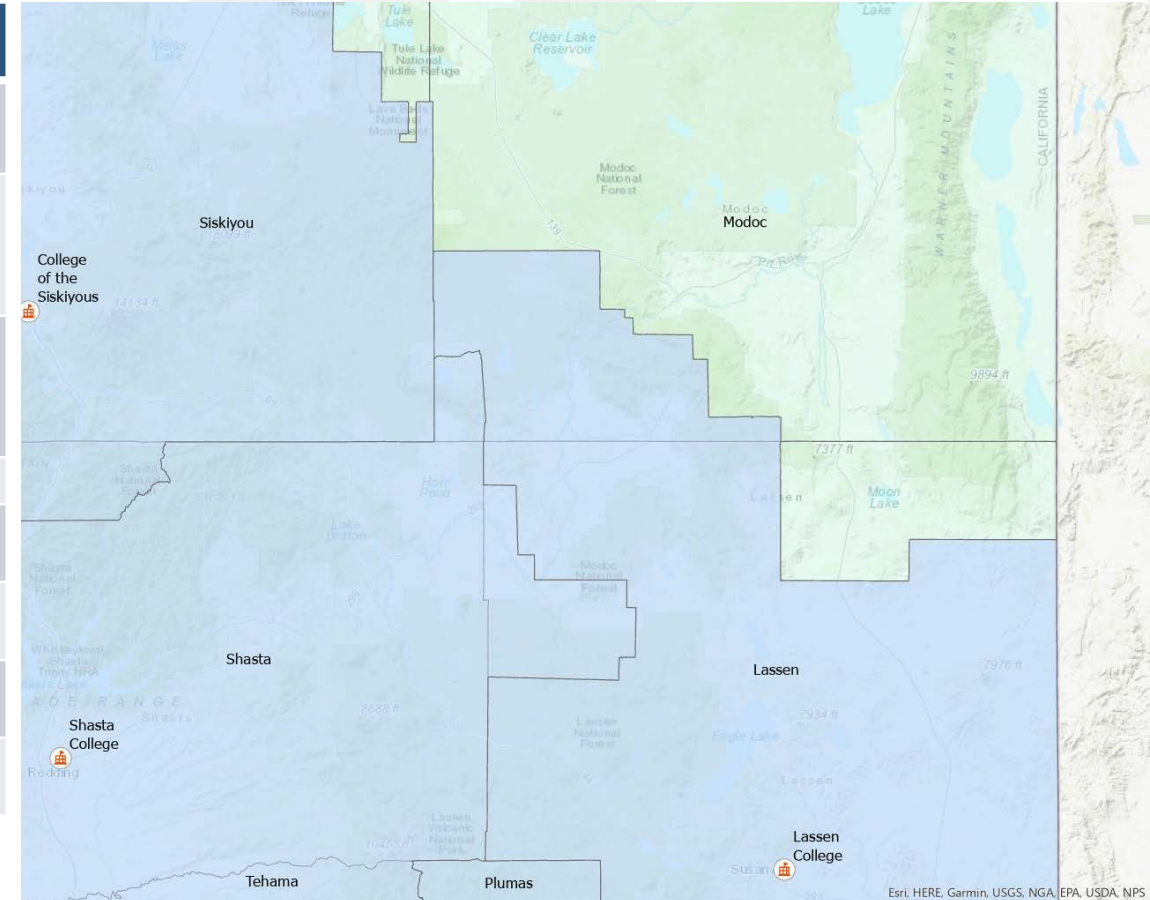
MARIPOSA COUNTY- OBSERVATIONS FROM COLLEGE ACCESS WORKING GROUP



- There are a lot of barriers to postsecondary education for high school students, including transportation and childcare costs, or a lack of the expectation of a college education.
- In speaking with the Presidents of nearby Community Colleges (Merced & Fresno), they stated with resources already limited, it is hard to justify spending or providing services outside of their county without adequate economic incentives.
- Infrastructure for facility growth is limited, and there are not any empty offices to move into for new employment or provide off-site college courses.
- There are many challenges to hiring new instructors, such as the high cost of living, the availability of housing, and the lack of employment opportunities for a trailing spouse.
- A side-effect of scarce housing is that 2,500 to 3,000 workers commute from surrounding counties each day.
- 1/3rd of health/human services workers live in Merced.
- Many workers request a stipend to begin work in Mariposa, due to the county's high cost of living.
- Due to limited access, high school graduates face high upfront costs to mobilize to another county to attend a community college.
- Cited workforce gaps are in the medical sector, law enforcement, forestry, mining, and hospitality management.

Modoc County Education and Demographic Statistics

Modoc County	Modoc	CA Average
College Going Rate (20-21)	50%	62%
Percent High School completers Enrolled at CA CC (20-21)	30%	32%
Percent of HS graduates meeting CSU/UC requirements (2022-23)	42%	52%
Med Age	47.5	37.9
Veterans	10%	4.3%
Med HH Income	\$ 54,962	\$ 91,551
Bach or higher	23.8%	37.0%



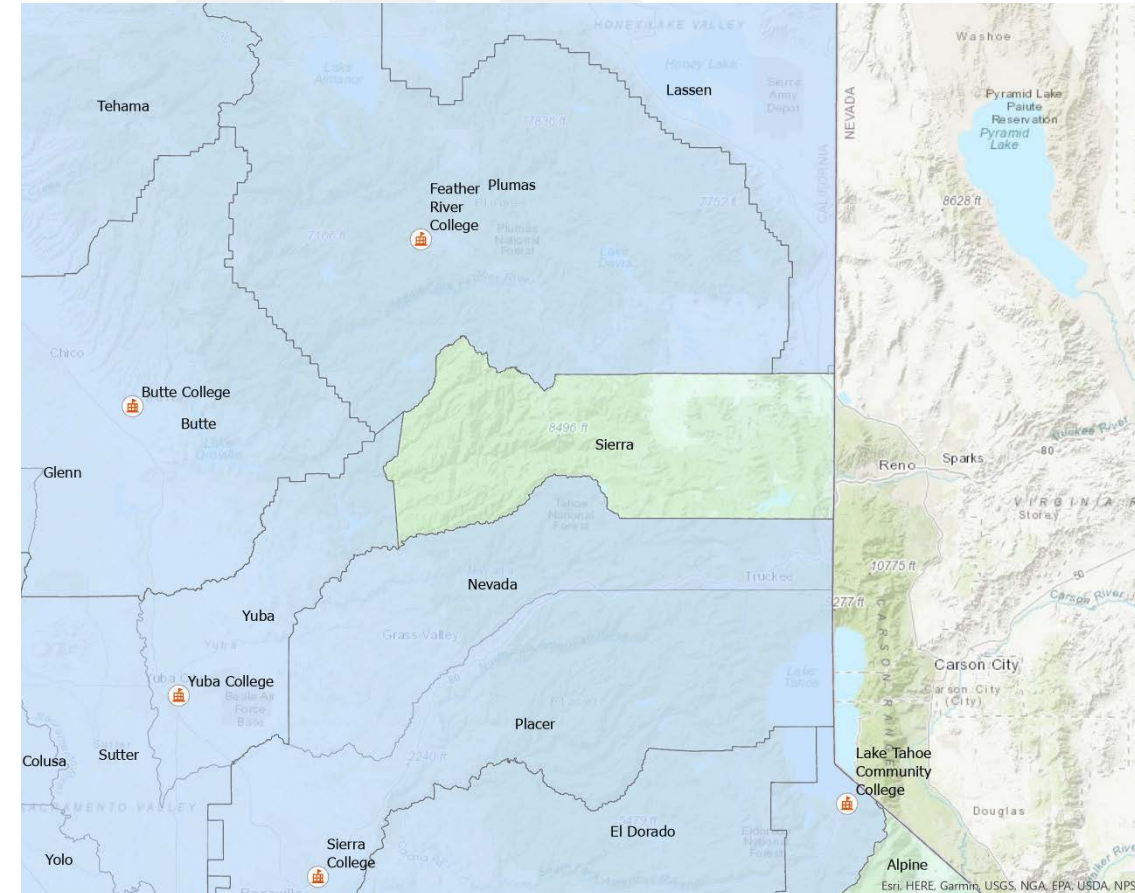
MODOC COUNTY- OBSERVATIONS FROM COLLEGE ACCESS WORKING GROUP



- [Modoc College Center \(MCC\)](#)- Brings college programs locally, offering Career Navigators, Financial Aid Coaching, and Academic Advising services, virtually, and in-person.
 - Priority in apprenticeship development and incorporating the most cost-effective post-secondary programs, including nursing.
 - MCC suffers from staffing shortages and does not have access to science classes and portable labs that are necessary pre-requisites for nursing programs.
 - Biggest need for MCC: “More courses accessible virtually, but lab-courses need to be available on site.”
- Only one high school has an AVID college readiness program, skewing the county’s graduation and college-going rates.
- Travel costs and costs of time are major factors that deter students from gathering.
- The quality of the workforce has diminished due to a lack of local post-secondary programs.
 - Research Recommendation: Quantify the loss of worker productivity that has resulted from a work force lacking in digital literacy.
- County has no licensed childcare providers.
- There is a current workforce demand for nurses, behavioral health experts, and K-12 teachers.
- There are K-12 educational services for the disabled population (18% of county), but not for the adult workforce population.
- Implementing nursing apprenticeship program would result in reduced costs for local hospitals that currently hire non-local qualified nurses.

Sierra County Education and Demographic Statistics

Description	Sierra County	CA Average
College Going Rate (20-21)	64.5%	62%
Percent High School completers Enrolled at CA CC (20-21)	23%	32%
Percent of HS graduates meeting CSU/UC requirements (2022-23)	61%	52%
Med Age	54.9	37.9
Veterans	8.7%	4.3%
Med HH Income	\$ 61,108	\$ 91,551
Bach or higher	23.9%	37.0%



SIERRA COUNTY- OBSERVATIONS FROM COLLEGE ACCESS WORKING GROUP



- San Francisco State University has a field campus located in the general vicinity. Offers both accredited and non-accredited classes, primarily targeting students able to travel to the location.
- Students living on the eastern side of the county primarily go down to Sierra College in Grass Valley. Students from other parts of the county typically attend schools in Nevada, such as Truckee Meadows in Reno.
- Dual-enrollment opportunities remain online because of distance.
- Community colleges are not incentivized to create a formal off-campus which requires significant operational costs.
- Primary industries in need of training and education are logging, gold mining, hospitality, and agencies such as CalTrans.
- A large barrier to closing workforce gaps is the limited availability of housing.
- Less than 10 developable lots in Downieville.
- Only 1/3rd of homes are owner occupied all year long. Most of the housing stock is short-term vacation rentals.
- There are future needs for additional medical supporting staff, as there is no hospital in the county. Currently, one physician assistant is present at a clinic 5 days a week.

Alpine County Education and Demographic Statistics

Description	Alpine County	CA Average
College Going Rate (20-21)	NA	62%
Percent High School completers Enrolled at CA CC (20-21)	NA	32%
Percent of HS graduates meeting CSU/UC requirements (2022-23)	NA	52%
Med Age	43	37.9
Veterans	3.8%	4.3%
Med HH Income	\$ 101,125	\$ 91,551
Bach or higher	39.6%	37.0%



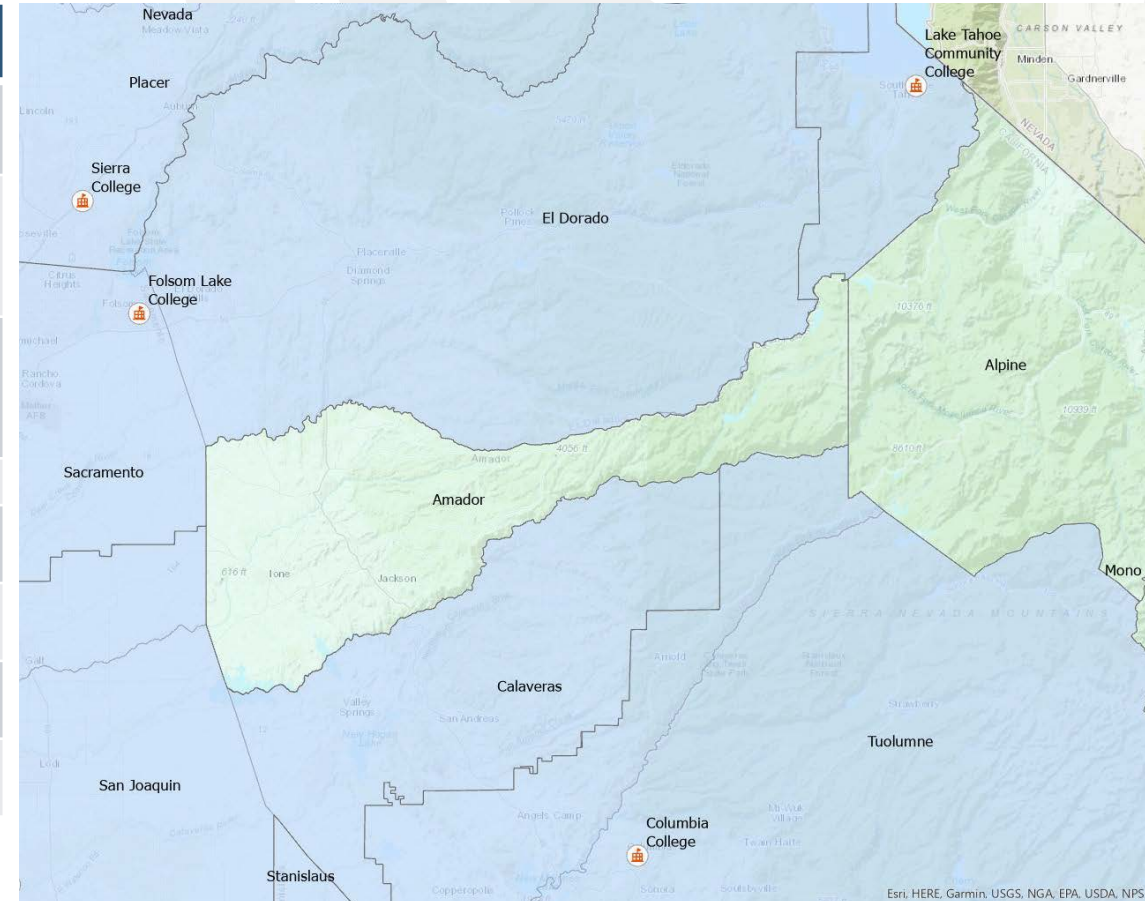
ALPINE COUNTY- OBSERVATIONS FROM COLLEGE ACCESS WORKING GROUP



- Age and median household income data is skewed because of the impact of wealthier and younger remote employees taking residence.
- County is experiencing a declining student population.
- Alpine does not have a comprehensive high school, resulting in no tracking of graduation data by major institutions.
- Lake Tahoe Community College provides Dual Enrollment Opportunities.
- There is a need for more adult training opportunities for County staff.
- Notable Transportation Issues:
 - Bear Valley to Bret Favre High School = 55-minute drive with clear roads.
 - Bear Valley to Lake Tahoe Community College = 1.5- hour drive with clear roads.
- There is current emphasis on the Lake Tahoe forestry program that provides training within the Alpine forest.
- Current job opportunities within Ski Resorts:
 - Welding, mechanics, lift maintenance operations.

Amador County Education and Demographic Statistics

Description	Amador County	CA Average
College Going Rate (20-21)	53.10%	62%
Percent High School completers Enrolled at CA CC (20-21)	35%	32%
Percent of HS graduates meeting CSU/UC requirements (2022-23)	23.20%	52%
Med Age	49.6	37.9
Veterans	11.7%	4.3%
Med HH Income	\$ 74,853	\$ 91,551
Bach or higher	20.6%	37.0%



AMADOR COUNTY- OBSERVATIONS FROM COLLEGE ACCESS WORKING GROUP



- [Amador College Connect](#) - Long-term goal is to establish a local community college within the county, for the benefit of all residents.
- Connect applied for K-16 career pathway grants, with an emphasis on training programs for computer engineering and education.
- Industry partners assist with apprenticeships, including Sutter Amador Hospital, Volcano Telephone Company, and Amador & Calaveras Childcare Councils.
- High school graduates earn certifications to continue to a CSU/UC system or enter the labor force right away.
- Columbia college received \$18 million for 2 years (1st round) with the K-16 grant, and \$500,000 went to Amador College Connect, however, the program is still in need of funding.
- Amador Behavioral Services Act distributes funds to College Connect to provide scholarships for mental health students, as well as assist with some administrative costs, but still not enough.
- With limited college access, the county is continuously exporting their talent.
- Limited desire or capacity to pay more in taxes to support additional educational opportunities.
- Dual Enrollment efforts have grown from initially 8 students to 242 students.
- Students enrolled are more involved and likely to attend college, however, many of these students leave the County and never come back.

NEXT STEPS

- Investigate and quantify the current labor force needs for each county.
 - The first step may begin with analyzing the labor force needs at a regional level by examining the workforce reports created by the [Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research](#).
 - Additionally, RCRC will continue collaborating with education leaders and workforce training programs at the local level to determine each county's labor force needs and the types of education programs needed for local economic growth.
- Engage in research to quantify the level of worker productivity lost due to limited postsecondary options.



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This report is a publication of the Centers of Excellence for Labor Market Research and was prepared by the Central Valley/Mother Lode Center of Excellence for Labor Market Research, hosted by Yosemite Community College District and funded through the California Community Colleges' Workforce and Economic Development Division.



CENTRAL VALLEY/MOTHER LODGE (CVML) REGIONAL WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT

Sector	Demand (Annual Openings)	Gap	Supply (Average Annual Awards)
Health	23,613	15,664	7,949
Business & Entrepreneurship	18,072	15,161	2,911
Energy, Construction & Utilities	12,105	11,034	1,071
Advanced Transportation & Logistics	10,632	9,410	1,222
Retail, Hospitality & Tourism	8,496	6,853	1,643
Agriculture, Water & Environmental Technologies	8,394	7,271	1,123
ICT/Digital Media	6,615	5,660	955
Education	5,574	3,234	2,340
Advanced Manufacturing	5,237	4,157	1,080
Public Safety	3,811	1,853	1,958
TOTAL	102,549	80,297	22,252

Table 3: Middle-skill Labor Force Gaps

- Specific to this analysis, the counties of Mariposa, Amador, and Alpine all fall within the CVML region.
- The [analysis](#) reveals a significant disparity between workforce demand and postsecondary education supply in the Central Valley/Mother Lode (CVML) region, resulting in substantial middle-skill job labor force gaps totaling nearly **80,300 workers**.
- Business and entrepreneurship, health, and energy, construction, and utilities are the sectors with the largest supply gaps, indicating a critical need for targeted workforce development initiatives and educational programs.
- Specific occupations identified by the working groups, such as nurses, paramedics, teachers, and mechanics, correspond with the sectors with the largest supply gaps identified in the report, providing further validation of the analysis.

FAR NORTH REGIONAL WORKFORCE ASSESSMENT



- Specific to this analysis, the counties of Sierra and Modoc fall within the North Far North Region.
- More than 200,000 annual openings are projected by 2026 in the North Far North region - 41% of these openings will be in middle-skill occupations.
- A comparison of projected middle-skill annual job openings and average awards indicates a gap of more than 70,000 awards in the 11 priority sectors in the region.
- Finding: Middle-skill job opportunities are increasing, while the number of education/training awards are declining in some sectors or remaining stagnant.

Exhibit 18. Average annual enrollments and awards compared with projected annual openings, by priority sector, North Far North region

Sector	3-Yr. Avg Annual Enrollments (2018–2021)	Annual Openings (2021–2026)	3-Yr. Avg. Annual Awards (2019–2022)	Difference-between awards and openings
Advanced Manufacturing	3,098	2,896	451	2,445
Advanced Transportation & Logistics	1,817	6,950	234	6,716
Agriculture, Water & Environmental Technologies	5,116	2,534	360	2,174
Business & Entrepreneurship	22,312	23,799	2,704	21,095
Education & Human Development	14,654	3,650	1,097	2,553
Energy, Construction & Utilities	7,761	8,768	433	8,335
Health	23,855	23,602	2,364	21,238
Information & Communication Technologies/Digital Media	22,494	1,769	1,076	693
Life Sciences & Biotechnology	135	675	27	648
Public Safety & Government	14,484	4,037	1,594	2,443
Retail, Hospitality & Tourism	2,982	4,555	138	4,417

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Continue building on research and finding key talking points
- Continue moving legislative agenda
- Expand network to potential funding sources
- Identify grant opportunities:
 - Labor & Workforce
 - ETP
 - California Jobs First

