

FOSTERING SUCCESS IN HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS

Samueli Foundation invests in leading Orange County community colleges and Cal State Fullerton with STEM Transfer and Workforce Development initiatives

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENT

Golden West College | **\$3.5M**

PROGRAM | Expand Golden West College's nursing program

WHY | Orange County hospitals face severe nursing shortages post-COVID; private university nursing programs are competitive and costly

INVESTMENT SUPPORT

- Increase nursing program capacity to admit 150 students per semester by 2027, while strengthening its accelerated licensed vocational nurse (LVN) to registered nurse (RN) track
- Additional full-time faculty
- Program administrator to coordinate clinical placements at local hospitals for critical in-site training

PROJECTED IMPACT

- Grow from 80 to 150 nursing students per semester by 2027
- Maintain 95–100% National Council Licensure Examination pass rates on registered nurse exam
- Supply RNs to meet critical workforce needs



Orange Coast College | \$1.7M

PROGRAM | Expand dual-enrollment “career academies” for high school students

WHY | Early exposure to health care, trades and maritime careers builds awareness and provides cost-effective credentials

INVESTMENT SUPPORTS

- The Allied Health academy is focused on fast-track preparation for jobs such as cardiovascular technician, radiology technician, plus dental and medical assistants, which can be completed while the student is in high school
- Launch of academies focused on jobs in trades (electronics, engineering, construction, HVAC, manufacturing, and welding) and maritime industry (exposure to various careers from captain to support staff in large private and charter yachts, cruise ships, passenger ferries, commercial shipping vessels and on-shore support, in addition to a recruitment partnership with U.S. Coast Guard)
- Expansion of faculty, counseling, peer mentoring, lab renovations and welding lab expansion to serve more students

PROJECTED IMPACT

- Curriculum and program development for the new academies, program administration, faculty instruction and counseling and peer mentoring
- Student grants to low-income students to incentivize completion of certifications
- Infrastructure to expand the welding lab to accommodate up to 35 students, renovate its career classrooms and facilitate use of simulation software
- Increase enrollment to 275 students across all academies
- Strengthen partnerships with local high schools and four-year institutions to enhance student success and access to affordable education

Saddleback College | \$3M

PROGRAM | Establish work-based experiential learning through paid internships

WHY | Paid work-based experiential learning improves employment outcomes and instills confidence and vision for future possibilities, but is often inaccessible to community college students who are working other jobs to support themselves

INVESTMENT SUPPORTS

- Reimburse employers for up to 50% of student internship wages
- Program operations, employer engagement and career support

PROJECTED IMPACT

- Serve 300+ students/year with paid internships
- Strengthen pipelines into STEM, IT, manufacturing and advanced transportation jobs, among other disciplines



Fullerton College | \$3M

PROGRAM | Expand research, internship and mentoring opportunities for STEM transfer students

INVESTMENT SUPPORTS

- Sustain and expand staffing for the STEM Center, including onboarding a full-time program coordinator and trained peer mentors
- Fund supplemental instruction, a career preparation workshop, peer-led tutoring and STEM-specific academic advising
- Upgrade lab and tutoring equipment and broaden access to STEM software, including the launch of a drone technology course – the first of its kind on the West Coast – and a criminal justice and biotech sector

PROJECTED IMPACT

- A 15% increase in STEM enrollment, overcoming students' barriers to staying in school
- Double student participation in research and internships
- Improve STEM transfer rates to California State University and University of California campuses by 20%

Irvine Valley College | \$3M

PROGRAM | Provide stipends for unpaid research, internships, travel, participation in STEM conferences and faculty-led, hands-on experiences to ensure financial hardship is never a barrier to critical resume-building opportunities and STEM persistence

INVESTMENT SUPPORTS

- Irvine Valley College will launch a Natural Sciences Center – a new hub for supplemental instruction, 1:1 tutoring and community building – that provides access to all 2,500+ STEM students across the campus
- An expansion of the SPARK Program to award 60 students \$5,000 for original research with Irvine Valley College faculty – a rare offering in the community college setting. Participants will be from lower-income STEM majors, opening doors for students who might otherwise have to work to support themselves and their families. The SPARK Program will also include a SPARK Academy throughout the year to prepare students for summer research opportunities
- Create pathways to research programs with partner institutions, including Cal State University Fullerton, University of California Irvine and Chapman University. Irvine Valley College will cover student stipends and transportation costs to remove barriers to access, increasing external REU participation by up to 300%
- Build partnerships with local companies to create an internship pipeline serving approximately 20% of MESA students per year
- Launch a transfer mentorship network, pairing up to 100 mentees annually with experienced STEM students
- Establish a STEM scholars fund that will award \$5,000 in scholarships to 20 students annually

PROJECTED IMPACT

- Increase academic support so that all 2,500+ STEM majors at IVC can access the resources and support available through the Natural Sciences Center
- Reach 500+ STEM students with high-impact experiences through internal and external research opportunities, internships and mentorship
- Improve persistence and transfer outcomes



Orange Coast College | \$3M

PROGRAM | Experiential learning opportunities will increase from 75 to 125 students per year, and supplemental instruction and peer support will reach an additional 500 students each year.

INVESTMENT SUPPORTS

- STEM counselling and transfer support is expected to grow to serve 700 students annually, up from 500
- Expanded STEM counseling and peer navigators
- Paid research stipends, internships, bootcamps, and off-site visits to expose students to hands-on STEM work
- Supplemental instruction and peer support in high-failure-rate gateway courses
- Faculty development and innovation through many grants for instructional innovation and coaching to enhance teaching

PROJECTED IMPACT

- Support 500–1,000 students per year across programs
- Improve transfer and course pass rates
- Build sustainable, student-centered STEM infrastructureImprove STEM transfer rates to California State University and University of California campuses by 20%

Cal State Fullerton | \$3M

PROGRAM | To address barriers to persistence and degree completion of STEM transfer students, particularly those who are first in their families to attend college or who face financial constraints

INVESTMENT SUPPORTS

- Dedicated STEM transfer advisors embedded in the College of Engineering & Computer Science and the College of Natural Sciences & Mathematics to support current and future students and serve as liaisons to feeder schools
- The launch of a STEM Summer Bridge program to support incoming transfer students through onboarding, academic readiness, and early connections to faculty and peers
- Expanded undergraduate research experience to increase the number of research placements available to STEM transfer students and increased stipends to meet California's minimum wage
- Peer-led support and navigation to help new STEM transfer students build confidence and support for degree completion

PROJECTED IMPACT

- Increase 4-year completion rates for STEM transfers

