

Workforce Futures Accelerator: Embedding Real-World Employer Projects in Community Colleges

Application Questions Overview

The Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), Center for Policy and Practice invites you to submit an application to participate in the **Workforce Futures Accelerator** project, launched with support from Google.org, and in partnership with Riipen and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI).

The focus on short-term credential programs designed to quickly equip individuals with the skills needed for the workforce has accelerated. Yet, while these programs are growing, they still face significant challenges, particularly in integrating work-based learning (WBL) opportunities that not only validate skills but also increase employability. This three-year initiative seeks to address this gap by embedding project-based, virtual work-based learning within short-term workforce programs. This initiative will equip instructors with the tools, support, and expertise to integrate experiential learning that meets both the needs of students and the demands of employers. By offering a flexible, scalable solution, this project aims to enhance career outcomes, particularly for underserved student populations, while ensuring that participating colleges can sustain these programs long after the initiative concludes.

Please review the project details and application below. **The application deadline is Wednesday April 1 at 11:59 PM Pacific Time.**

Questions about this project may be directed to Steve Jurch (sjurch@acct.org).

EXPECTED PROJECT TIMELINE

- **Informational webinar for potential applicants:** March 18th, 2026 at 1pm EST (please feel free to share questions in advance to sjurch@acct.org)
- **Deadline for colleges to complete application of interest:** April 1, 2026 at COB Pacific Time
- **Expected date for applicants to receive notification regarding cohort decisions:** April 10, 2026
- **Cohort Onboarding:** April 17, 2026 – Time TBD
- **Cohort launch/Training modules begin:** May 2026

APPLICATION FIELDS

COLLEGE OVERVIEW

Institution name:

Institution street address:

Institution street address 2:

Institution city:

Institution state:

Institution zip code:

Are you a member of ACCT? Yes or no

This project will require community college presidential approval. Have you had discussions with senior-level decision makers about this work? Yes or no

YOUR TEAM

Name of Individual completing this form (Note: This individual will serve as your college's main point of contact with ACCT, unless otherwise indicated):

Your first name:

Your last name:

Your title:

Your email address:

Your phone number:

Your Role on the team (select one):

- Program area office
- Decision level academic or workforce administrator
- Career Services representative
- Teaching and Learning Center representative (or equivalent)
- Instructional champion
- IT Department
- Other (please describe):

If you have already identified planning team members for your program planning team, please share their names, titles, and contact information below.

Program Area Office

First Name of Program Area Representative:

Last Name of Program Area Representative:

Title of Program Area Representative

Email of Program Area Representative:

Phone of Program Area Representative:

Decision-Level Academic or Workforce Administrator

First Name of Decision-Level Administrator:

Last Name of Decision-Level Administrator:

Title of Decision-Level Administrator:

Email of Decision-Level Administrator:

Phone of Decision-Level Administrator:

Instructional Champions (2):

First Name of Instructional Champion:
Last Name of Instructional Champion:
Title of Instructional Champion:
Email of Instructional Champion:
Phone of Instructional Champion:

First Name of Instructional Champion:
Last Name of Instructional Champion:
Title of Instructional Champion:
Email of Instructional Champion:
Phone of Instructional Champion:

Career Services Representative

First Name of Career Services Representative:
Last Name of Career Services Representative:
Title of Career Services Representative:
Email of Career Services Representative:
Phone of Career Services Representative:

Teaching and Learning Center Representative

First Name of Teaching and Learning Center Representative:
Last Name of Teaching and Learning Center Representative:
Title of Teaching and Learning Center Representative:
Email of Teaching and Learning Center Representative:
Phone of Teaching and Learning Center Representative:

IT Department Representative

First Name of IT Department Representative:
Last Name of IT Department Representative:
Title of IT Department Representative:
Email of IT Department Representative:
Phone of IT Department Representative:

Additional Project Team Members (Optional):

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If you have not yet identified the team members, please indicate below how you have or plan to engage with the relevant individuals at your college:

APPLICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Please provide information below on your existing and/or envisioned employer partnerships, programs, and goals with regard to virtual, work-based learning.

- 1. During this project, your college will identify two instructional champions in the first year that will commit to embedding a virtual, work-based learning project into at least one of their short-term programs beginning in the Fall 2026 semester and to offering these new programs each year during the project, making revisions each time the program is offered based on students' performance and course feedback. Please indicate the two programs that you would like to redesign or develop to include a virtual, work-based learning component.**

The programs can be either non-degree workforce development or credit bearing.

- 2. For the selected programs, describe the current level of partnership and engagement with employers including the level and frequency which your employer partners currently hire students from these programs.**
- 3. Describe how participating in this project is aligned with the goals, priorities, or mission of your institution. What steps have leadership taken to support participation?**
- 4. How will developing and embedding virtual, work-based learning experiences into these programs benefit your students?**
- 5. Describe how you intend to track the progress and completion of the students in these programs.**
- 6. Describe any current or prior experience your institution has, or has had, with work-based learning initiatives. These can range from project-based to internships, to apprenticeships.**
- 7. Describe your college's commitment to long-term sustainability for embedding virtual, work-based learning experiences into short-term workforce programs. This may include existing resources, incorporating this professional development into the Teaching and Learning Centers or developing funding models to continue to leverage this platform.**
- 8. Please share any other reasons that participating in this project is important to your college.**