

OUR 2025 SYSTEMS IMPACT

Systems change is central to advancing equitable economic mobility for L.A. County's rising workforce, which includes nearly three million children and young adults under age 25. Improving outcomes at this scale requires more than individual programs—it requires strengthening the underlying conditions that shape how young people experience learning, training and career opportunities across the region.

This year, our systems change work focused on three core strategies:

ALIGNING SYSTEMS

to create seamless pathways from education into careers

TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS

to improve student learning, engagement and supports

CENTERING YOUTH AND COMMUNITY VOICE

so the people most affected help define and guide solutions

In partnership with:



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ALIGNING SYSTEMS

UNITE-LA aligns partners, strategies and investments so young people move through clearer education-to-career pathways and don't fall through the cracks when systems operate in silos.

In 2025, UNITE-LA advanced this work by:

- **implementing the Horizons 32K Strategic Roadmap** through the launch of a cross-sector Stewardship Board and two impact initiatives—High School Transitions and Earn & Learn—to strengthen education-to-career pathways for young people;
- **accelerating equitable degree completion through the L.A. Region K–16 Collaborative** by aligning K-12, higher education and employers around dual enrollment, transfer improvement, workforce-connected learning and health care pathway reforms;
- **strengthening Southern California's apprenticeship ecosystem** by convening cross-sector partners through mixers, webinars and apprenticeship bootcamps to move organizations from learning to implementation; and
- **expanding countywide digital equity strategies** with LA DEAL to improve access to broadband and devices.

Together, these efforts strengthened policies and practices at key transition points, expanded workforce-connected learning and reduced structural barriers to education, careers and connectivity.



TRANSFORMING SYSTEMS

UNITE-LA works directly with individual systems—K–12 school districts, community colleges and universities, workforce and youth-serving agencies, and digital equity partners—to strengthen the policies, practices and learning environments that shape students' daily experiences.

In 2025, UNITE-LA strengthened systems by:

- **publishing a model for student-centered transfer redesign**, based on two pilots implemented with California State University, Dominguez Hills and California State Polytechnic University, Pomona;
- **expanding inclusive STEM learning** by increasing access, participation and belonging in hands-on, campus-based experiences for high school students;
- **redesigning teaching, learning and assessment** at five LAUSD Community Schools through expanded project- and community-based learning and strengthened educator collaboration;
- **enhancing workforce systems to better serve opportunity youth** through youth- and provider-informed policy recommendations developed with the Los Angeles Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC) and ongoing provider coaching; and
- **advancing regional investments in digital connectivity** by catalyzing community-driven broadband infrastructure and access efforts through LA DEAL.

Together, these efforts demonstrate how coordinated policy alignment and cross-sector collaboration can transform how systems operate—creating more responsive learning environments, clearer pathways to opportunity and stronger outcomes for students and communities.



CENTERING YOUTH AND COMMUNITY VOICE

Youth and community voice are central to UNITE-LA's systems-change approach, ensuring the people most affected by education, workforce and child welfare systems help shape the solutions designed to support them. When youth and community voice are centered, policy and practice are more responsive and effective, leading to sustained systems change and expanded, equitable pathways.

In 2025, UNITE-LA elevated youth and community leadership across the region by:

- **integrating Opportunity Youth voice into regional decision-making and co-designing improvements** to health care pathways, high school transitions, paid work-based learning and holistic supports;
- **building youth-driven data practices with foster youth** and the L.A. County Department of Children and Family Services to define outcome measures and strengthen continuous improvement in the child welfare system;
- **empowering transfer students at California State University, Dominguez Hills** to launch a student-led organization that elevates transfer student voice to improve transfer experiences and outcomes; and
- **leveraging student and family needs-assessment data** to set Community Schools Initiative partnership priorities and strengthen cross-department coordination that expands access to high-need holistic services.

Together, these efforts demonstrate how centering lived experience strengthens decision-making and drives more responsive, equitable systems for young people and families.



4,030 HOURS invested in coordinating and guiding **MORE THAN 800** local and regional planning and strategy meetings, communities of practice, webinars, trainings and technical assistance to align and transform systems.



4 FIELD-SHAPING REPORTS that illuminate barriers in student transfer, workforce development and health care career pathways, providing actionable recommendations to align policy and practice, strengthen system coordination and expand equitable access to meaningful postsecondary and career opportunities:

- [Student-Centered Transfer Redesign](#)
- [Strengthening L.A.'s Health Care Talent Pipeline](#)
- [Uncovering the Full Cost of Los Angeles Youth Workforce Development Programs](#)
- [Centering Youth, Strengthening Systems](#)

