

October 2022



## A New K-16 Collaborative Creates Pathways for L.A. Area Students into High Demand Fields

In late 2021, UNITE-LA and systems leaders from across L.A. County began to prepare for a state grant opportunity that would launch regional K-16 collaboratives across the state. Various leaders and representatives from the County's five CSUs, numerous community colleges and K-12 districts, UCLA, and employers worked collaboratively with UNITE-LA to design a regional collaborative that aims to close postsecondary attainment and workforce gaps for students of color, starting with a focus on streamlined pathways to health care, computing and engineering careers. In July, the state awarded \$18.13 million to the L.A. collaborative to conduct this work over four years.

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**Collective Impact in Action** 



L.A. Summit Brings Together State Leaders to Advance Digital Equity

On Aug. 5, the LA DEAL held a summit to advance L.A. County's broadband plans and identify opportunities to build new relationships across local agencies and between local agencies and state agencies focused on closing the digital divide. The event took place, in partnership with Los Angeles Unified School District, L.A. County Office of Education (LACOE), L.A. County Internal Services Department and L.A. City Bureau of Street Lights at Christopher Dena Elementary School in Boyle Heights.

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L.A. Compact on the Road

In September, the L.A. Compact's postsecondary transitions work was featured at two different conferences dedicated to K-12 and higher education



**Meet UNITE-LA's New President** 

UNITE-LA officially welcomed Alysia Bell as its President effective Sept. 1. Bell succeeds David Rattray, President & CEO of UNITE-LA for the past 24 years, who announced his retirement in March. Before becoming President, Bell served as Executive Vice President for UNITE-LA.

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Youth Disconnection Jumps to 156,181 in L.A. County

The pandemic disrupted life for all of us and had a particularly deleterious impact on youth employment and education. More than 156,000 (more

policy and practice - the 2022 National College Attainment Network conference in Atlanta and Ed Trust-West's Education Equity Forum in Los Angeles. They highlighted a collaborative effort between LAUSD's Division of Instruction and Compact partners to strengthen district-wide student completion of financial aid applications and postsecondary planning. This effort, which began in October 2021 in response to an LAUSD School Board resolution, has led to an implementation plan with studentinformed recommendations to help the district augment their postsecondary readiness strategies.

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than 1 in 8) 16-24 year olds were out of work and out of school in 2020, according to new data from the American Community Survey (ACS). Prior to 2020, the number of 16-24 year olds disconnected from jobs and education in L.A. County had been steadily declining, but the pandemic robbed young people of critical, early workforce and educational opportunities, disproportionately impacting Black and Latinx communities, especially 20-24 year olds. The most disturbing impact is for 20-24 year old Black men, 42 percent of whom were neither in school nor working in 2020, followed by Latinx young men and Black young women. You can view the full breakdown of the data by race/ethnicity, gender and age in our Charting Progress Dashboard.

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## **Partner Highlights**



## L.A. Cash for College is Here!

UNITE-LA is celebrating its 21st year of L.A. Cash for College (CFC), the largest college access and financial aid campaign in Greater Los Angeles providing youth with information and resources to pursue and persist in postsecondary education. This will be our first, in-person event since



## **GLADEO Los Angeles**

Our partner, LAEDC, recently launched **GLADEO LA**, a free tool to help inform Angelenos of indemand career pathways. It offers a personalized, self-directed, virtual, career navigation platform that empowers Angelenos to make informed decisions about their upskilling, reskilling and personal

the pandemic, and we invite you to join us Nov. 5, 2022 as a participant, exhibitor, volunteer or sponsor.

Thousands of students and families benefit annually from CFC's educational college access and success workshops, financial aid application assistance and career panels. Plus, students have a chance to win one of 10 \$1,500 scholarships. For more information click here.

career paths. Designed to meet the needs of today's diverse learners across Los Angeles County, the tool will help close the information and network gaps by directly reaching low-income, first-generation and historically underrepresented minorities and women, and supporting their career development into indemand career pathways that pay family-sustaining wages and are resilient to economic fluctuations.



The L.A. Compact is convened primarily by UNITE-LA. Select workgroups are convened by other partner agencies.



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