



## PROGRAMS

- **The Step into Tech Business Accelerator** program launched on August 24th as a part of UNITE-LA's partnership with the Los Angeles County Office of Diversion and Reentry (LAODR). The Business Accelerator is an intensive leadership course for business decision makers interested in setting their companies on the path to fair and equitable hiring practices. The six-session Accelerator focused on hiring qualified candidates with criminal and/or conviction backgrounds. The program provided the education and resources needed to inform HR practices related to understanding system involved individuals (SII) and the recruitment, hiring, and retaining of this population.
- On September 13th, **The Step into Tech Trainee program**, launched alongside the Business Accelerator. It is designed to provide pathways for system involved individuals 18 and up to careers in tech. It has provided participants with mentoring and peer to peer support, career and training exploration, tech specific resume building and mock interviews and workforce ready training. For more information, please contact Ilia Lopez.

## POLICY

- In September, UNITE-LA in partnership with four ethnic regional Chamber and the World Trade Center LA hosted CA Superintendent Tony Thurmond for our **Education Means Business policy webinar series** to highlight the importance of multilingualism and how CA is working to invest in Dual/English Language programs. This is part of our ongoing efforts to educate the business community on the importance of DLL/EI initiatives (see our [one-pager](#)) and watch the recording [here](#).
- UNITE-LA's SVP of Policy, Sonia Campos-Rivera and President Alysia Bell began meeting with State Elected officials to share [UNITE-LA's Cradle to Career Policy Priorities](#) and to introduce our new leadership while strengthening continuous partnership with the LA Delegation and key committee members.

## SYSTEMS

- The **L.A. Regional K-16 Collaborative**, which includes two dozen K-16 partners and is convened by UNITE-LA, has been awarded an \$18.13 million California Department of General Services grant. The countywide effort aims to increase equitable degree attainment, streamlined educational pipelines, and address labor market demand to the L.A. region with a focus on health care, computing and engineering occupations. UNITE-LA is the proud convener of the Collaborative, which will also seek opportunities to leverage or attract new resources beyond this K-16 grant opportunity to pursue additional targeted pathways in early childhood and K-12 education. Read our [press release](#) [here](#).

## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- As part of Black Business Month in August, UNITE-LA developed and strengthened partnerships with several leading organizations focused on economic opportunity and wealth creation for African American businesses and their communities, including the California African American Chamber of Commerce, the Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce, and the Vermont Slauson Economic Development Corporation.
- As chairs of the California Forward and the California Stewardship Network Cradle-to-Career Workgroup and co-chairs of the Workforce Work Group, UNITE-LA was pleased to support a series of Education and Workforce Work Group Pre-Summit Convenings in August to help identify critical, cradle-to-career priorities that California should address to build an inclusive economy for all. The findings will be featured in the CA FWD 2022 California Economic Summit, taking place in October and will result in a Roadmap to Shared Prosperity, setting the stage for collective action in 2023.

Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), Education & Talent Development (ETD)

- In late July, the National Strategic Partnership team traveled to the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives' (ACCE) Annual Convention in Indianapolis to provide programming to over 1,000 chamber professionals on how to engage in and lead education and workforce development efforts in their communities. Some of the sessions that the UNITE-LA team coordinated and oversaw focused on how chambers could participate in collective impact initiatives, use their chamber foundations for community impact, advance employment of individuals with the greatest barriers in their communities, promote skills-based hiring, and develop local talent in high-growth industries.

## FUND DEVELOPMENT

### Grants Awarded in Quarter 3

- |   |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| • Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund- \$100,000 for higher ed systems and policy work | • Heising Simons- \$500,000     |
| • Tides Foundation- \$20,000  | • Ascendium- \$356,475          |
| • Edison International- \$10,000  | • Atlas Foundation- \$75,000    |
| • Sobrato Family Foundation- 225,000  | • Google- \$25,000              |
| • Farmers Insurance- \$10,000   | • Royal Business Bank - \$2,500 |

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**November 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**CFC College & Career Fair**  
*This free resource fair will feature college prep and career exploration panels, financial aid workshops, college exhibitors and more! Register [here](#).*

## HIGHLIGHTS:



UNITE-LA launched two programs in partnership with the Los Angeles Office of Diversion and Reentry, focused on advancing tech sector fair chance hiring in Los Angeles. The Step into Tech Business Accelerator and the Step into Tech Trainee program provided employers and system involved individuals with resources to increase hiring opportunities in the tech sector.



As part of our Education Means Business policy webinar series, UNITE-LA hosted Superintendent Tony Thurmond to discuss California's efforts to strengthen multilingual education for students.