

PROGRAMS

- The **L.A. Cash for College** financial aid awareness season kicked off with UNITE-LA's in-person L.A. Cash for College: College and Career Fair. The event included financial literacy workshops, college and career readiness workshops, FAFSA and CADAA completion workshops, a financial aid completion lab, and a resource fair featuring colleges, universities and local community-based organizations. There were more than 1,000 students in attendance that day, and we were able to give out 10 \$1,500 scholarships to students as well as additional prizes for attendees and volunteers. Partners included the California Student Aid Commission, Los Angeles Unified School District, the Los Angeles Community College District, NBC4, Echoes of Hope, and more.
- The launch of the **Avantus CleanTech Academy** was announced this December. UNITE-LA is partnering with Avantus, a leader in the clean energy space, to provide training and education opportunities for underrepresented Los Angeles youth in the clean energy field. The program is targeted toward 16–24-year-old Los Angeles residents. It will involve twelve weeks of paid work-based learning opportunities, plus eight weeks of paid work experience with an employer partner. Applications are now open and being accepted until February 2023. For more information, [click here](#).
- In 2021, the **Los Angeles County Office of Diversion and Reentry** partnered with UNITE-LA to implement a program aimed at improving connection to career pathways in technology for those impacted by the justice system. As a part of this work, we surveyed Los Angeles tech employers and justice-involved individuals about needs and barriers, recruitment and more. Survey findings have been condensed into two official reports, [Talent Needs of Tech Employers](#) and [Employment of Systems-Involved Angelenos](#). These can be reviewed on our website, under [UNITE-LA Research Reports](#).
- In October, for the first time in 2.5 years, the **L.A. Youth at Work** team hosted in-person, work readiness certification sessions at Santee Education Complex. Across four full days at Santee's Library, 336 senior high school students were interviewed with the support of 30 volunteers, who came from Manufacturers Bank, Royal Business Bank, Partnership for Los Angeles Schools and GEAR UP. This was a well-received opportunity for youth to build and polish their work readiness skill sets.

POLICY

- In October, UNITE-LA, in partnership with the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment, hosted a forum with candidates in two important open races at the time in L.A. County: Board of Supervisors District 3 and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education Seat 2. This forum was a central part of our "Choose Children LA" initiative, run in close collaboration with the LA Partnership for Early Childhood Investment, to educate candidates running in November's election about early childhood issues. The candidates had the opportunity to share their visions for how our local governments can help families with children birth to age 5 thrive while also supporting the workers who play irreplaceable roles in our children's lives.

SYSTEMS

- The L.A. Regional K-16 Collaborative, which aims to close postsecondary attainment and workforce gaps for students of color, starting with a focus on streamlined pathways to health care, engineering and computer science careers, established and convened its interim Stewardship Group. The Group is seeking letters of interest from K-12 districts, postsecondary institutions, employers, local CBOs and government agencies who are interested in participating in the Collaborative through one of the sub-regional initiatives. The Collaborative will award up to \$14 million to advance the goals of the region over the next four years.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

- In November, UNITE-LA was honored to partner with the CalAsian Chamber on a virtual listening session with 49th Assembly District Assemblymember Mike Fong. The Assemblymember, who has been a long-time supporter of UNITE-LA, spoke about his experience in his first year in the California State Assembly and efforts to provide equitable access in support of both early and higher education initiatives. He also addressed the importance of digital equity and broadband access for our most vulnerable communities. The recording may be [viewed here](#).
- In October, UNITE-LA Senior Vice President Sonia Campos-Rivera was pleased to facilitate the Education & Workforce Session at the [CA FWD Economic Summit](#) in Bakersfield. As chairs of the California Stewardship Network (CSN) Cradle-to-Career Workgroup and co-chairs of the Workforce Work Group, UNITE-LA played a key role in working with stakeholders from across the state to identify critical cradle-to-career priority in CA to build an inclusive economy for all. The two-day Summit is designed to create a shared economic agenda known as the Roadmap to Shared Prosperity, setting the stage for collective action in 2023. The Education and Workforce work group focuses on moving the needle on student and labor market outcomes.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

February 19th

Registration: Avantus CleanTech Academy

The Avantus CleanTech Academy will provide Los Angeles youth with training and education opportunities in the rising clean energy field. Program registration is open until February 19th. [Apply here](#).

HIGHLIGHTS:



UNITE-LA's L.A. Cash for College hosted its first in-person College and Career Fair since 2019. Workshop session topics included financial literacy, career exploration, FAFSA and CADAA completion, and more. This event served over 1,000 Los Angeles youth.



UNITE-LA Senior Vice President, Sonia Campos, was featured as a facilitator for the Education and Workforce Session at the CA FWD Economic Summit. She spoke on the importance of the cradle-to-career perspective, equitable education and workforce reform, and more.