



To our business, education, and community partners:

We are proud to share this inaugural report highlighting Sierra College's Career and Technical Education programs and workforce initiatives, which play a vital role in equipping local students for high-quality, good-paying careers while meeting the evolving needs of regional employers.

With the pace of economic, social and educational change increasing over the last few years, Sierra College and its three campuses in Rocklin, Grass Valley and Truckee have continued to live our mission of providing a quality educational environment where all students are supported, challenge themselves, and achieve their goals.

In this environment, our CTE and workforce programs continue to serve as a place for innovation, collaboration and practical problem-solving in step with the urgent demands for skilled workers and creating pathways to good paying jobs for local residents.

Today high school students are taking college courses in increasing numbers through dual enrollment to explore careers, gain early exposure to college-level work, earn college credits for free, and gain job-ready skills early. Our CTE programs are delivering training informed by regional labor market data, helping employers fill essential roles quickly and effectively. Our CTE programs offer short-term certificates that stack towards more advanced credentials or degrees, so people at all stages

of life can return to campus and build on prior training without starting over.

To give all students the best learning environment matched with top-notch instruction, Sierra is investing over \$500 million in facility bond proceeds (Measure E) and leveraged state funds to pay for campus building improvements that will support our CTE programs, from new on campus student housing, to a new science building, Applied Technology Center, and an offsite regional public safety training center for Sierra students and first responders. We are investing now in preparation for our next 90 years.

We know the increased earning potential that students achieve thanks to a degree from Sierra and those that transfer to earn a four-year degree, and that support from Sierra often means the difference. From the stories our graduates tell us, the impact a quality education makes in student's lives and those of their family is truly transformative. For big regional employers like Bosch or Sutter Roseville, gaining access to a steady pipeline of skilled job applicants from Sierra maintains their edge so they can fill critical jobs, improve retention, and serve us all better.

Sierra College is proud to serve as a trusted community partner offering instructional excellence and modern learning environments that meet the needs of all students and regional employers alike. We hope you enjoy this look into the impact we're making and we remain extremely grateful for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,



William Duncan
Superintendent/President



Amy Schulz, Executive Dean
Workforce and Strategic Initiatives



Table of Contents

Sierra College CTE Annual Report, 2025 edition

1. Message from the President and Executive Dean
2. Institutional Overview
3. Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways
4. Dual Enrollment: Giving Young Students a Jumpstart on School and Life
5. Workforce Development Programs and Upskilling
6. Economic and Community Impact
7. Student and Graduate Success
8. Inclusion and Workforce Development
9. Partnerships and Collaborations
10. Financial Overview and Funding Sources
11. Looking Ahead

Institutional Overview

Mission Statement: The mission of Sierra College is to ensure that all our students have access to an equitable, high-quality education where they are welcomed, supported, and empowered to achieve their goals.

Vision Statement: Sierra College will be the preferred destination for higher education and training in our region, strengthening our surrounding communities through the success of our students.



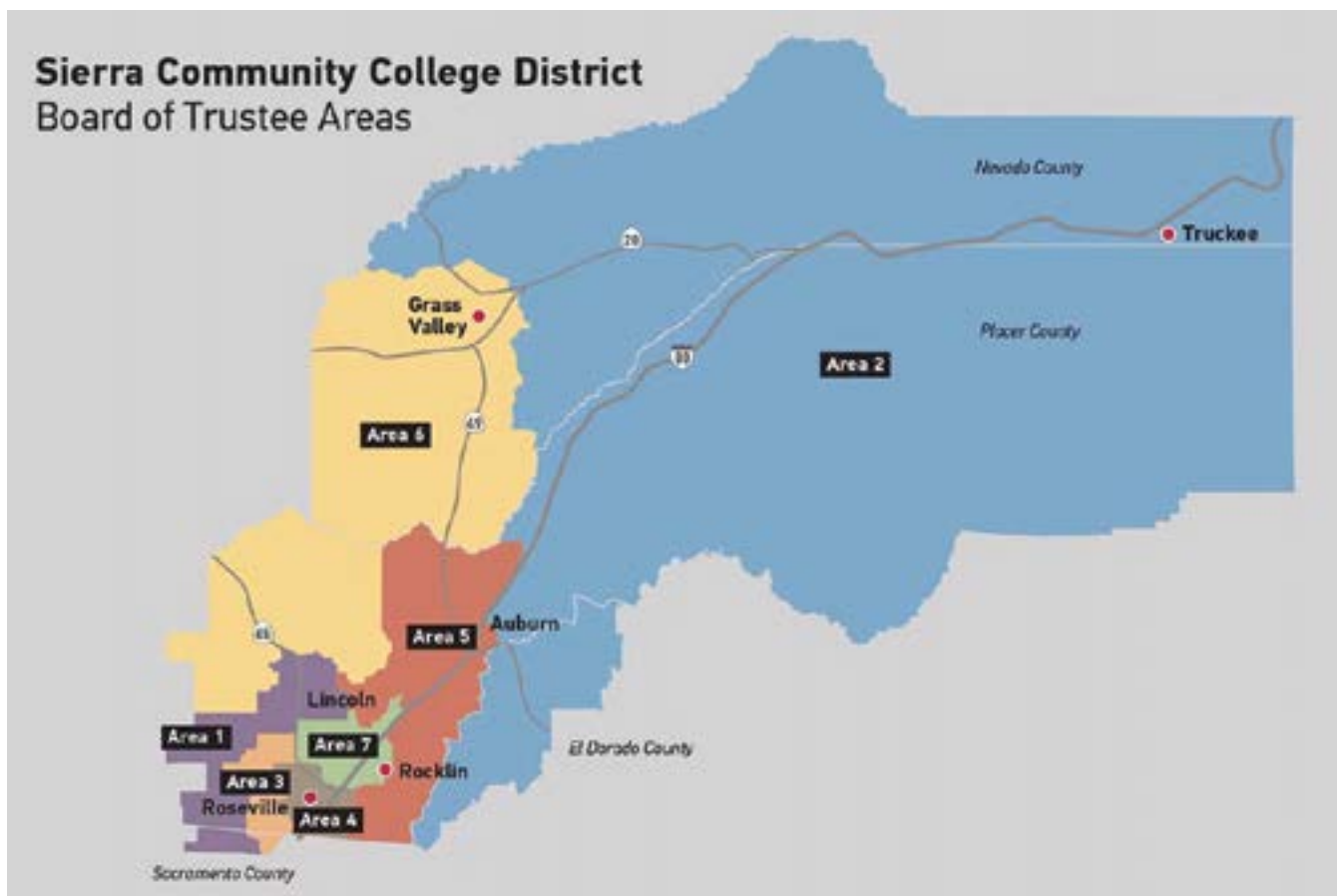
The Sierra College District is governed by a locally elected, seven-member Board of Trustees consisting of community professionals, business officials, public policy leaders, and leading citizens. They offer their time and talent to ensure that Sierra College remains responsive to local community needs while staying true to our mission and vision.



Our Core Values:

The following core values will establish our ethical principles and guide our institutional decision-making. Through a process of continuous evaluation, Sierra College will:

- Cultivate a diverse, equitable, and inclusive community to enrich its mission and support students in achieving their educational goals.
- Empower students in their education.
- Identify and remove historical barriers to equitable education and success.
- Support and model excellence and innovation in teaching, learning, scholarship, and creativity.
- Support students, faculty, and staff with the resources necessary to ensure equitable student success.
- Be responsive to the educational and workforce needs of our local communities and businesses.
- Demonstrate equity-minded collaboration with all stakeholders in decision making.
- Manage all resources in a manner that is equitable, sustainable, and responsible.



Accreditation:

Every seven years Sierra College undergoes review and reaffirmation of our accreditation by the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). Accreditation is a quality assurance process that gives the college the opportunity to engage in institution-wide dialogue and self-evaluation activities to gain

a comprehensive perspective of the state of the institution. Accreditation status is a critical component that certifies and safeguards high quality student learning programs and services and allows Sierra College to provide federal financial aid to our students, receive federal funding, grant students recognized degrees, and articulate our courses with other colleges and universities.

Governance and Leadership

Sierra College uses a collaborative planning process that is guided by its mission, and informed by students, staff and the community. It is memorialized in specific documents, such as our Educational Master Plan, Facilities Master Plan and Technology Strategic Plan, which are periodically revised and adopted by the Sierra College Board of Trustees. To learn more, visit www.sierracollege.edu/



“Our students are the heart and soul of our campus”

– President Duncan

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways

47%

of Sierra students
are in CTE programs

140

CTE degrees and
certificates offered
by Sierra

21

CTE Programs
of Study

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a formal education pathway that often begins in high school or community college that blends academic learning with technical and career-specific skills. The goal is to better and more quickly prepare students for career fields by mixing classroom instruction with hands-on learning, improving academic results. Sierra College delivers both CTE and workforce development programs, which are closely connected.

Sara's Story



Sara was a young mother working an entry-level job as a wafer walker at a semiconductor manufacturer, struggling to support her two daughters and yearning for a better future. A coworker encouraged her to enroll in Sierra College's Mechatronics program to gain the technical skills needed for promotion. Despite exhaustion, long nights, and early mornings, Sara committed to the program—balancing parenting, work, and school. She earned her certificate, was promoted to maintenance technician, and eventually rose to manage a team of 45 technicians. Her six-figure salary transformed her family's life. Now, Sara mentors others and recently led a panel of Bosch employees—graduates of the same program—who have all advanced in their careers. Her story shows how community colleges like Sierra are powerful engines of opportunity, connecting people to meaningful careers, lifting families out of poverty, and building the skilled, diverse workforce that fuels regional economic growth.

Why CTE Programs Matter

Career and Technical Education offer significant advantages in today's fast-paced and high-demand labor market. By providing students with practical skills and industry-aligned training, CTE programs bridge the gap between education and employment.

✓ **Close Industry Alignment:**

Instruction is designed in close collaboration with industry partners, preparing students for immediate employment in high-demand sectors such as healthcare, information technology, and advanced manufacturing, as well as preparing them for post-secondary success.

✓ **Fast-track to Employment:**

Unlike traditional four-year degrees, CTE programs often offer shorter, more focused training, allowing students to enter the workforce more quickly.

✓ **Economic Benefits and Job Security:**

CTE programs are designed to connect graduates to family-supporting jobs upon completion.

✓ **Community Building:**

CTE programs ensure local communities have the workforce they need to meet their demands for skilled workers and grow their local economy.

✓ **Support the Underserved:**

CTE programs play a crucial role in opening access to students who lack resources or familiarity with career opportunities or traditional educational pathways.

✓ **Better Educational Outcomes:**

Participation in CTE programs is linked to higher high school graduation rates and improved postsecondary outcomes.

“In the face of rising college tuition, 64% of voters in the U.S. think colleges should focus more on trade skills.”

— Data for Progress poll; survey of 1,216 likely U.S. voters, December 6-8, 2024.



Sierra Offers a Wide Range of CTE Programs

Sierra college offers 21 different CTE programs. These programs interact directly with industries and employers within Sierra's service area and are informed by local labor market needs.



Nursing and Allied Health. Nursing, Medical Assisting, Phlebotomy, Surgical Technician, EMT, and Paramedicine.



Precision Manufacturing. Advanced Manufacturing (CNC machining, design, CAD /CAM), Mechatronics (industrial automation, robotics) and Welding.



Public Safety. Fire Technology, Administration of Justice.



Building Industries. Six-week Construction Fundamentals Boot Camp, Construction Management associate degree, Architectural Drafting, New Facilities Automation Technician certificate/degree.



Applied Arts & Design. Digital media. Graphic Design. Illustration. Film and Video Protection. Web and Interactive Design.



Business. Entrepreneurship, Business Administration, Accounting, Real Estate, Tax, Payroll, Retail Management.



Information Technology. Cybersecurity, Cloud Computer (AWS), Network Technician, IT Technician, Data Analytics, Computer Science for transfer.

Working Closely with Employers: Employer and Industry Advisory Boards

The primary purpose of Sierra College's 21 industry advisory boards is to provide regular consultation with top professionals and industry leaders to test curriculum and teaching approaches, as well as keep track of fast-moving labor market needs, technology, and machinery. This collaboration ensures that Sierra graduates don't just achieve a certificate or degree, but a rigorous, relevant education so they know what to do on the job on day-one.



“

“The advisory board gives employers a voice in what students learn. Sierra's graduates show up with valuable skills—from blueprint reading to jobsite safety—and that's a win for the whole industry.”

– Aleda Vaughn,
Professor of Welding Technology,
Sierra College

Dual Enrollment: Giving Young Students a Jumpstart on School and Life

Dual Enrollment (DE) allows high school students to take college courses for credit at no cost. It accelerates academic progress, reduces future college expenses, and helps students explore careers early – boosting college and career readiness, confidence, and success, especially for first-generation or underrepresented students. Sierra College and its K-12 partners are front-runners in California when it comes to dual enrollment.

“Freshmen next year will graduate at a minimum with five to six units already.”

-Luke Browning, Director of CTE and State/Federal Programs

1,154

High school students
enrolled in
CTE DE courses

122%

Growth in DE course
offerings over last
5-years

80

Total Sierra College
DE courses

43

CTE DE courses offered

39

Number of High Schools
offering Sierra College DE
courses

81%

Enrollment growth in
CTE DE courses over
last 5-years

Dual Enrollment in Nevada County

Photo by: Marianne Boll-See,
Access Union newspaper



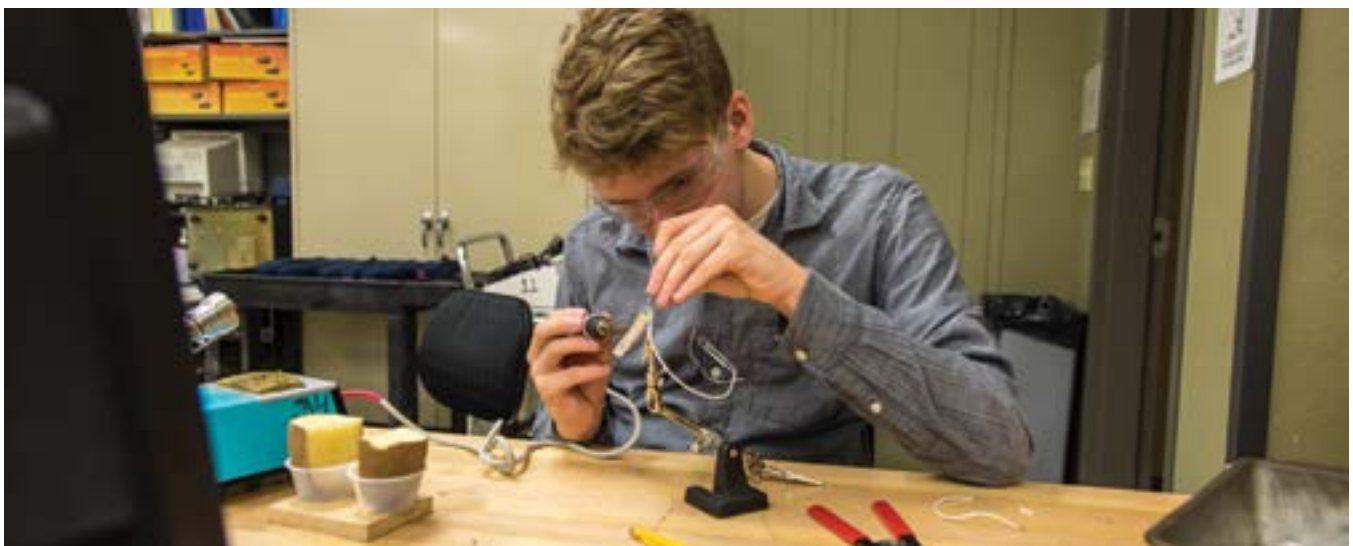
At Nevada Union and Bear River High Schools, every ninth-grade student will have the chance to step into a college classroom before graduation, thanks to expanded dual enrollment opportunities with Sierra College. A new \$941,000 state grant allows juniors and seniors in the Gold Country to earn college credits while completing high school, giving them a jump start on higher education and reducing future tuition costs.

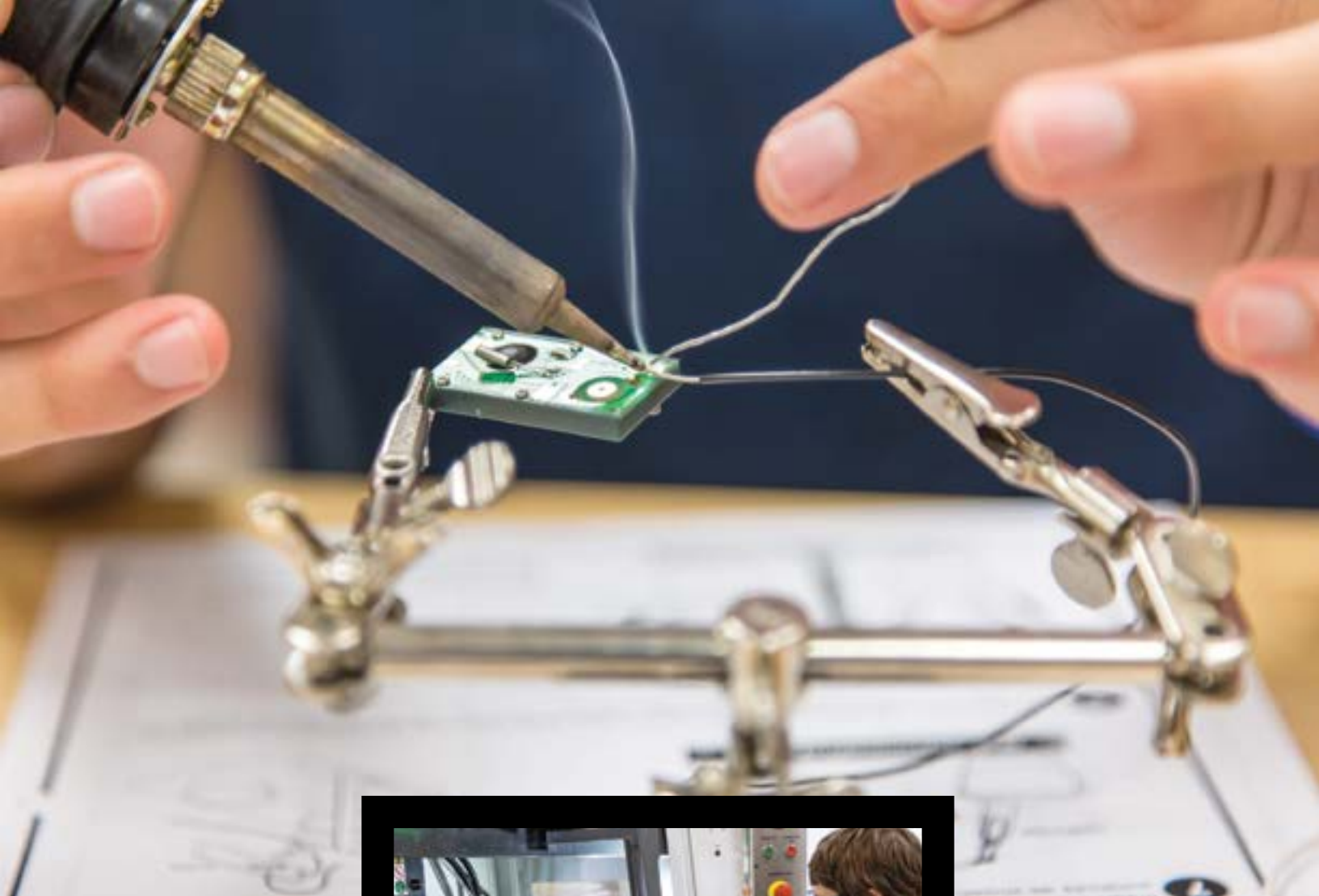
New Mechatronics Pathway Launches for High School Students

A groundbreaking partnership between Roseville Joint Union High School District (RJUHSD) and Sierra College is giving students at Oakmont and Antelope High Schools a head start in manufacturing technician careers now in high demand from employers like Bosch and Siemens Mobility. With \$2.2 million in funding secured by RJUHSD and additional support from Sierra College, new Mechatronics Pathways are being built to mirror Sierra's state-of-the-art lab environment.

Beginning in the fall of 2025, students will take college-level Mechatronics courses—tuition-free—earning early college credit while still in high school. Over 100 students at each campus have already expressed interest. Teachers will receive training in Summer 2025, and both schools are constructing dedicated Mechatronics labs.

The program aims to add 150 students to the job pipeline within two years, exposing them to engineering opportunities either by completing the Mechatronics program at Sierra to immediately land a good job or go on to a four-year degree program.





Workforce Development Programs and Upskilling

350+

Number of local
employer partners
Sierra works closely
with in 2025

Placer County.

Number One
Employer of Sierra
Graduates in 2025.

“

“With the rapid pace of technological advancement and the ever-changing needs of industries, such as semiconductor manufacturing, community colleges have stepped up to fill the critical gaps in workforce skills, making them indispensable to both learners and employers.”

- Amy Schulz, Executive Dean,
Workforce and Strategic Initiatives



Workforce development is a broad system of strategies, programs, and policies designed to train and connect people to in-demand jobs and support employers in finding skilled talent. The goal at Sierra is to improve a person's employability, close skills gaps, and respond to employer needs.



From One Phone Call to a Talent Pipeline: A Swinerton Story



"In 2022, when our South Sacramento lease ended, we set our sights on Roseville. We saw three advantages: a great place for our team to live and work, the chance to build a talent pipeline with Sierra College and local four-year universities, and strong

business networks nearby. I looked up Sierra College, called Amy Schulz, and that one conversation started everything. What began as a strategic relocation quickly became a real partnership in action. Two years later, we have eight Sierra interns working for us. We're adding a cybersecurity intern, too...."

– Scott Stephenson, Swinerton Business Technology

Responding to Business Needs

Sierra College delivers customized workforce solutions to employers throughout the Greater Sacramento Area, with a special emphasis on meeting the needs of Placer and Nevada County employers. Training is offered either through classroom instruction, hands-on industry-based training on campus or in the field, or through Certificates of Achievement or Skills Certificates.

✓ Sierra partnered with **Bosch Semiconductor** to upskill incumbent workers in key automation process using its award-winning Mechatronics program.

✓ Sierra College responded to the urgent need for surgical technicians, creating a solution that is improving health outcomes at **Sutter Health, Kaiser Permanente, Common Spirit, and UC Davis Health System.**

✓ To meet new smart building requirements, **Trane** and **SMUD** needed workers with a unique set of facility automation skills, so Sierra College adapted its offerings to create a new facilities automation technician program.

✓ Sierra College adapted its welding curriculum to create a direct hire program for **Siemens Mobility's** major manufacturing facility in Sacramento.

✓ **Placer County** turned to Sierra to fill high demand jobs using internships in IT, engineering, GIS, and accounting.



"I believe that a primary role of our community colleges is to serve as economic engines for their communities."

– President Duncan

Sierra's Entrepreneurship Council Brings "Startup Culture" to Campus

With the help of its first-ever **"Entrepreneur in Residence"** Monique Brown, a leader at the Growth Factory based in Rocklin, and the backing of an all-volunteer council of regional business leaders and investors, Sierra College is fueling student innovation through its Ignite and Empower Microgrant



Program, funded by Wells Fargo and the Sierra College Foundation, offering up to \$500 in seed funding alongside a structured business mentorship. Over a 90-day sprint, students from all disciplines develop their entrepreneurial ideas, guided by faculty and industry mentors. The program emphasizes creative problem-solving, critical thinking, and collaboration, culminating in a spring showcase where participants present their ventures. This initiative empowers students to take ideas and scale them to viable businesses, fostering an entrepreneurial mindset that extends well beyond the classroom.

Apprenticeships and Work-Based Learning

Sierra College offered robust apprenticeship and Work-Based Learning (WBL) programs in 2025 that integrate classroom instruction with real-world experience. These programs include internships, apprenticeships, and cooperative work experiences across a range of fields such as advanced manufacturing, business, and public safety. Sierra's comprehensive business programs blend classroom learning with internships to help students launch new ventures and become versed in business management, marketing, and accounting practices. Sierra College recognizes prior learning through its Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) initiative, awarding college credit for skills and knowledge acquired outside the classroom, including apprenticeships and industry training and military service. These initiatives not only accelerate students' academic progress but also enhance their employability.

Continuing Education at Sierra

Offered through the Community Education division, these are non-credit, fee-based courses designed for personal enrichment and skill development. They encompass a wide range of subjects, including career advancement, creative arts, health, and technology, providing flexible learning opportunities for adults seeking to enhance their knowledge or explore new interests.

An overhead view of Siemens Mobility's finishing room for trains and light rail cars in South Sacramento where Sierra College has a partnership.
Photo credit: Sacramento Business Journal.





New Apprenticeship Tackles Manufacturing Shortage

Sierra College, in partnership with the Sacramento Valley Manufacturing Alliance, has launched a state-registered CNC Machinist Apprenticeship to address regional manufacturing workforce shortages. Backed by a \$300,000 grant from the California Community College Chancellor's Office, the program aims to train over 20 apprentices, providing industry-recognized credentials and strengthening the local manufacturing sector.

“We are committed to working with educators like Sierra and industry partners to proactively develop vocational, educational and workforce initiatives leading to fulfilling manufacturing career paths for our region’s students....”

- Dean Peckham, Executive Director, Sacramento Valley Manufacturing Alliance

Economic and Community Impact



“Unlike larger universities, community colleges are nimble, adaptable and closely aligned with local employers. We can respond quickly to emerging trends and workforce demands, ensuring that our programs are relevant and impactful.”

- Amy Schulz, Executive Dean, Workforce and Strategic Initiatives

\$34,000

per student economic
contribution annually
(full-time)

**\$458.5
million**

Net impact of college
operations spending,
FY2024-25

**\$502.6
million**

Student driven
impact to the economy
annually

**\$500
million**

Size of campus
modernization program

**+/- \$1
billion**

Total economic impact
of construction across
the region

**4,000-
6,000**

Direct, indirect, and
induced jobs due to
construction program



For the past two years Sierra College has worked with local business and economic development leaders to plan and host the **Sierra Workforce Summit** as a forum to bring together local business and K-12 and higher education leaders to jointly plan, decide, and act together.

Impacting our Region's Economy

Sierra College not only contributes to the health of our economy thanks to our skilled graduates and top-rated education and training programs, but our regional economic impact is also substantial.

Operations spending impact.

Sierra College employed 2,063 full-time and part-time faculty and staff in FY 2024-25. Total compensation amounted to \$125 million, much of which is spent inside our region on things like housing, groceries, transportation, and retail in local stores. Sierra spent another \$333.5 million on day-to-day expenses on things like facilities, supplies, and professional services. The net impact of the college's operations

spending added \$458.5 million in income to the regional economy in FY 2024-25.

Student and Alumni impact.

Sierra College supported over 20,000 part time and full-time students on their journey to college and career in FY 2024-25, most of whom live in-region. These students spent money on rent, groceries, transportation and living expenses, which according to data collected by the California Community College system equates to \$18,000 to \$22,000 of annual spending per full-time student. For part-time students, the estimate is \$10,000 to \$12,000 of spending per year. Adding a conservative 1.7 economic multiplier (sources: IMPLAN, RIMS II, EMSI, etc.), each student contributed approximately \$18,700 (part time) to \$34,000 (full time)

per year to the local economy, adding approximately \$502.6 million in student-driven impact to the local economy.

Beyond this, thousands of former Sierra College graduates have entered or re-entered the workforce, filling public, private, and community sector jobs and actively participating in family activities, sports, governments and community-based organizations that not only contribute to our region's economy but also our outstanding quality of life in Placer County.

Construction impact.

Sierra College is undertaking a transformative \$500 million construction and modernization initiative at its Rocklin campus, primarily funded by the \$350 million **Measure E** bond

approved by voters in 2018. This ambitious Facilities Master Plan encompasses a range of products, including the recently completed 85,000-square-foot Instructional Building Q, the Applied Technology Center, a new science building, student housing, an offsite public safety training center, and significant renovations to existing buildings like Weaver Hall and the gymnasium. The plan also addresses campus-wide infrastructure enhancements, improved traffic circulation, and the addition of a new parking structure.

More than an investment in facilities—Sierra College’s investment in these student-serving building modernization program is a powerful driver of regional economic growth. Using standard economic development multipliers, the project is expected to generate up to \$1 billion in total economic activity throughout the region. Over the life of the construction effort, these activities support an estimated 4,500 to 6,000 jobs across construction, design, engineering, local services, and related industries. These investments not only modernize the College’s learning environment but also create ripple effects that benefit workers, local small businesses, and the broader economy throughout Placer County and beyond.

Spotlight: GSEC Competitiveness Council



The Greater Sacramento Economic Council (GSEC) Competitiveness Council is a group of business, education, and community leaders with a mission of advancing the region’s competitive position using evidence-based strategies focused on policy, workforce, and infrastructure. The Council is co-chaired by Sierra College President William Duncan and Dr. John Jackson, President of William Jessup University.

“President Duncan’s ability to unite regional business and political leaders has advanced inclusive economic growth, making him a driving force behind the region’s prosperity. His dedication to collaboration, innovation and community betterment has had a profound and lasting impact on our region’s economic development.”

– Barry Broome, President & CEO, GSEC



“Sutter Roseville hospital hires a lot of our graduates because they are solid students who are ready to work as registered nurses when they graduate.”

- Nancy James, Dean of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences at Sierra College



Student and Graduate Success

25,085

Students served in 2023-24 (credit and noncredit)

120+

Programs of Study

9%

Number of first time, full-time degree seekers

3,969

Degrees and Certificates
Awarded in 2023-24

321,600

Estimated number
of graduates since 1936



Ella's Head Start into High-Tech

Ella's journey began at Del Oro High School with dual enrollment classes through Sierra College. One Mechatronics course changed everything. Inspired, she continued at Sierra after graduation, focusing on Mechatronics and earning her associate degree in just one year—thanks to her early head start. While in class, she joined the Bosch Semiconductor cohort, where her skills stood out. At 19, Bosch offered her a full-time

technician role. Ella stepped into a high-paying, career-track job without a penny of debt. Unlike many peers just entering college, she's preparing for homeownership. Her story isn't over—Sac State is nearby for when she's ready to pursue a bachelor's, with Bosch's support. Ella's experience proves the power of combining dual enrollment, hands-on learning, and industry partnerships to create real opportunity – and real results – for Sierra students ready to leap ahead.



Building Futures: Construction Boot Camp Marks Five Years of Impact

Celebrating its fifth year, Sierra College's Construction Fundamentals Boot Camp has trained over 400 students for careers in the skilled trades. This tuition-free, hands-on program addresses workforce shortages by providing essential construction skills, OSHA-10 certification, and direct pathways to employment with regional firms and union apprenticeships. With five cohorts annually, the boot camp continues to build a strong pipeline of job-ready talent for the construction sector.

Job Placement and Graduate Employment Outcomes

Sierra College's CTE programs demonstrate strong, varied impacts across industry sectors through deep employer partnerships. In the public sector, partnerships like the one with Placer County have yielded significant hiring results – 484 graduates hired over three years – underscoring the effectiveness of internships and curriculum co-design in producing job-ready talent. In the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) and Allied Health fields, long-standing relationships with AlphaOne and Medic Ambulance have led to over 300 hires, driven by hands-on experiences such as "ride-alongs" and trauma day simulations. These partnerships also play a critical role in shaping curriculum through active advisory board input. Meanwhile, the Mechatronics program showcases a broad and diverse array of industry partnerships, including firms like Bosch and Harris & Bruno. While individual hiring numbers were modest in 2025, they are growing, thanks to these employers providing valuable support through mentorships, equipment, and capstone project collaborations, illustrating a strategic investment in talent development pipelines.



Top 5 Employers of Sierra Graduates

1. Placer County / IT, Engineering, GIS, Accounting
2. AlphaOne Ambulance / EMS
3. Medic Ambulance / EMS
4. Sutter Roseville / Nursing
5. Siemens Mobility / Welding



Inclusion and Workforce Development

43%

of enrolled students from
communities
of color

43%

of students provided
financial aid 2023-24

30%

of students are first-
generation, degree
seeking

\$52
million

in financial aid awarded
2023-24

833

Number of veteran
students / dependents
served by the Vet Success
Center in 2023-24



“Community colleges have a unique responsibility and opportunity to connect underrepresented populations – including people of color, women and neurodivergent individuals – to promising careers. This is not just a matter of fairness; it’s a matter of economic necessity.”

- Amy Schulz, Executive Dean, Workforce and Strategic Initiatives

Involving all people in the workforce is not just fair and equitable – it is proven to help the bottom-line. In an era of labor scarcity and rising global competition, a healthy economy depends on unlocking the full potential of every individual. Data shows a more inclusive workforce fuels growth, resilience, and long-term prosperity for employers

and the communities they serve (sources: World Bank, 2024, Deloitte, 2025, Harvard Business Review, 2024). By engaging all students early, leveraging unique educational opportunities directly informed by employers, Sierra works daily to ensure opportunity for all.

“Our commitment to diversity is reflected in Sierra College’s mission statement: ‘The mission of Sierra College is to provide an inclusive and safe educational environment where learners are supported while challenging themselves and achieving their goals.’”

– Carol Garcia, Sierra College Board Trustee



Building Inclusive Futures: How Sierra College’s LIFE Program Changes Lives

The Learning Independence for Future Employment (LIFE) program at Sierra College supports individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in gaining life skills and preparing for competitive employment. Funded by a \$329,000 grant from the California Department of Developmental Services, and supported by Strong Workforce funds, the Hearst Foundation and Alta California Regional Center, LIFE offers two years of free training, job exploration, and community-based support. The program emphasizes self-advocacy, independence, and career readiness. By partnering with local employers and organizations, LIFE helps build a more inclusive workforce while providing meaningful pathways for students to thrive in work and life beyond the classroom.

Support for Low- to Moderate-Income Students

Sierra College provides several programs aimed at reducing barriers to education, support student retention, and promote successful transitions into the workforce.

- **Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS):** Offers specialized counseling, financial aid assistance, priority registration, tutoring, and help with purchasing books.
- **TRiO Student Support Services:** A federally funded program for first-generation, low-income, and disabled students, providing counseling, workshops, and transfer assistance.
- **CalWORKs:** Supports students receiving cash assistance, aligning with the needs of very low-income populations, including single parents.
- **Basic Needs Center:** Connects students with resources for financial support, food assistance, housing, health and wellness, and transportation.



Veterans Success Center Helps Service Members Transition to Civilian Careers

Veterans transitioning back to civilian life have a strong ally at Sierra's Veterans Success Center (VSC). More than just a resource hub, the VSC provides tailored support that includes academic counseling, VA education benefit processing, and peer mentoring through the Veterans Cadre—a group of student veterans trained to help others navigate college and access vital services.

The VSC is closely linked with Sierra's CTE programs, offering veterans streamlined pathways into high-demand fields like advanced manufacturing, cybersecurity, fire technology, and mechatronics. Through Credit for Prior Learning, veterans can earn college credit for military-acquired skills, and coupled with hands-on training opportunities, help speed them to a good paying job.



Partnerships and Collaborations

First Partner Highlights Sierra's Mechatronics Program

Sierra College lives up to its name as a true community college—guided by a locally engaged board, a highly visible and active president and executive team, talented faculty and administration, and hundreds of trusted partnerships in K-12 and higher education, with industry, government agencies and community groups across the region.



California's First Partner, Jennifer Siebel Newsom, visited Sierra College to spotlight programs preparing students for high-wage, high-demand careers. During her tour, she praised the College's Mechatronics program for offering students hands-on training aligned with industry needs.

Sierra College and Sac State Forge Historic Partnership for Placer Center

On June 28, 2024, Sacramento State President Luke Wood and Sierra College Superintendent/President Willy Duncan signed a landmark agreement to co-develop the Sacramento State Placer Center. This collaborative campus aims to serve up to 12,000 students, offering integrated programs, shared services, and seamless transfer pathways, enhancing higher education access in Placer County.



Sierra College and First Responders Unite to Build New Public Safety Training Center

Sierra College is advancing a new 50-acre regional public safety training in western Placer County developed in partnership with local, state, and federal agencies. Collaborators include Placer County, the Placer County Sheriff's Office, CAL FIRE, the FBI, and police and fire departments from Roseville, Rocklin, Lincoln, and Auburn. The center will feature realistic training environments—such



as a tactical village, driving course, and fire tower—to prepare students and active-duty personnel for real-world scenarios. Supported by Measure E bond funding, this initiative addresses a critical shortage of local training facilities, enabling agencies to train closer to home and reduce costs.

New Surgical Tech Offering Responds to Urgent Healthcare Demand

Sierra College recently launched a new affordable Surgical Technician program in response to requests from local health systems. The need was surfaced through the Roseville Chamber's Talent Pipeline Management (TPM) initiative, an employer-led strategy that aligns workforce development with industry needs. Replacing costly for-profit options, the new one-year program costs under \$5,000 and offers clinical placements. With high demand and strong career outcomes, this new pathway is expanding access and student opportunities in allied health.

Photo by Getty





Sierra College Fire Academy: Preparing the Next Generation of Firefighters

Sierra College's Firefighter I and II Academy, accredited by the California State Fire Marshal, offers rigorous, hands-on training in structural and wildland firefighting, hazardous materials response, and rescue operations. Through partnerships with both local and state fire agencies like CalFire, the academy addresses the growing needs for skilled first responders. Each year, the program graduates over 100 cadets, bolstering fire services in Placer, Nevada, and other Northern California counties.

Sierra College and Partners Launch Cyber Talent Pipeline

Sierra College Foundation and the Roseville Area Chamber of Commerce received a \$198,000 federal grant from NIST to expand the Placer Cybersecurity Talent Pipeline Collaborative. This initiative will help meet growing workforce demand, with cybersecurity jobs expected to grow 33% in California through 2033. Sierra College, one of only five California community colleges recognized as a National Center for Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity, leads this effort with local government, education, and industry partners. The project uses the Talent Pipeline Management system to align student training with real-time employer needs across the region.





Purpose-driven Collaboration: Sierra Workforce Summit

The Sierra Workforce Summit, hosted by Sierra College, serves as a pivotal forum for aligning education, industry, and government efforts in Placer County. The summit fosters collaboration among employers, educators, and civic leaders to address workforce challenges and prepare youth and adults for high-demand careers. Key outcomes include commitments to connect learners with career opportunities, engage over 50 employers with local schools, and support more than 2,000 adults in skill advancement by 2028.



North Far North Regional Consortium Shows Power of Scale

The North Far North Regional Consortium unites 15 community colleges across 22 Northern California Counties to align CTE programs with employer needs. For Sierra College, the Consortium provides critical support – collaborative planning, regional data, and shared resources and best practices – that strengthens program design and employer engagement locally and throughout Northern California.

Financial Overview and Funding Sources

Sierra College's CTE and workforce programs are supported through a diverse funding portfolio that includes institutional investments, state and federal grants and corporate and private donations. The largest and most consistent funding source for these activities is the State of California, particularly through initiatives like the Strong Workforce Program, which aims to enhance CTE offerings across community colleges.

\$1.8M

FY 2024-25 state funding for CTE programs for new equipment, faculty, curriculum, and student support

\$950K

FY 2024-25 state funding for multi-college efforts in CTE serving Sierra students

\$715K

FY 2024-25 federal funding for industry-responsive, equity-driven CTE Programs

~\$400K

FY 2024-25 funding from the Sierra College Foundation directed to CTE Programs like Construction Bootcamps, Allied Health, and Cyber Security

California's Strong Workforce Program (SWP)

provides local and regional funding to expand CTE offerings at community colleges. Sierra College uses SWP funds to enhance programs on campus and work with other colleges and employers regionally through the North Far North Regional Consortium – building pathways that lead students directly into skilled jobs in health care, manufacturing, and IT.

Federal CTE funding (e.g., Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act) supports career education programs that prepare students for high-demand jobs. At Sierra College, these funds help modernize equipment, improve instruction, and expand access to students who need it most—ensuring programs like Nursing, Mechatronics, and Fire Technology stay aligned with real-world workforce needs.



Sierra College Foundation: Transforming Lives

Since 1973, the **Sierra College Foundation** has advanced student success through scholarships, emergency aid, and vital funding for Career and Technical Education (CTE) and workforce programs. Led by Executive Director Sonbol Aliabadi and an influential board of local business and community leaders, the Foundation reduces financial barriers students face, providing scholarships and key program contributions. The Foundation's investments in CTE support student engagement with employers – making it core to Sierra College's mission and essential to the health of the local community.

The Tahoe-Truckee campus serves about 1,000 full and part-time students. It delivers quality education through smaller class sizes and close relationships with faculty.



Looking Ahead

Growing employer demands. Changing technologies. Large scale shifts in the workforce. Sierra is ready for all of them. The college plans to continue to expand and adapt Career and Technical Education (CTE) and workforce programs that equip students of all ages and abilities for in-demand careers.

With extensive employer partnerships, growing alignment between K-12 and higher education, and a clear focus on practical, high-impact education and training, Sierra is building a workforce ready for any future. From advanced manufacturing and construction to healthcare and public services, Sierra College is not just responding to change—it's leading it, creating pathways to good paying jobs and opportunity careers for students of every background.

“

“As we look to the future, let's recognize the vital role that community colleges play in our communities. Let's invest in them, support them, and partner with them to build a workforce that is not just highly skilled and adaptable, but also inclusive and resilient. Together, we can create a future where everyone has an opportunity to thrive.”

- Amy Schulz, Executive Dean, Workforce and Strategic Initiatives





5100 Sierra College Blvd

Rocklin, CA 95677

sierracollege.edu