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COMMUNITY AND JUNIOR COLLEGES

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ACCJC Fall 2025 Webinars

ACCJC is excited to share its Fall 2025 Webinar Series, created to support member institutions in strengthening student success and career readiness. This semester's series explores how colleges can more intentionally connect learning with career pathways, elevate student voices, and guide students in turning their educational experiences into meaningful career opportunities.



Join us for three timely and engaging sessions:

- *Research to Transformation: Embedding Career Readiness into the Student Experience*
- *Listening to Lead: Amplifying the Student Story Through Focus Groups*
- *Bridging the Gap: Helping Students Translate Competencies into Career Success*

These webinars are designed for college leaders, faculty, and staff seeking practical tools and fresh perspectives to support students' academic and professional journeys. Details and registration information for each webinar are available below and on the ACCJC website at <https://accjc.org/webinar/>.

Research to Transformation: Embedding Career Readiness into the Student Experience

Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025

Time: 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (PDT)

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Learn how community colleges are utilizing research and principles of quality coaching guidance and research on career readiness competencies to create transformative learning outcomes in core courses and student experiences. Experts from Strada, Career Launch, and Cañada College share a variety of perspectives on the development of curricula that address professional development, career readiness, and career-aligned social capital in the classroom, alongside activating alumni networks through student engagement. Hear from colleagues at Cañada College and their approach for integrating career readiness from an opt-in co-curricular model to a classroom experience, scaling career readiness to ensure all students gain successful post-graduation employment and moving beyond the co-curricular to cohort-based curriculum inclusion and transformative learning experiences.

Presenters:

- **Melissa Leavitt**, Vice President, Quality Coaching - Postsecondary Education at Strada
- **Marieli Rubio**, Partner & Vice President of Impact at Career Launch
- **Dr. Audra Verrier**, Vice President - University Partnerships at Career Launch
- **Lorraine Barrales-Ramirez**, Counselor & Coordinator – EOPS/CARE/FYSI at Cañada College
- **Michelle Lomeli**, NextUp Counselor at Cañada College

Listening to Lead: Amplifying the Student Story Through Focus Groups



Date: Thursday, October 30, 2025

Time: 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (PDT)

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Mrlr0KWWRRWSyZhSpv9K1g

Join ACCJC and expert facilitators Michelle Fowles and Rebecca Stein for a follow-up webinar summarizing key takeaways from the “Conducting Focus Groups to Better Understand and Relay the Student Story” training. This session will highlight how colleges are using focus groups to amplify student voices and enhance institutional storytelling, with reflections from expert facilitators and peers.

Presenters:

- **Dr. Michelle Fowles**, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and Academic Affairs at Los Angeles Valley College
- **Rebecca Stein**, Department Chair of Anthropology at Los Angeles Valley College

Bridging the Gap: Helping Students Translate Competencies into Career Success

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Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_55SvH53ySPyxAntaFZWnkQ

While community colleges offer a variety of curricular and co-curricular opportunities to learn, the National Association for Colleges and Employers (NACE) career competencies research shows that students often struggle to articulate what they have learned or to connect this learning to the workplace. In fact, there is a gap in the competencies employers are looking for in their early hires and students' ability to demonstrate proficiency in these competencies. In this session, we will share research on how the NACE Competency Assessment Tool strengthens professional networks and improves employment outcomes, especially for first-generation and underserved students. NACE partner, Career Launch, will share how their digital NACE Career Readiness Inventory tool assists practitioners in measuring students growth in their competencies and skills in real-time.

Presenters:

- **Dr. Niesha Taylor**, Director of Career Readiness at National Association of Colleges and Employers
- **Marieli Rubio**, Partner & Vice President of Impact at Career Launch
- Community College Partner

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