

From the Office of the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools:

San Bernardino Regional Hub of Excellence Selected for Grant

SAN BERNARDINO – The Linked Learning Regional Hub of Excellence in San Bernardino County has been selected by Jobs for the Future and the James Irvine Foundation as one of four models throughout California to receive funding for expansion of Linked Learning across education, workforce, community and business organizations.

The regional hubs will be focused on developing integrated academic and technical pathways – aligned to high-quality standards – that prepare all students for college, career and life.

“We’re proud that the collaborative approach taking place in our county that has been recognized with this Jobs for the Future grant through the James Irvine Foundation,” San Bernardino County Superintendent Ted Alejandre said. “We believe that an expansion of Linked Learning as a signature approach in our schools and districts will provide a foundation for college and career readiness for all our students.”

This \$900,000 grant is to expand on the Linked Learning initiative designed to increase high school graduation rates, as well as college-going and completion rates, including a full range of technical, certificate and apprenticeship programs. The work will help to keep local students in the county to enter a variety of high-skill, high-wage careers that require knowledge and advanced technical skills.

The San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools’ Alliance for Education, in partnership with California State University San Bernardino and the Inland Empire Economic Partnership, has established the Regional Hub of Excellence.

In 2012, County Schools formed an initial consortium with five participating school districts that took part in a Linked Learning pilot program sponsored by the California Department of Education. The five participating districts were Chino Valley Unified, Colton Joint Unified, San Bernardino City Unified, Upland Unified and Yucaipa-Calimesa Joint Unified.

“We are excited about the launch of a Regional Hub of Excellence in San Bernardino. Their partnership is a unique cross-sector collaboration that will accelerate increases in the number of and need for highly skilled graduates from high quality Linked Learning pathways,” said Joel Vargas, vice president of school and learning designs for Jobs for the Future.

San Bernardino was selected along with the following model regions – East Bay, Tulare-Kings and Long Beach – for the grant. All the regions selected had to have adopted Linked Learning strategies, which look to integrate rigorous academics with career-based learning and real-world working

applications. They also demonstrated a shared vision and common goals among stakeholders working collaboratively to bring about large-scale, positive change.

“We are proud to support the work of the Regional Hubs of Excellence, including San Bernardino, and its work to build a regional strategy to increase access and quality of Linked Learning pathways for area students” said Elizabeth Gonzalez, program director for The James Irvine Foundation.

“By working together with multiple districts, employers, and regional postsecondary institutions, the Hubs will not only streamline efforts and share limited resources, but increase equity across each region by increasing the number of graduates who complete high school ready for college and career success.”

For more information on Jobs for the Future and the Regional Hubs of Excellence, visit the Jobs for the Future website at www.jff.org.