Executive Summary

Sustaining Employer Partnerships for Students’ Long-Term Success

3/20/2019

Moderator(s): Robin Fernkas & Erin Berg

Speaker(s): Dr. Sunita Cooke, Sandra Sisco & Molly M. Scott

Community colleges must build relationships with employers to ensure that their education and training programs align with industry needs and equip adults with skills leading to family-supporting jobs. This webinar focuses on how community colleges are working with employer partners to institutionalize the practices and approaches to long-term industry engagement that they developed under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program. The webinar features three presenters:

Dr. Sunita Cooke, from Miracosta College in California, shares how her college built high-impact programs with regional employers—in particular, the Technology Career Institute—to meet pressing workforce needs.

Sandra Sisco, from Chaffey College in California, presents on the Industrial Technical Learning (InTech) Center, which the college built through strong employer support and which provides immersive, hands-on training for careers in a wide array of fields.

Molly M. Scott, from the Urban Institute in Washington, DC, shares the findings of a new survey of employers from across the country, whose insights can help community colleges understand how to effectively engage industry partners.

The presenters answer questions from the moderator and the audience, covering additional topics, such as how the colleges’ relationships with employer partners have evolved over time, a new model of internships, program sustainability and replication strategies, and other topics.