

LOOKING BACK AT 2023

UNITE-LA works to transform and align public systems to achieve education and workforce equity in the L.A. region. Here's a snapshot of some of our systems change work in 2023!



L.A. REGION K-16 COLLABORATIVE

The L.A. Region K-16 Collaborative is closing postsecondary attainment and workforce gaps for BIPOC students by streamlining pathways into health care, engineering and computer science careers. In its first year, the K-16 Collaborative launched five subregional partnerships and awarded \$7.6 million to expand dual enrollment, improve transfer pathways and integrate work-based learning into education pathways. [READ MORE](#) about our impact and vision for advancing equitable degree attainment.

\$30 MILLION

Investment in the Community Schools Initiative

LAUSD COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

In May, Los Angeles Unified, a longtime L.A. Compact partner and signer, received a \$30 million California Community Schools Partnership Program (CCSPP) investment to sustain and expand the District's Community Schools Initiative (CSI) for another five years. [READ MORE](#) about the CSI impact and the vision for Cohort 5 in 2024.

TRANSFER STUDENT RESOURCE EXPANSION

The L.A. Compact is pursuing widespread adoption of effective transfer practices across institutions to increase student retention and successful transfer rates, especially for BIPOC students. California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH), a primarily BIPOC institution, participated in an L.A. Compact-led design thinking process focused on improving the transfer student experience. [CHECK OUT](#) the impact report for ways the UNITE-LA team is advancing transfer success.



DIGITAL EQUITY

Major disparities in broadband access across Los Angeles disproportionately limit marginalized communities' economic mobility. However, new public funding delivered through the LA DEAL partnership is closing persistent digital divides and broadband gaps. [READ MORE](#) about UNITE-LA's work on digital equity.



DUAL ENROLLMENT

In March 2023, more than 80 education system leaders and practitioners across the K-16 spectrum attended the Los Angeles County

Dual Enrollment convening to learn about dual enrollment funding opportunities, relevant policies and best practices. [READ MORE](#) about how UNITE-LA is supporting schools across the county to expand dual enrollment.

INFLUENCING LOCAL WORKFORCE STRATEGY

Two UNITE-LA leaders were appointed this year to Los Angeles committees working to advance equitable workforce policy that benefits underserved communities within high-growth career sectors. UNITE-LA's President, Alysia Bell, is serving on the City's five-year Workforce Development Board Strategic Plan committee and Carrie Lemmon, Vice President of Systems Change Strategy, was appointed to the Los Angeles City WDB Youth Council. [READ MORE.](#)



143,000 Disconnected Youth
Living in L.A. County

REDUCING YOUTH DISCONNECTION IN CA AND LOS ANGELES

California faces a crisis of youth disconnection since the pandemic, with more than 570,000 young people, ages 16-24, neither in school nor employed. UNITE-LA supported the successful passage of ACR 16, calling for a statewide, coordinated plan for opportunity youth. 143,000 of these disconnected youth live in Los Angeles County. Over the course of 12 convenings this year, UNITE-LA and the LA Opportunity Youth Collaborative (LA OYC) collaborated with cross-sector system leaders to develop a new regional strategic plan for reducing opportunity youth disconnection by 32,000 by 2028 through aligned, youth-centered efforts. [READ MORE](#) about our state and local efforts to reduce youth disconnection.



STATE INVESTMENTS CROSSWALK LAUNCH

California made unprecedented investments in college and career pathways and the whole child approach in 2021-23 state budgets.

However, new resources were delivered to regions with little state guidance on aligning funds to achieve the greatest cross-system impact. In response, the L.A. Compact team developed a funding crosswalk, which outlines 17 state investments to reduce equity and opportunity gaps. [READ MORE](#) about funding opportunities and the crosswalk in the impact report.

CAREER SUCCESS FOR L.A. COUNTY FOSTER YOUTH

LA OYC undertook a case study this year to understand the experience of foster youth referred to workforce programming in L.A. County. The case study will be officially published in 2024 with recommendations for policymakers and practitioners to improve engagement practices with foster and other opportunity youth. [LEARN MORE](#) about UNITE-LA's efforts to advance the study's recommendations.



ADVISING CALIFORNIA'S CRADLE-TO-CAREER DATA SYSTEM

Two UNITE-LA leaders were appointed to California Cradle-to-Career (C2C) Advisory Boards this year to ensure the Data System's effectiveness as an equity tool. Dr. Lisa Catanzarite, Vice President of Research & Evaluation, serves on the C2C Data and Tools Advisory Board, while Adam Gottlieb, Director of Postsecondary Strategy & Policy, serves on the Community Engagement Advisory Board. [LEARN MORE](#) about the C2C Data System, which will provide our region with critical information on education and workforce outcome trends.



WELCOME 2024!

In 2023, UNITE-LA forged powerful partnerships and made significant strides in tackling systemic disparities in education and workforce. Dive deeper into our work this year by reading our comprehensive report. It highlights our progress and outlines the path to a fairer future as we look toward 2024. [READ OUR REPORT.](#)