STATE OF CALIFORNIA GAVIN NEWSOM, *Governor*
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CALIFORNIA APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL 2026
THIRD QUARTERLY MEETING
MINUTES

Thursday, August 13, 2026
9:00 a.m.
Chairperson Frank Quintero

I. CONVENE QUARTERLY CAC MEETING

a. Chair Frank Quintero called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

b. Roll Call

i. DAS Chief Adele Burnes conducted roll call. A quorum was present in person.

ii. Members present: Chuck Poss, Earl Restine, Frank Quintero, Randall Chenworth, Richard Harris, Sheri Learmonth, Alex Beltran, Louis Ontiveros, Hugo de la Torre, Larry Hopkins, Mark Burri (remote), Jason Rafter, Adele Burnes, Gary Adams, Jack Buckhorn, and Todd Braverman.

iii. Members absent: Yvonne de la Peña and Shelly Doran.

c. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

i. **MOTION:** Member moved to approve the minutes of the Second Quarterly Meeting, held in Santa Rosa on August 13, 2026. Member seconded. The motion passed.

d. Executive Session: None.

e. Announcements: Chief Burnes announced that the Fourth Quarterly Meeting will be held October 28 and 29, 2026, in Visalia. The notice is posted on the website.

f. Communications: The Council received a letter from John R. Upshaw on behalf of the IRCC Roofer Apprenticeship Training Trust and the Independent Roofing Contractors of California, Inc.

II. BUSINESS SESSION

a. Legal Matters, Deputy Attorney General: The John McVay v. CAC apprenticeship appeal petition remains pending in Superior Court.

b. Apprenticeship Complaint Findings/Decisions by the Administrator of Apprenticeship: Alexander Ruiz v. Pipe Trades Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee of Santa Clara and San Benito Counties was finalized last quarter.

c. Notice of Appeals during the Quarter: None.

d. CAC Appeals Panel Decisions: None.

e. Chief's Report, DAS Chief Adele Burnes

   i. The report lists four tentative 2027 meeting dates. Chief Burnes asked Commissioners to confirm they can attend.

   ii. The report lists last quarter's new hires and promotions. Jamie Mather supports the CAC and is a key contact. DAS has a 5% vacancy rate and is focused on final review of standards and program approvals.

   iii. The process feedback group proposed at the last meeting held its first meeting on improving revision and registration while maintaining program quality. DAS is building a standards dashboard that shows each program's standards status and current version.

   iv. The first K-12 credentialed teacher apprenticeship programs were registered in June. They create a debt-free earn-and-learn pathway into teaching and launch in October.

   v. The final state budget allocated an additional $14.9 million to DIR for the Women in Construction Priority Unit, which funds ERiCA, so there will be a Round 3.

   vi. Grant funding remains at $20 million in total, with funding for two new pre-apprenticeship positions, one on the evaluations team and one on the program quality team.

   vii. ERiCA Round 2 has 25 grantees awarded a combined $26 million across recruitment, worksite culture, and childcare.

   viii. The California Opportunity Youth Apprenticeship (COYA) grant has completed Rounds 1 and 2, and Round 3 recipients were announced in the Second Quarter. Round 3 awarded $13.2 million to $25 million to the grantees as continuation grants. Continuation awards depended on thresholds such as the share of participants served, whether the grantee held a planning grant, and whether its program was fully registered.

   ix. Governor Newsom announced the final round of CAC Training Fund awards in a press release on workforce development investments.

f. CAC Training Funds Update, Ben Palazzolo

   i. Under a new online application process, DAS funded 160 apprenticeship programs for a total of $18,6662.824.00.

   ii. Training funds reimburse eligible expenses. Eligible programs served registered building and construction trades apprentices active between July 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, and applied through the California Outreach Rapid Deployment (CORD) platform. DAS notified eligible programs by email on July 23, 2026.

g. California Opportunity Youth Apprenticeship Grant Review

   i. Grant Amendment 25COYAAI-82 covers "Elevate & Empower: Advancing Opportunities for Youth through Apprenticeship," a $600,000 grant to Hawkeye Properties and Workforce Innovation, Inc. with a period of performance from 6/23/2025 to 6/30/2027. The amendment adds American Medical Response's Paramedic Registered Apprenticeship Program as a placement partner to this existing Apprenticeship

Implementation grant. Participants receive wraparound services, and no grant funds go to American Medical Response.

ii. **MOTION:** Member moved to approve the amendment to the Hawkeye Properties and Workforce Innovation, Inc. COYA grant to include fire trades. Member seconded. The motion passed.

h. Minimum Industry Training Criteria Committee Formation

i. MITC committees are being formed for Plumber/Pipefitter, Sheet Metal Worker, and Construction Craft Laborer. Nominations are accepted at https://forms.cloud.microsoft/g/WJLhXFQ6Ji.

ii. Chair Quintero asked about the criteria for committee members. Chief Burnes said the regulations set the composition, balancing signatory and non-signatory employers and union and non-union representatives, and DAS will work to fill each seat.

i. Old Business: None.

j. New Business: None.

III. FORUM

a. "California Community Colleges: Baccalaureate Degree Program (BDP) and Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)." Erin Larson, Associate Vice Chancellor of Strategic and Workforce Initiatives, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, and Dr. Crystal Nasio, Director of Workforce CPL and Operations, California Community Colleges CPL Initiative, presented.

IV. EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES REPORT

a. California Community Colleges, Gary Adams, Chancellor's Office. Dr. Sabrina Lopez presented.

i. The California Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI) received 178 applications under last year's RFA and funded 25. It will continue funding applications that exceeded the minimum threshold, in rank order.

ii. Appropriations are $36,623,000 for the community colleges and $64,251,000 for K-12 partners. The RSI hourly rate rose to $10.61. The initial shortfall request was nearly $13 million; the colleges received $16 million in one-time shortfall funding, which fully addresses the 2024-25 shortfall.

iii. From 2025-26 to 2026-27, CAI funding was held at $30 million and RSI funding rose 2.81%. One-time shortfall funding rose 137.1% from $6.7 million to $16 million.

b. California Department of Education, Jack Buckhorn. Allison Frenzel presented.

i. CDE and the Chancellor's Office are aligning their audit guides so the language matches. They worked with the State Controller's Office and advanced the language to the Education Audit Appeals Panel.

ii. The CDE audit guide does not use "suggested procedures" headings, which appear throughout the community college guide, so the header was removed to fit the CDE guide's structure. The final question was answered on August 12, and the guide will be published as approved.

iii. In November CDE will release the new California CTE Framework, which adopts the National Career Clusters Framework, and the State Board will approve the new California Pathway structure for career technical education.

iv. Ana Gray, Los Angeles Unified School District, asked when the language was projected and asked for time with LEA colleagues to review how it applies to their section. She suggested the language appear in that section as well as at the beginning of the guide.

V. CAC STANDING COMMITTEES REPORT

a. CAC/CCA Liaison Committee, August 12, 2026. CCA Co-Chair Randall Chenworth

i. The Financial Secretary reported a balance of about $112,000. The committee authorized the Chair and Co-Chair to engage with hotels for the 2028 conference and approved new check signers. Preston Riehl, representing the UA Plumbers, Pipefitters, and Steamfitters A & J Training Center in Southern California, is the new chair. Commissioner Randall Chenworth, representing RMCA of Southern California, is co-chair. Preston Riehl will hold the checkbook for the next two years.

b. Public Relations & Publicity Committee, August 12, 2026. Acting Public Relations Chair Louis Ontiveros

i. The meeting was convened at 11:15 a.m. and the previous minutes were approved. Chief Burnes gave an update on the website. The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

c. Related and Supplemental Instruction Committee, August 12, 2026. Chair Jack Buckhorn

i. The meeting was convened at 9:30 a.m. with a quorum, and the previous minutes were approved. Under old business, the committee received an update on the K-12 and community college audit guide language. The Education Audit Appeals Panel removed the word “suggested” from the K-12 audit procedures, and equivalent language appears on the first page of the K-12 guide. Discussion will continue at a future RSI meeting.

ii. Under public comment, the committee discussed RSI funding and the Chancellor’s Office budget change proposal for backfill and ongoing RSI support. Commissioners Gary Adams and Jack Buckhorn and Ana Gray volunteered to draft a letter to the California Community Colleges Board of Governors supporting it. Dr. Sabrina Lopez drafted the letter; the work group approved it and submitted it to DAS for posting with the Fourth Quarter RSI materials. If the committee approves it, it will go to the full CAC and then to the November Board of Governors meeting.

iii. Members will work offline on a problem with RSI hours transferring between schedules. The meeting adjourned at 10:28 a.m.

d. Legislation Committee, August 12, 2026. Chair Yvonne de la Peña

i. The meeting was convened at 10:30 a.m. The committee reviewed 18 bills. Two were budget bills, seven related to CAC and IACA, and two were specific to IACA. The bill list and budget overview, prepared with the California Professional Firefighters legislative team, are posted publicly. Discussion focused on SB 1024, AB 1980, AB 805, and SB 1227.

ii. The RSI reimbursement rate increases to $10.61 an hour for Schedules 2 and 3. The budget includes $16 million to address prior underfunding of Schedule 3 hours for 2024-

25 and 2025-26, and final funding for apprenticeship training and instruction is just over $64 million. The meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

e. Equal Opportunity in Apprenticeship Committee, August 12, 2026. Chair Sheri Learmonth

   i. The meeting was convened at 1:01 p.m. with a quorum, and the minutes of January 28, 2026, were approved. John Valencia of the Good for Others Foundation, an ERiCA worksite culture grantee, presented, with questions from Meg Vasey and Chief Burnes.

   ii. Chief Burnes requested feedback on ERiCA Round 3. Ben Rivera, Chris Jorgensen, and Juanita Douglas responded, and Chief Burnes said others can submit feedback through an online form: https://forms.cloud.microsoft/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DgTQAkgTXkyG5Apa6O3p1n9mchXBj_dMtkcwhkoxeDNUNklSUjRCSDZZQ1NNMkFQNUJGQUMxMlNDUi4u The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

f. Forums Committee, August 12, 2026. Chair Alex Beltran

   i. The meeting was convened at 2:03 p.m. with a quorum, and the previous minutes were approved. The committee discussed guest speaker topics with Workforce Pell planned for the First Quarter 2027 meeting in coordination with Chief Burnes. The committee approved a presentation by the Ecological Workforce Initiative (EWI) at the Fourth Quarter meeting. The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

g. Standards, Rules, Regulations & Operating Procedures Committee, August 12, 2026. Chair Richard Harris

   i. The meeting was convened at 2:37 p.m. with a quorum, and the previous minutes were approved. Chief Burnes gave an update on Section 212.2 and raised concerns about the proposed changes. Commissioners Jack Buckhorn and Hugo de la Torre volunteered and were appointed by the Chair to work with Chief Burnes and report in October. Members of the public commented. The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

VI. REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND COOPERATING AGENCIES

a. Division of Labor Standards Enforcement (DLSE) Public Works: None.

b. DLSE Electrical Certification Unit, Melinda Davis, Assistant Chief of Licensing & Registration

   i. The unit has processed about 25,000 applications this year. In June it moved its exam vendor from PSI to CPSHR and opened online applications. Since June 1, 815 applicants have tested with the new vendor; 1,297 are scheduled or eligible to test, and 450 applications are in process.

   ii. The unit is removing outdated information from its website. A virtual meeting in September will cover exam procedures, a vendor tutorial, and the online application system. An in-person session with a virtual option will follow in October.

c. U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration, Office of Apprenticeship, Aaron Wall, Deputy Regional Director for Region 6 and Acting California State Director

   i. DOL launched an AI and Registered Apprenticeship innovation portal on its website covering AI skills and literacy, AI skill building by industry, AI adoption, and next-step resources.

ii. DOL launched a pay-for-performance incentive program with $161,999,000 in funding. It includes $40 million for shipbuilding and the defense industrial base and $40 million for AI, semiconductors, and nuclear energy infrastructure. Telecommunications receive just under $30 million, information technology $27 million, and transportation $25 million.

iii. These supplement last year's pay-for-performance program for the American Manufacturing Apprenticeship Incentive Fund, which in Arkansas pays $3,500 per apprentice after a 90-day probationary period. There are just over 700,000 active apprentices nationwide.

d. Tradeswomen, Inc., Juanita Douglas, Executive Director

i. As of July 21, Tradeswomen, Inc. had run construction camps for 11th and 12th graders in Sonoma and Marin counties and graduated 138 students from five classes in the Petaluma school district and three in Terra Linda, Marin County. The three-day classes included CPR and first aid training and building planters and redwood picnic tables, which were donated to the schools.

ii. The camps are expected to reach about 165 students, short of the goal of 180. Swinerton, Lowe Consulting organized mock interviews with contractors and union representatives for 15 students and 10 interviewers, with 10-minute sessions and critiques.

iii. A 12-week hands-on training program ran at Golden Gate Village in Marin City; a World War II-era housing development is now being revitalized. Twenty-one students graduated, and the developer hired three. The project begins August 20.

e. Women in Non-Traditional Employment Roles (WINTER), Carlos Torres, Director

i. WINTER graduates its first cohort from its Calabasas satellite on August 14, in partnership with Los Angeles County, LA Metro, and the Apprenticeship Readiness Fund through the LA/OC Building Trades Council. It is on its third cohort of the year and marks 39 years of its gender-specific program in October 2026.

ii. As an ERiCA worksite culture subcontractor, WINTER will pilot a conflict resolution workshop for leaders at union halls, project owners, contractors, and subcontractors.

f. California Association for the Advancement of Apprenticeship Training (CAAAT), Kris Georgeson, President

i. ABC of Southern California held its first four-day all-girls summer program for ages 14 to 17; ERiCA funds let participants keep their PPE. MEDA held summer camps at its Moreno Valley training site and with the San Bernardino Community College District.

ii. WECA toured about 140 prospective apprentices through its new classroom labs and facility.

g. California Apprenticeship Coordinators Association (CACA)

i. The Iron Workers Apprenticeship Training Center added 83-inch Create Boards to classrooms statewide, and the Iron Workers Locals 416 and 433 training centers are adding 17 welding booths. There are 1,000 active apprentices throughout Northern California.

ii. Sheet Metal Workers Local 105 will graduate 114 journey workers on September 26 at

Disneyland. Sheet Metal Workers Local 104 has completed more than 170 outreach events this year. UA instructors completed their weeklong training program in Ann Arbor.

h. K-12 Local Education Agency Representative, Micheal Wright

   i. In May, Hacienda La Puente Adult Education supported the Laborers training school graduation and a 2026 Women in Construction event. The Los Angeles Unified School District hosted Girls Build LA, sponsored by Los Angeles World Airports.

   ii. In 2025-26, Martinez Adult Education partnered with the Construction Trades Workforce Initiative (CTWI) on a construction math test prep class with monthly speakers from apprenticeship programs. Twenty-two students applied to nine East Bay apprenticeship programs; twelve were interviewed and all passed assessments. Three have accepted offers, two with Operating Engineers Local 3 and one with Plumbers Local 159.

i. Community College Apprenticeship Provider Representative, Bridgette Hernandez, Dean of Career and Workforce Education, Rio Hondo College

   i. Across the 116-college system, colleges are building connected pathways from pre-apprenticeship to registered apprenticeship. The Chancellor's Office continues to invest in the Launch Apprenticeship Network, its primary employer engagement hub.

   ii. Foothill College, with local K-12 districts and the Santa Clara Community Contractors Association, hosted 32 high school students for a three-week summer construction bridge academy; students earned OSHA 10 and CPR certifications. Foothill approved general education credit for UA Local 467 plumbing and steamfitting apprentices, its seventh approved program.

   iii. Rio Hondo College graduated from a carpentry apprenticeship cohort of 169 on June 3.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

a. Meg Vasey asked whether the Section 212.2 changes would be posted, noting she found nothing on the DIR or CAC website. Chief Burnes said the revised version was posted with the First Quarter materials; additional changes are still under discussion and will be posted for future meetings. Ms. Vasey expressed appreciation for the collaboration in the committees and for Chief Burnes's leadership.

b. Alexandra Torres Galancic, founder and director of Workforce Equity Lab and an ERiCA worksite culture grantee, described her work helping women enter the trades and have good workplace conditions.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

a. The meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

b. The next meeting is scheduled for October 28 and 29, 2026, in Visalia.