

# APPRENTICESHIP

## Collaboration is the Key to a Smooth Transition into Distance Learning

**Chris Allen**

*Dean of Apprenticeship Programs, Foothill College*

Foothill College is proud to be in partnership with eight apprenticeship program sponsors in the Bay Area serving as their Local Education Agency (LEA). We value our partnerships immensely. It was through partnership and keeping in communication with each program sponsor weeks before the shelter in place (SIP) orders went into effect, that our apprenticeship programs were prepared ahead of the shutdown.

As SIP orders were implemented and schools, colleges and training centers closed across the Bay Area, Foothill College was ready to provide assistance to apprenticeship program sponsors.

Offering apprenticeship partners real-time communication from leadership at Foothill College and the Foothill-De Anza Community College District is a significant priority for us. We wanted to ensure that our apprenticeship partners were supported and had all the information necessary to help navigate the difficult times ahead.

Each of the sponsors shared a common thread, a commitment to their apprentices and a willingness to go above and beyond to ensure their education continued. We collaborated with our partners and helped them gain access to an online learning management system, ensuring all instructors had access and were prepared to transition to distance learning. Foothill College offered professional development sessions guided by online instructional designers to help assist in building online courses facilitated by our Dean of Instructional Technology. With the Dean's leadership and amazing team of online instructional designers, this incredible transition exemplified the true value of being in partnership with your LEA.

We provided additional support in facilitating the purchase of iPads and Chromebooks for apprentices, moving quickly to help them obtain the new tools they need to continue to move forward with their training. The perseverance of the apprentices and the commitment from their programs to ensure their continued education and training is remarkable.



Chris Allen, Dean of  
Apprenticeship Programs at  
Foothill College

In a time when we overwhelmingly hear about K-12 and higher education transitioning to distance learning, it is important to acknowledge the equally difficult transition for our apprenticeship community and the great work they are doing during these unprecedented times. Foothill College is truly proud to be a part of it.