



The City of



Economic Development

MEETING NOTES

San Diego Promise Zone

Jobs and Education Working Group Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 15, 2025 | 2:30 – 4:00 PM

Via Zoom | (Meeting ID: 160 295 2326) | [Zoom Meeting Registration Link](#)

Working Group Goals: *Create jobs and improve educational opportunities*

In Attendance

Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego (Jessica Barajas), **California Coast Credit Union** (Angel Nolasco), **City of San Diego – Office of Child and Youth Success** (Tara Ryan), **City of San Diego - Promise Zone** (Donika Moreno, Domanic Riley, Amairany Macias, Daniella Salgado, Roosevelt Williams III, Amber Weber), **CORE6** (Omar Millan, Thaily), **GRID Alternatives** (Elisabetta Baratti, Sarah Elhassan), **In Good Company** (Adrienne Fusek), **LEARN Program** (Lee Bardon), **San Diego College of Continuing Education** (Lillian Garcia), **San Diego State University** (Andrew Soliz), **University of California San Diego** (Raquel Aparicio), **Workshops for Warriors** (Lauren Welch), **YMCA of San Diego County** (Sam Nguyen, Tya Valentine)

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Agenda Review, Culture Share

- Co-chair Raquel Aparicio kicked off the meeting by welcoming partners and reviewing the agenda.
- Guidelines for a respectful and effective meeting were shared and posted in the chat.
- Amber Weber led our **culture share**: As we get ready for our summer break within this working group, what are some ways you maintain a healthy work/life balance over the summer?

Partner Updates

- **San Diego State University - Summer Career Fair (May 28):** SDSU's final career fair of the fiscal year is open to students seeking summer employment and internship opportunities.
- **YMCA - Direct Cash Transfer Program (Application closes May 26):** YMCA is starting a direct cash transfer program aimed at providing financial support and literacy workshops to young adults at risk of homelessness. Applicants must be 18-21 years old, reside in San Diego County, and be at risk of homelessness.
- **YMCA - Paid Survey Opportunity:** The YMCA is conducting a paid survey to gather feedback from young people (ages 18-25) with lived experience of homelessness or

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housing instability. The survey takes approximately 10-15 minutes and participants will receive a \$20 virtual gift card as compensation.

- **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego – Hiring Group Leaders:** The Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater San Diego is hiring group leaders and managers to handle the influx of children during summer break. They will also be hiring for summer camp positions once they begin. You can find current job openings for Boys and Girls Clubs locations across California [here](#), and openings for San Diego locations [here](#).
- **In Good Company - Carbon Literacy Training:** Training on Carbon Literacy is coming up on May 22, 2025. Use the code in [this link](#) to remove the \$295 training fee. Training will be held in-person at the 31st Street Seventh Day Adventist Church.
- **The San Diego Nonprofit Academy:** The San Diego Nonprofit Academy is offering a free two-day event on June 4 and 5 dedicated to fortifying nonprofits with the knowledge, relationships, and strategies needed to lead effectively in today's rapidly evolving environment. [Click here](#) for more details and to register.

Promise Zone Updates

- **We're Hiring! - AmeriCorps VISTA Operations Associate:** The Promise Zone has an opening for a full-time Operations Associate VISTA with a projected 1-year term of service beginning on 07/28/2025. Upon completion, the member will be eligible for a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award (up to \$6,895) or a \$1,800 cash stipend.
- **Promise Zone Staff Updates:** Amber Weber shared updates to the San Diego Promise Zone team. Two new AmeriCorps VISTA Communications Associates, Amairany Macias and Daniella Salgado, joined the team on May 5, 2025. This meeting also marked the final Jobs and Education meeting for AmeriCorps VISTA Grants and Research Associate Domanic Riley, AmeriCorps Operations Associate Donika Moreno, and Employ & Empower interns Brandon Tran and Dami Shonuyi, who will all complete their AmeriCorps year of service or City internship over the summer. Amber highlighted the valuable work they contributed during their service, and farewells were shared in appreciation of their efforts.
- **Save the Date - 2026 Youth-led Career Expo:** Next year's Promise Zone Youth-Led Career Expo will take place on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at the Balboa Park Club and Recital Hall.
- **Newsletter Update:** The [May newsletter](#) was published at the beginning of the month, featuring Alondra Estrada-Lam, Healthy Communities working group co-chair, as the Community Spotlight. Links to the [newsletter archive](#) and [nomination form](#) were shared.
- **Jobs & Education Logic Model:** We have a new tool for Promise Zone partners to help them add their activities to the Jobs & Education logic model. [Click here for a google form](#) to enter your items, which our VISTAs will then transfer to the logic model.
- **Promise Zone Partner Logo:** The Promise Zone sent out our new Promise Zone partner logo to all our partner organizations who possess a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). If your organization hasn't received the new logo, please verify your contact information by emailing promiszone@sandiego.gov. To confirm your partnership status or begin the MOU process, please check the [SDPZ Partners page](#) or email us directly.

Presentation: Andrew Soliz (Andrew Soliz, San Diego State University Career Services and Industry Relations)

→ **Call to action:** How can your organization support our collective objectives? Use the insights from the presentation to guide breakout discussions.

- Andrew Soliz presented an overview of SDSU's Career Services and Industry Relations, emphasizing their mission to empower students, community members, and industry leaders to create career pathways aligned with today's workforce needs and future possibilities.
- The presentation included a snapshot of SDSU's designations and demographics, highlighting that it is an R1 research institution, a First-gen Forward Advisory Institution, and both Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) and Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSI). SDSU serves 39,000 students, with 38% identifying as underrepresented minorities, and offers over 200 degree and certificate programs.
- Andrew introduced the Industry Relations team and their focus areas, including education, healthcare, construction, sustainability, technology, and more. Attendees were encouraged to reach out to relevant team members for collaboration opportunities.
- The group learned that SDSU's Industry Relations department actively builds partnerships with employers to connect them with student talent through services such as career fairs, employer consultations, mentorship, and workforce development events.
- SDSU hosted over 5,000 students and 400 employers during the last semester's career fairs. Upcoming career fairs are open to the public, with the next event scheduled for May 28, 2025, followed by several fairs in the fall including those focused on STEM and business.
- Andrew encouraged attendees to get involved and collaborate by co-hosting events, partnering on talent development, and sharing opportunities with community-based organizations. He also shared contact details and encouraged sign-ups for SDSU's industry newsletters and social media platforms for ongoing updates.

Logic Models & Breakout Rooms

→ **Call to action:** How can your organization support our collective objectives?

Subgroup 1 Objectives: Mobilize community partners to develop strategies that increase educational and career support for Opportunity Youth

- **Attendance:** Raquel Aparicio, Donika Moreno, Amairany Macias, Andrew Soliz, Angel Nolasco, Elisabetta Baratti, Lauren Welch, Sarah Elhassan, Tya Valentine
- The group focused on strategies to better connect Opportunity Youth ages 16-22 with educational and career resources, including how to leverage the existing list of Promise Zone employers to increase youth participation in career fairs.
- Members discussed the importance of engaging Lincoln High School and other Promise Zone schools early in the academic year, particularly for events like the SDSU Fall Career & Internship Fair in October.
- Angel Nolasco emphasized the importance of identifying individuals who can genuinely engage with youth and noted the need to compile contact lists of trusted partners.

- The group discussed logistical challenges such as transportation and funding, particularly in helping students physically attend events. Partnerships with schools and counselors are critical to success.
- There was recognition of a growing demand for software developers and up-and-coming career fields. Members suggested promoting dual enrollment, micro-internships, and certificate stacking to counselors as viable paths for youth.
- The group proposed inviting additional community organizations from within the Promise Zone to participate in events and career programming, to broaden youth access to opportunities.

Subgroup 2 Objectives: *Build an infrastructure to help increase the number of students meeting school readiness and grade-level expectations*

- **Attendance:** Amber Weber, Daniella Salgado, Roosevelt Williams III, Domanic Riley, Adrienne Fusek, Jessica Barajas, Lillian Garcia, Omar Millan, Tara Ryan
- Amber reviewed the logic model with the group and marked completed activities such as the career expo guide.
- Jessica Barajas shared that the Boys and Girls Club supports positive youth development and college pathways. They're working with community colleges and using video game development as an educational tool to promote post-secondary learning. She would like to meet with the Promise Zone team to add the Boys & Girls Club's line item/s to the logic model.
- Adrienne Fusek from In Good Company shared updates on educational programs focused on sustainability and clean energy careers. Their initiatives include carbon literacy micro-credentials and internships.
- Lillian Garcia from SDCCD highlighted upcoming events including Black Professional Day and shared that SDCCD received a grant to promote humanities careers. She emphasized the value of humanities alongside STEM and discussed support systems for undocumented students through their career centers.

Wrap Up and Adjourn

- Digital Comment Box: <https://forms.gle/JSYK67jo28YRVQ7R6>
- Nominate community leaders for recognition in Promise Zone newsletters here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSehcidTURu9Xb6lywuyh4z4y9JgqDCFxmXdNgSheNjaDp8Hw/viewform?usp=sharing>