



**EDUCATE TEXAS**  
at COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION of TEXAS

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## **Educate Texas Announces New Workforce and Education Community College Apprenticeship Network**

*The mission of Career Connect Texas is to ensure students can earn credentials that prepare them for the workforce of tomorrow.*

DALLAS, TX— [Educate Texas](#), an initiative of Communities Foundation of Texas, today announced the launch of “Career Connect Texas,” a peer-learning network that brings together leaders from across the state to support building education-to-workforce pathways that lead Texans to livable-wage jobs.

"The education paradigm has shifted. The goal is no longer simply to go to college. The goal is to get a good job that leads to a successful career. We must ensure more students can earn postsecondary credentials that allow them to meet the workforce demands of tomorrow." said [Erica Simon](#), Deputy Director of Strategy, Higher Education and Workforce.

Career Connect Texas enables leaders from community colleges and workforce organizations to develop and expand innovative, modern work-based learning experiences coupled with academic instruction that address employer needs in high-demand careers.

"Work-based learning experiences, including apprenticeships and internships, help ensure equitable career outcomes, especially for first-generation, low-income students, and students of color across Texas. Work-based learning experiences contextualize classroom learning and enable students to identify, join, and progress in a career pathway. Thoughtful integration of work-based learning into the educational system directly supports efforts across Texas to ensure that students are career ready." said Simon.

Career Connect Texas provides cohort-based technical assistance to its network members in the areas of quality work-based learning pathway design and youth apprenticeship program development. Peer-learning teams from community college and workforce organizations participate in technical assistance sessions to build upon their existing program offerings and explore how to grow and sustain program offerings to meet regional workforce demands. Technical assistance has also focused on employer engagement strategies, developing sector-specific talent partnerships, integrating industry-based credentials into educational pathways, and articulating non-credit to credit programs.

[Click here](#) to learn more about Career Connect Texas.

### **ABOUT EDUCATE TEXAS**

Educate Texas, an initiative of Communities Foundation of Texas, is a trusted change agent in Texas education, working through programs and policies to ensure every Texas student is prepared in the school, in the workforce, and in life. Since 2003, Educate Texas has partnered with educators, policymakers, businesses, and community leaders to strengthen the public and higher education systems for all Texas students. Learn more at [EdTX.org](http://EdTX.org).

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