



**Bridges to College and Career:
Gateways, Career Advancement
Academies, I-BEST and More**

Grant Funders for Education

Linda Collins
Executive Director
CLP

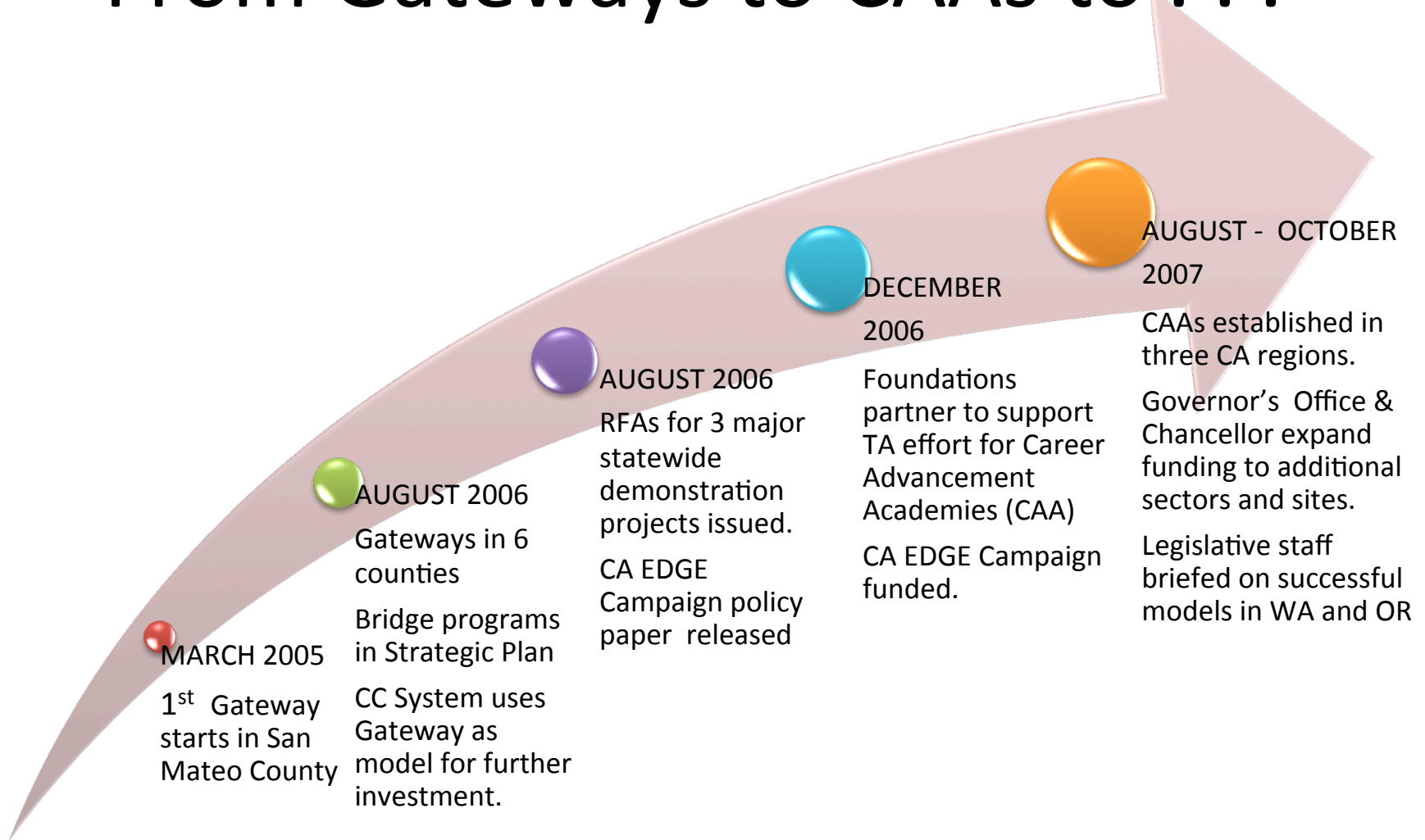
October 16, 2007

Gateway → CAA

- Funded by Walter S. Johnson Foundation and local workforce investment boards
- Goals:
 - prepare disconnected young adults for college and high wage career pathways
 - address foundational skills
 - accelerate progress by teaching in context, creating learning communities and supportive services
- Serve 80-100 per county in 6 CA counties
- Target underprepared, disadvantaged & disconnected youth, especially foster care
- Utilize partnerships for outreach & supportive services: comm. colleges, WIBs, CBOs, business/industry
- Sustained with public funds following pilot

- CCC system funded – local match; foundations partner to provide T.A.
- Goals:
 - prepare disconnected young adults to enter college and high wage career pathways
 - address foundational skills
 - accelerate progress by teaching in context; creating learning communities and supportive services
- Serve up to 1,000 per year in each of 3 regions – for 3 years (23 colleges)
- Target under-prepared, disadvantaged & disconnected youth, including foster care
- Utilize partnerships for outreach & supportive services: comm. colleges, WIBs, CBOs, business/industry
- Sustained with public funds; replicate successful CAAs in additional regions.

From Gateways to CAAs to . . .



Promoting Systems Change and Achieving Scale

Develop, pilot and refine Gateway Bridge & career pathway programs

- Research existing practices and barriers in CA community colleges
- Review promising practices in CA and other states
- Work with local colleges, workforce boards, community agencies & business to build regional approach to address needs of low skilled, under-prepared youth.
- Provide support and assistance as local pilots progress; create community of practice within and across sites
- Develop networks of expert practitioners to assist each other in building and improving programs.
- Focus on student transitions across programs – connecting programs and mapping pathways for students

Work with State agencies to support effective emergent practices

- Invite CC system officials to attend convenings and visit sites
- Involve other state workforce agencies
- Engage system processes – such as strategic plan and budget processes
- Work with local sites to articulate need for funds and support for innovative programs
- Work with foundations to highlight models, seed innovations, support technical assistance and replication
- Work with system to integrate programs across silos and connect disparate initiatives
- Share “work-arounds” to illustrate barriers and potential solutions

Advise on state funded demonstration projects, document lessons and articulate policy implications

- Work with CC system and regional sites to support enhanced data and evaluation processes
- Foster climate of program improvement and analysis focused on student success
- Connect communities of practice across initiatives
- Connect projects to core instruction and institutional practices
- Document lessons learned regarding effective practices, challenges and emergent solutions.
- Work with non-partisan stakeholder coalition to raise awareness and develop shared policy agenda for change. (California’s EDGE Campaign)

WA “TIPPING POINT” STUDY

What is it?

- State Board for Technical & Community Colleges examined 1) how far underprepared adults progress in CC; 2) what happens to wages of low-income students when they leave CC
- Only 20% of students in basic skills completed voc-ed program, certificate or credential
- Finding: One year of post-secondary education (13th year) + certificate is the “tipping point” for meaningful earnings gains: (e.g. \$7,000/year more); *plus* strong job demand for that skill level, 1-full year means student prepared for further higher education
- Research funded by Ford Foundation gained national attention

Why is it important?

- Research is trusted and quoted by people throughout workforce and college system and by policy makers
- Reframed discussion about under-prepared, low income youth and adults
 - Legislature: A population that will be in the workforce for the next 30 years
 - Colleges: Created shared focus on achievement of all students
- Broad influence across state workforce policy – “work first” short term training will not get students to the “tipping point”
- Led to creation of complementary programs and infusion of career pathways throughout state workforce policy

Integrated Basic Education And Skills Training

What is it?

- Pilot program pairing ABE/ESL with professional/technical instructors to provide support and develop basic skills in context
- Full-time, cohort learning environment
- The majority of the instruction is for-credit
- Support services and single point of contact to navigate college systems
- Focus on one-year and/or high-wage training programs to enable students to reach 'tipping point'
- Programs require considerable coordination and faculty time
- I-BEST students are funded at the equivalent of 1.75 FTE (capped #)

What did they learn?

- I-BEST students earned five times more college credits on average and were 15 times more likely to complete workforce training than traditional ESL students
- Results from first 10 colleges led to enhanced FTES reimbursement and funding to expand program to the other 24 colleges via planning grants and training institutes
- Led to additional supports/programs
 - Opportunity Grants (2007):
 - Student: \$1,000 PLUS tuition/fees
 - Community College: \$1,500/FTES for support services and counseling
 - Students in job specific, high demand programs

With Thanks To . . .

Walter S. Johnson Foundation
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
James Irvine Foundation
David and Lucile Packard Foundation
Bay Area Workforce Funding Collaborative
San Francisco Foundation
Walter and Elise Haas Fund
Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund
Board of Governors - California Community Colleges
Chancellor's Office - California Community Colleges
Foundation for California Community Colleges

CONTACT INFO:

The Career Ladders Project
1203 Preservation Park Way, Suite 201, Oakland, CA 94612
Linda Collins, Executive Director
LCollins@CareerLaddersProject.org (510) 268-0566
www.CareerLaddersProject.org