



Building Bridges and Pathways to College and Careers

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CAREER LADDERS PROJECT



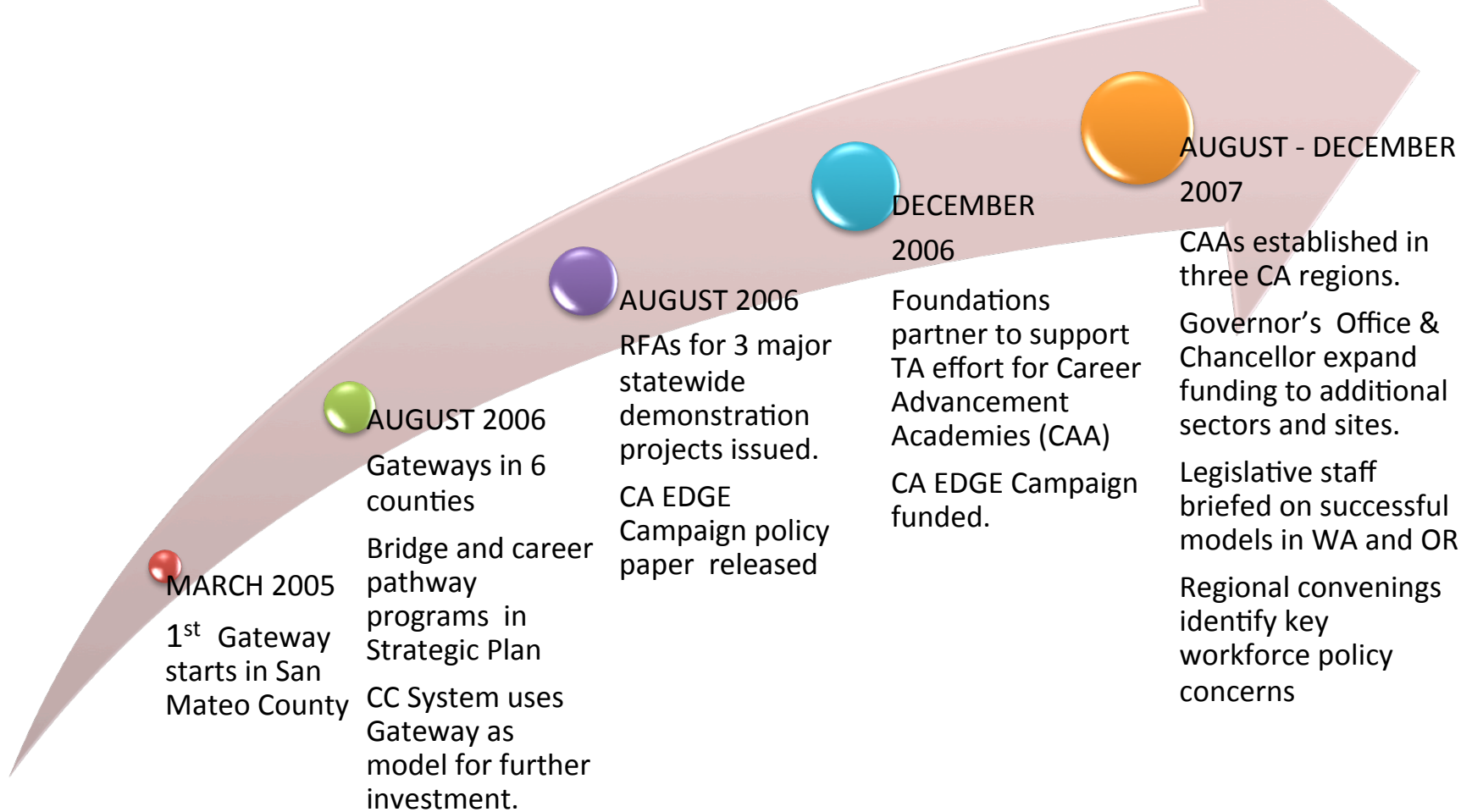
- The Career Ladders Project for the California Community Colleges works to strengthen the role of community colleges in providing educational and career advancement opportunities for Californians. Through research, policy initiatives, strategic and technical assistance to colleges and their workforce development partners, the Career Ladders Project works to foster career ladders in California.
- The Career Ladders Project provides support to a number of initiatives, including the Gateway Project and the system's Career Advancement Academies (CAAs), regional demonstration projects designed to establish pipelines for underprepared and underemployed young adults. Focused on improving reading, writing, and math skills in the context of high wage career pathways, these projects are creating bridges to college and career for underserved populations.

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, basic 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, basic 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 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 system , state agencies and policy makers 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)

With Thanks To . . .

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