



Career Education (CE) Committee

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

Loft – Dresher Hall and Zoom

1:00 - 3:00pm

In person: Rebecca Agonafir, Ruth Casillas, Sheila Cordova, Jenna Gausman, Jazmin Guzman, Gary Huff, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Dana Nasser, Steven Sedky, Redelia Shaw.

Zoom:

Leigh Allen, Ashanti Blaize-Hopkins, Nicole Chan, Andria Denmon, Bonnie Flores, Amanda Garcia, David Hall, Sarah Kurtoic, Jenny Landa, Ann Marie Leahy, Karol Lu, Samantha Manuel, Jacqueline Monge, Hannah Nelson, Sharyn Obsatz, Debbie Perret, Laura Rink, Perviz Sawoski, Steven Sedky, Josh Withers.

Call to Order: 1:04pm

Public Comments and Announcements:

Reports:

Chair: Debbie Perret

Debbie welcomes everyone to part one of the Perkins presentations. She mentions (after reviewing the proposals) how great it is to see that the total enrollment and retention for each program is high. That says a lot about our students and their commitment to completing our CE programs.

Vice Chair: Steven Sedky

Steven welcomes everyone to the first day of grant proposal presentations.

As we listen to the presentations, we will ask questions to try to understand the requests as we attempt to figure out if things are allowable and in alignment with the deliverables of the grant. It'll be great to see how we can help students develop skills to succeed in getting good jobs.

Information Items:

a. Perkins & SWP Presentations: [Perkins FY 26-27 Applications](#)



1:10 - 1:20 p.m. [Salesforce](#)

Our Advisory Committee report strong and growing demand for Salesforce instruction, driven by employers' increasing expectation that graduates demonstrate CRM, data analysis, and marketing automation skills across marketing, sales, and distribution roles. Key workforce trends include the need to support diverse talent pipelines in innovative industries, strengthen data-driven decision making, and improve alignment between sales and marketing functions through hands-on, industry aligned training and Salesforce credentials. Rapid advancements in Salesforce and AI further require ongoing curriculum updates to keep students current and workforce ready. Additionally, it was emphasized the critical need to strengthen students' soft skills and provide clear certification pathways to improve employability, internship access, and long-term career outcomes. The program requests funding for a faculty member to coordinate and implement a structured Salesforce certification pathway and expand industry informed soft skills development. This support will help students stay focused, complete industry recognized credentials, and better align with employer demand. The faculty member will also coordinate guest speakers, workshops, and career events that provide guidance on interviewing, networking, resume development, and professional communication. The program is requesting funds for a total \$10,964.

1:20 - 1:30 p.m. [CSIS & Cloud](#)

Our IAB highlighted the increasing importance of cloud computing, databases, and security; the need for foundational cloud infrastructure and platform instruction; growth in the Los Angeles startup ecosystem; stronger CS pathways for high school students; expansion of Skills Builder certificates for targeted employment; and development of internships aligned with CIS, CS, and OFTECH. Our Perkins request addresses completions and skills development. We believe that covering the cost of certification exams will serve as a strong incentive for students to complete the program. We plan to integrate these certification exams into the final capstone course for our cloud, security, networking, QuickBooks, and Microsoft Office programs. Student skill development will be supported through the use of TestOut lab simulations that provide hands-on, real-world cybersecurity and IT practice in virtual environments, strengthening job readiness and alignment with high-skill, high-wage, and high-demand industry needs. Perkins funding will allow us to purchase exam vouchers for students to sit for the industry-recognized certification exams and cover faculty time involved in coordinating and proctoring these exams for students. The program is requesting funds for a total \$78,265.



Our Industry Advisory Committee discussions identified several key workforce trends and program challenges: the importance of cloud computing, databases, and security; the need for courses that teach the principles behind cloud computing, including infrastructure as a service and platforms as a service; and the recognition that software and hardware are necessary for cloud computing. The committee also emphasized developing CS pathways to encourage high school students to take computer science courses, promoting Skills Builder certificates for students seeking specific employment skills without completing 30 units, and establishing internships for CS graduates. Additionally, Los Angeles has moved from 8th or 9th to 2nd place in startups, reinforcing the demand for cloud-related expertise. Our request supports the launch of the Cloud Computing bachelor's degree program, with the goal of producing graduates highly skilled in areas employers seek. The project includes funding for curriculum development (13 new upper division courses), outreach to industry and partner community colleges, faculty professional development, development of an admissions process, onboarding of the first cohort, and the hiring of a Project Manager to establish internship opportunities and maintain industry engagement throughout the lifecycle of the program. The program is requesting funds for a total \$665,848.

1:30 - 1:40 p.m. [Graphic Design](#)

Our Industry Advisory Committee identified several key workforce trends and challenges, including the increasing importance of strong, professional quality portfolios over degrees alone; the growing employer demand for soft skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and strategic thinking; the need to better bridge the education to employment gap through hands-on experience with industry standard tools; and the expectation that graduates demonstrate adaptability and commitment to continuous learning. To address these priorities, we plan to use Perkins funds to purchase professional grade infrastructure, specifically state-of-the-art workstations and industry standard printers to mirror real-world design environments, improve portfolio quality, support equitable access to professional tools, and provide complete digital-to-print workflow training. The request includes a Mac Studio desktop, Mac Studio display, MacBook Pro laptop, an Epson SureColor F570 Pro printer, and sublimation inks. The program is requesting funds for a total \$15,688.



1:40 - 1:50 p.m. [Accounting](#)

The Career Pathways Outreach will help in improving upon diversity hires in the accounting field by exposing students to internships, scholarships and networking opportunities. The Accounting Diversity conference is designed for underrepresented students so that they may be introduced to the major accounting firms. The conference is instrumental in helping students to develop soft skills. Students learn about interviewing skills, resume writing techniques, networking strategies, among others. They also can network with former SMC accounting students and accounting professionals. Financial Literacy Initiatives: Through workshops focused on affordability, budgeting, and long-term planning, students reduce financial barriers that can negatively impact retention. These sessions connect students with Career Education faculty and counseling resources, increasing confidence and helping them navigate their pathway toward certificate and degree attainment. Job Training: The SMC VITA program allows students to apply classroom knowledge by preparing tax returns under CPA supervision. Through this hands-on experience, students develop practical and professional skills that increase their career readiness for internships and positions in the accounting field.

The program is requesting funds for a total \$33,266.

1:50 - 2:00 p.m. [Film Production](#)

Our Industry Advisory Committee highlights key workforce trends including the growing data demands of high-resolution cinematography required by streaming platforms, the need for dependable cloud-based media storage and workflow systems, expanded instruction in sound design and audio mixing, and increased access to remotely operated production equipment. The program identifies that traditional localized storage systems are no longer sufficient and that sustaining modern, scalable infrastructure is necessary across its three-tiered, hands-on instructional model. The program is requesting funding to implement a camera-to-cloud data management system; purchase hardware and a production MacBook for high-resolution footage transfer from the Sony Venice camera; acquire audio mixing equipment for the CMD theater; purchase Canon C500 cameras to expand access to professional-grade tools at the introductory level; obtain an advanced remote follow focus system; and upgrades to the Panther Classic Plus dolly. The program is requesting funds for a total \$139,983.



2:00 - 2:10 p.m. [Journalism](#)

Our Advisory Committee identified the need to cross-train journalists in writing, photography, video production, and social media content creation to keep pace with constant industry changes. The committee also emphasized increasing hands-on experience, strengthening the broadcast journalism program, expanding multimedia reporting, and exploring marketing opportunities tied to the upcoming 100-year anniversary of the student newspaper to boost enrollment and visibility. To address these priorities, we plan to use Perkins funds to acquire industry-standard equipment (cameras, notebooks, updated editor computers, and broadcast/photojournalism tools) to provide hands-on media production experience and ensure equitable access for students who cannot afford their own equipment. Additionally, funds will support student conference participation, project management software used in the newsroom, and stipends for faculty and student workers to support archival research and promotional efforts tied to the Corsair's centennial. The program is requesting funds for a total \$64,465.

2:10 - 2:20 p.m. [Architecture](#)

Our Industry Advisory Committee has emphasized the growing expectation that applicants entering the architecture field have hands-on experience with fabrication tools such as 3D printers and laser cutters, a strong understanding of building assemblies, and the ability to produce physical installations and built work that strengthen their portfolios. The program also noted challenges related to limited industry engagement opportunities, expanding its professional network as a relatively new program, and increasing visibility with firms and transfer institutions. To address the identified needs, we are planning to expand student access to essential fabrication tools and hands-on learning opportunities through the purchase of 3D printers, shelving units, replacement laser cutter lenses, and full-scale fabrication equipment, along with necessary safety and storage supports. Participation in the Design Village competition and the AIA 2x8 Competition provides direct experience with building assemblies, material limitations, and full-scale construction, while increasing program visibility and strengthening industry connections. These activities directly align with the program plan and recent program review goals of strengthening hands-on learning, industry connections, and workforce readiness. The program is requesting funds for a total \$71,913.



2:20 - 2:30 p.m. [Interior Architectural Design](#)

Our Industry Advisory Committee has emphasized the need for stronger job placement preparation and clearer pathways that connect students to professional opportunities in the field. The committee also emphasized growing industry expectations that emerging designers understand and contribute to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in both design practice and workplace culture. The Perkins funds will be used to expand students' exposure to professional practice, workforce expectations, and the broader commercial design industry. Specifically, funds will support student participation in the annual NOMAS B.G.L. Competition and the hosting of the end-of-year student showcase, where local industry professionals are invited to engage with students. The program is requesting funds for a total \$29,548.

2:30 - 2:40 p.m. [Homeless Service Certificate](#)

Our Industry Advisory Committee has identified significant workforce instability and unmet training needs within Los Angeles County's homeless services sector. Employers report increased demand for frontline staff while systems to onboard, train, and retain workers have not kept pace. Key challenges include recruitment and retention difficulties driven by low compensation, with many roles paying below the region's self-sufficiency standard, contributing to turnover, staff stress, and housing insecurity among workers. Our Perkins V project directly responds to these workforce trends by strengthening both student supports and instructional alignment with industry needs. The Perkins funds will allow us to invest primarily on a dedicated counselor to provide structured retention, academic, and career support for special populations and to guide students through work-based learning into employment; and a faculty lead to strengthen curriculum quality, trauma-informed and equity-centered instruction, and employer engagement. The program is requesting funds for a total \$28,939.

2:40 - 2:50 p.m. [Media Production](#)

Our Advisory Board members have consistently identified the continued growth of sports, esports, live event, and digital media production as key workforce trends, even as scripted narrative production has slowed industry-wide. The committee emphasized expanding work-based learning with industry-standard equipment and noted that employers prioritize demonstrated competencies and portfolios over degrees. As a result, the program must better formalize skill-builder pathways into recognized credentials and strengthen high school-to-college pipelines. Perkins funds will support student help positions to assist with single- and multicamera productions for athletics, theatre, graduations, and campus events, allowing students to gain hands-on experience in a supported, low-pressure environment that mirrors



professional broadcast workflows. The project also supports faculty and student engagement and emerging technologies, including ethical applications of AI in media production, ensuring instruction remains aligned with current industry practices. The program is requesting funds for a total \$70,407.

Adjournment

Next scheduled meeting: March 13, 2026, 1:00-3:00. Location: Zoom.