

TOWARDS A RESILIENCY AGENDA FOR THE 21ST-CENTURY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The initiatives described in this *Guide* only hint at the rich field of action and possibility for community colleges willing to engage the great work before us: building resiliency. The resiliency conversation, while urgent, is young. This paper intends only to frame the subject, not forge a set of clear and comprehensive answers. Community colleges, we hope, will in fact rewrite the questions. In the meantime, a few lessons emerge, suggesting directions for engagement.



IN PROGRAMMING

- Integrate resilient systems-thinking into every program of study, and develop curricula responsive to the particular skill implications of local climate adaptation and mitigation initiatives.
- Update existing coursework in emergency response, public service, urban planning, engineering, information technology, landscape, water, construction, environment, health, and transportation programs; and seek interdisciplinary opportunities between them.
- Pay attention to emerging opportunities nationally and regionally (including, e.g., 111(d), ACA, and the Administration's Climate Action Plan) as policy changes open doors for collaboration, action, and funding.
- Build *climate resilience* through education and training: Review local and regional adaptation plans and populate the vague sections on workforce development with an actual agenda for skill delivery.
- Build *community resilience* through economic opportunity: Work with local industry partnerships, high schools, and community programs (e.g. pre-apprenticeship, adult literacy, English language learning, and employment readiness) to align education with demand, establish or expand stackable credentials, and build career pathways to actual jobs.
- Join labor-management partnerships in training incumbent workers for advancement; seize the resiliency dialogue as an opportunity to improve college relationships with labor unions and other worker institutions.
- Define climate resiliency for your region; work with local government, workforce intermediaries, and industry partnerships to assess emerging labor market demand and skill needs driven by climate resiliency initiatives.
- Explore new partnerships in customized training for incoming and incumbent city and county workers, particularly in environmental services, engineering, urban planning, transportation, emergency response, and public health.
- Above all, hew to the college's core mission, and share it with all community stakeholders: **Post-secondary success leads to economic opportunity, and initiatives to advance it should thus be a keystone strategy in the architecture of community resilience.**