

BUILDING PATHWAYS AND LAUNCHING DREAMS



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UNITE LA IMPACT REPORT

All of our region's children and youth will gain career and life success, and will contribute to a thriving economy and community.

Ensure the continuous improvement of effective and aligned gradie to of effective and aligned cradle-tocareer public education and workforce development in Los Angeles.

GOALS All L.A. youth have access to a high-quality education.

All L.A. youth are prepared for high-skill, high-wage employment in a fulfilling career of their choice.





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LETTER FROM DAVID RATTRAY

Dear Friends,

We've had another fantastic year at UNITE-LA, focused on building pathways and launching dreams for our region's children and youth. You will see that theme throughout our work as it continues to grow and strengthen in all areas: direct programming, systems-change and policy work. We are especially proud to have intensified our efforts for at-risk youth through our latest work in Smart Justicebuilding personalized career pathways with youth in the L.A. County probation camps and collaborating with partners to expand

job opportunities for formerly-incarcerated workers. We are also thrilled to continually improve our work with foster youth — expanding paid internships and increasing college access to make dreams attainable for this vulnerable group.

In our systems-change work, UNITE-LA pursues long-term transformational outcomes by seeking alignments and building trust among disparate institutional partners — essential ingredients in successful, collective impact efforts. Our genuine and steady commitment to promoting cross-sector collaboration paid off in December 2016, when United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) formally signed on to the L.A. Compact! Please join us in celebrating a major accomplishment: UTLA is now working side-by-side with Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and the 22 other L.A. Compact signatories to collectively and strategically expand education and workforce success among young Angelenos.

UNITE-LA operates from the premise that preparing youth for college, career and life "takes a village," and is not the responsibility of a single institution, system, program or policy, but rather dependent on a web of interconnected efforts. We have a vision that, if we work collaboratively and effectively, each and every one of our region's children and youth will gain education, career and life success, and will contribute to a thriving economy and community. Additionally, looking to the future, our collaborations will be more intentional in addressing racial justice and equity. We know working to defeat the inequities children of color face will also ensure all kids have the ability to succeed.

Thank you for your support and your willingness to work together to build pathways, launch dreams and realize this vision for our youth.

David Rattray

President, UNITE-LA



LETTER FROM DENITA WILLOUGHBY

Dear Supporters,

I am so pleased to share UNITE-LA's Impact Report.

UNITE-LA continues to propel Los Angeles' education and workforce systems forward through work in direct programming, systems change and policy. This year, thousands of students benefited from UNITE-LA's college and career programming like Cash for College, L.A. Youth at Work and Business-Education Partnerships, which provide students with the support they need to

attend college, explore careers and obtain their first job.

Through servant leadership and the convening of the L.A. Compact, UNITE-LA creates, sustains and expands cross-sector partnerships in an effort to cause systems change improvements that strengthen our region's cradle-to-career continuum. By developing collaborations founded on trust, intermediary service frameworks and deep institutional relationships, UNITE-LA challenges our community to work together for long-term solutions that benefit children and families across the region.

This year, UNITE-LA strengthened smart justice initiatives, improving pathways and visibility for justice-involved youth. I'm inspired by the equity-mindset UNITE-LA uses when addressing the opportunity challenges too many children in our region face.

The diligent, humble and often behind-the-scenes nature of the experienced UNITE-LA team continues to increase opportunities for success for the youth of our region. As current Board Chair and true believer in its work, I'm excited to present UNITE-LA's latest accomplishments.

Join me in celebrating our hard work to build pathways and launch dreams!

Denita Willoughby

Chair, UNITE-LA Board of Directors

Denuta Willoughes



UNITE-LA, established in 1998, is a nonprofit organization affiliated with the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and serves as the Chamber's Center for Education Excellence & Talent Development. UNITE-LA and the Chamber promote improvements in the early education, K-12, higher education and workforce systems. We provide direct programming, as well as strategic and tactical support, for development of a superior education system, expansion of college access and success and provision of workforce development opportunities to foster success for all Angelenos. We collaborate across silos and sectors, spurring uncommon alliances among business, education, government and community partners on the cradle-to-career continuum. Our work builds education

and career pathways for L.A. area children and youth and improves opportunities for underserved youth to participate meaningfully in our 21st century economy.

As you will see, we group our work in terms of programs and initiatives; policy; and systems change and strategic partnerships. This is also how we divided this report. Our staff works cross-functionally in these three areas to ensure we are making progress toward improving educational outcomes for all of LA's youth. We call it the "multiplier effect," where our programs, partnerships and policy are an integrated support system to successfully take our youth from the classroom to the workplace — all while cultivating their college and career aspirations along the way.

UNITE-LA Multiplier Model















Programs

Policu

Partnership/Systems

Education & Career Success

ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES

Working on behalf of local youth by providing programmatic support from cradle to career.

POLICY

Educating at the local, regional, state and federal levels to build equitable framework serving youth and families.

SYSTEMS CHANGE & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Brokering partnerships to grant equal access and achieve systemic change.

We build pathways to help launch dreams for all Los Angeles youth by:

- Orchestrating and delivering large-scale programming like L.A. Youth at Work and Cash for College that prepare students for meaningful employment and facilitate financial aid and college access.
- Implementing Linked Learning career pathways, which engage students in real-world, project based learning opportunities, in Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) high schools and Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) juvenile court and community schools, through our Business-Education Partnerships program.
- Tailoring programs and improving current systems to better meet the needs of justice-involved youth and foster youth.
- Convening the L.A. Compact, a collaboration of all major L.A. education, government, business, civic, and nonprofit institutions to promote systems improvement for youth education and career success. Through Compact collaborative workgroups, we promote systems change in education and workforce development via crossstakeholder initiatives that span early childhood education, K-12, higher education and workforce.
- Engaging the business community as an uncommon ally on local, state, and federal education and workforce development policy initiatives. Our policy team brings business, government and education together for sustained impact.





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CASH FOR COLLEGE

L.A. Cash for College served more than 6,000 Angelenos at its 15th Annual College and Career Convention on Nov. 18 & 19, at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College. Locating the Convention on a college campus, for the first time ever, lent a new energy and excitement for students and their families, who use the Convention to prepare for college with a plethora of college and financial aid resources that nurture students' college and career goals.

For the 2015-2016 school year, L.A. Cash for College held 177 free financial aid workshops across the L.A. region between January and March 2016, providing thousands of students and their families assistance at no cost to complete and submit the FAFSA, California Dream Act and Chafee Grant applications. The workshops reduce financial barriers to postsecondary education and bring tens of millions of dollars in financial aid for L.A. students to advance their dreams. Then, as a result of changes to the FAFSA filing process, L.A. Cash for College expanded its programming to accommodate the earlier FAFSA start date and longer filing window. An additional 71 workshops were held October through December 2016.

"Cash for College has given our seniors an invaluable experience: empowering them and providing the tools necessary for college access and financial awareness."

- Nancu Scher, GEAR UP 4 LA. **Miguel Contreras Learning Complex**



6,000+

Students and families attended the L.A. Cash for **College Convention**

100+





Simultaneous "Super Saturday" workshops across L.A., Jan. 30 and Oct. 8



More workshops January - March & October - December



\$35 million

estimated in state and federal aid for L.A. students leveraged by the workshops held between January and March



Convention & Workshop volunteers



Students served January through March and **October through December** at our Cash for College workshops



UNITE-LA President David Rattray (top row, far left) and LAUSD Superintendent Michelle King (top row, third from left) celebrated the partners' efforts to better tailor Convention information for foster youth and success in reaching 52 additional foster youth from local area group homes and community-based nonprofits.

Young Leaders Thomisha
Rader and Sherry Walker of the
Opportunity Youth Collaborative
draw upon their own experiences
navigating college as former
foster youth to give targeted
advice during the Foster Youth
Orientation Session at the
Convention.



OPENING PATHWAYS FOR FOSTER YOUTH AT CASH FOR COLLEGE CONVENTION

Only 4 percent of former foster youth in the U.S. go on to obtain a bachelor's degree by age 26, compared to 50 percent of the general population. L.A. Cash for College and the Foster Youth College Advancement Project are working to improve these odds for L.A. County foster youth. UNITE-LA hosted a 45-minute Foster Youth Orientation Session at the Cash for College Convention, which included presentations by college-enrolled foster youth from the L.A. Opportunity Youth Collaborative's (OYC) Young Leaders Program, counselors from the LAUSD Foster Youth Achievement Program and staff from John Burton Advocates for Youth and United Friends of the Children, Speakers at this targeted session shared firsthand experiences and special considerations for foster youth as they apply for college, seek financial aid and select a school. Foster youth also received tips for maximizing the Convention, such as visiting the Financial Aid Completion Lab to receive FAFSA and Chafee grant application assistance from trained staff, and stopping by the Foster Youth Resources Booth to learn about comprehensive support services from local education, government and nonprofit agencies.



YOUTH AT WORK

VALUE OF INTERNSHIPS

A first job or internship can transform a young adult's life by increasing stability, independence and confidence. Many disadvantaged Angelenos do not have access to the job opportunities or experience in professional settings required to land that first paid role. For more than a decade, L.A. Youth at Work (LAYAW) has addressed this need, empowering and preparing youth (ages 16-24) for success in the job market through rigorous job training programs and pathways to employers. Partnering with businesses in high-growth and high-wage sectors, LAYAW galvanizes private sector employers — in health care, transportation, logistics, law and entertainment industries — to hire youth who have been prepared through our job skills and work readiness trainings.

In a win-win for the region, LAYAW helps employers meet their hiring needs with a talented and diverse candidate pool while promoting and supporting the advancement of young low-income workers. In 2016, employers hired more than 2,100 young adults in the L.A. area through LAYAW's partnership.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

1,170

Young adults participated in **LAYAW Jobs Skills Workshops** and were introduced to the basic skills needed to successfully secure employment.

Participants learned techniques to draft their resumes and cover letters, practiced professional etiquette and prepared strategies for self-presentation.

2,323

youth participated in Work **Readiness Certification (WRC)** sessions and 2,097 were certified prepared for the job market by the L.A. Area Chamber and LAYAW partners.

To earn Work Ready Certificates, youth must pass a customer service test, a math quiz and a graded mock interview with a professional.

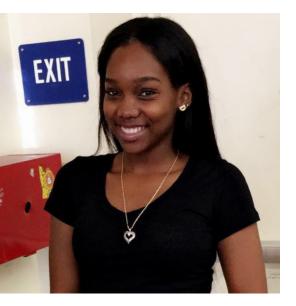
DEMOGRAPHICS

90%

of youth served by LAYAW trainings were disadvantaged minorities.

(75% Latino, 15% Black), slightly more than half were young women (56%), half were 16-17 years old and half 18-24.





Dariah Gilford participated in a LAYAW Job Skill Workshop, earned a Work Readiness Certificate, and attended multiple LAYAW job fairs.

Student profile DARIAH GILFORD

I am Dariah Gilford and I have successfully gotten jobs, thanks to L.A. Youth at Work. The Job Skill Workshops (JSW) and mock interviews they put on prepared me for my job interviews and everyday work tasks. The mock interviews gave us questions to think about that some people wouldn't even think to answer and helped me be ready for the unexpected. They taught me to use appropriate business attire and helped me relax (I used to be so nervous).

Since connecting with LAYAW, I have had six interviews and four job offers.

Currently, I work at Panda Express. I interviewed with them by attending one of the LAYAW hiring events at the L.A. Area Chamber. I have learned how to take feedback, handle financial transactions and provide excellent customer service.

Now, I do all these things at Panda. I also learned how to be more confident in a workplace. If you want to move up, you have to work hard — nothing is easy, just like life. I remember to stay positive, work hard and make success happen!



Evonnie Estrada participated in a job skills workshop and a work readiness certificate training with LAYAW, which connected her to Metro's Transportation Career Academy Program. She was invited to participate in a press conference with the Mayor, and explained the value of the LAYAW training and internship.

Student profile EVONNIE ESTRADA

Participating in the Chamber's mock interviews helped me learn the skills needed to get my first internship. The mock interview really helped me in landing the internship at Metro. Working with Metro was one of the most life changing experiences, because I was able to work in a professional environment at the age of 16.

The Metro internship also helped me determine the path I was going to take in pursuing a career in the engineering field.

This was a very competitive internship, and I am very thankful to have had the privilege to work with such a great group of people who mentored me. Because of my commitment, I was given the opportunity to come back the following summer. I sure hope that I can continue working with L.A. Metro, because I do see myself having a career there. I am truly grateful that I was given this opportunity to participate in the Chamber's training. I am now more aware that I want to major and purse a career in the civil engineering field. I encourage business executives to give young people like me opportunities that help us grow professionally and that will make a difference in our lives. So thank you again; I truly do appreciate it.



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L.A. YOUTH AT WORK





BUSINESS-EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS

UNITE-LA partners with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), L.A. County Office of Education (LACOE), L.A. Community College District and the business community to bring real-world learning opportunities to Los Angeles students. By building career pathways in eight LAUSD high schools and eight LACOE juvenile court and county community schools, UNITE-LA's Career Specialists prepare students for the 21st century workforce by equipping them with professional skills and experiences to pursue their dreams.

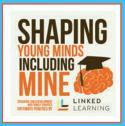
In 2016, UNITE-LA served 15,000 Career Pathway students with work-based learning experiences

Our team works with teachers and business professionals to integrate work-based learning experiences (WBLs) into daily curriculum and contextualize what students learn in the classroom. WBLs — such as career fairs, industry panels, job shadows, work site visits, project consultations, internships and jobs — increase career awareness, allow students to explore multiple positions within an industry and provide opportunities for students to prepare and train for careers of their choice.

Supporting LAUSD High School Career Pathways



Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation



Education,
Child
Development
and Family
Services



Fashion and Interior Design



Building and Construction



Health, Science



Law and Public Services





BUSINESS EDUCATION CLOSE UP: STUDENTS GAIN REAL WORLD EXPERIENCE IN HEALTH CAREER PATHWAYS

Eileen Saucedo and Janeth Preciado Vargas are seniors attending the Huntington Park Institute of Applied Medicine (HPIAM) at Linda Marquez High School. This school, with the support of UNITE-LA's intermediary work, implemented a Linked Learning approach, where health care industry partnerships are created for and by students to get real world experiences. Last year, both students completed a paid internship at Kaiser Permanente.

Kaiser has partnered with the Chamber since 2008, providing more than 500 internships to students to earn and learn through the summer. Kaiser thrives on creating healthier communities, which includes a commitment to helping students from vulnerable L.A. communities to learn about careers in health care. As an ally to our Business Education Partnership's team,

Kaiser is building confidence and interest among the next generation of health care professionals, one experience at a time.

The interaction with professionals makes the students, who often don't have such role models, feel like they belong — and can succeed — in professional settings. That facet has energized 16-year-old Preciado Vargas, whose parents left school as children in Mexico to help support their families. Inspired by the professional mentoring, she got to test those skills by working with other students to plan a community health fair at her school. With another schoolmate, Vargas sold

administrators at Community Hospital of Huntington Park on the idea of partnering for the event. The health fair drew more than 800 community members and provided them with community health resources and health care screenings.

Saucedo first learned about Kaiser's summer internship program from Brian Boyle, senior manager, career specialist, at the L.A. Area Chamber. But, it was the LAYAW mock interview process that gave her the

confidence to actually go for it. Saucedo recounted, "I learned what it takes to have a great resume, go to an interview, dress properly and how to behave in the workplace, and the interviewer gave me very constructive feedback." Saucedos preparation paid off.

Saucedo interned in the Oncology Department, where she excelled. She worked closely with a supervising oncology nurse, helping to greet patients and their families, making them feel at ease and comfortable during their time at the hospital. Based on her performance, Saucedo was asked to return this year to help supervise incoming interns.

Director of Volunteer Services Kathleen McIntire, who has worked at Kaiser for 10 years, says she and Kaiser Permanente will be there, working with UNITE-LA, to

continue to cheer on students and cultivate the future generation of health care professionals. McIntire noted, "We really try to work with students because we know the power of this program, and we understand the complexities of their lives. We are in the health care industry because we care about people. When we feed into the next generation, we get to change the next generation, one life at a time."

Kaiser's vision is driven by the organization's leadership. "Business leaders can be powerful allies for the educational community. We can open minds

to the real world and show them how valuable their learning experience really is," said Bill Caswell, senior vice president of Operations and Chief Operating Officer, Southern California region, Kaiser Permanente.

UNITE-LA's Business Education Partnerships team is thrilled to have excellent partners like Kaiser Permanente working with us to build career pathways and help students launch their dreams.

- Eileen Saucedo, Interr

PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES: SMART JUSTICE

EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED INDIVIDUALS

As with a lot of our work, Smart Justice efforts reach across the areas of programs, policy and systems change and strategic partnerships. Below, you will read Smart Justice falls under our Business Education work, as we utilize a multi-pronged approach for direct service programs, outreach and advocacy efforts.

Smart Justice: Systems Change Highlight

To increase understanding of company hiring practices and concerns regarding workers with criminal records, UNITE-LA conducted original research, interviewing 17 human resources/talent acquisition directors in anonymous, telephone focus groups. Our analysis of company behavior and concerns provided critical guidance to our work with the L.A. City Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission on Employment Equity. This work helped to inform the Commission's development of the California Employers' Fair Chance Hiring Toolkit and execution of the first Fair Chance Hiring Fair in LA.

Smart Justice: Policy Highlight

David Rattray, president of UNITE-LA, began cochairing the Proposition 47 Jobs & Services Taskforce (Taskforce II) in spring 2016, at the request of L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis. UNITE-LA and partners convened a group of cross-sector stakeholders for six months and developed a work plan for the County Board of Supervisors. UNITE-LA staff analyzed Employment Development Department data forecasting industries with the most job opportunities for the formerly incarcerated; interviewed business leaders from these leading industries to learn how these businesses consider formerly-incarcerated job applicants; and concluded that the L.A. job market for formerly-incarcerated workers is robust. The Taskforce Il report outlined strategies and best practices for initiating public-private partnerships that connect formerly-incarcerated individuals to supportive services and high-quality education and employment opportunities. The report's recommendations to the L.A. County Board of Supervisors will help justiceinvolved individuals turn their lives around and reach their dreams.



UNITE-LA BUILDS CAREER PATHWAYS FOR JUSTICE-INVOLVED YOUTH THROUGH DIRECT SERVICE PROGRAMS

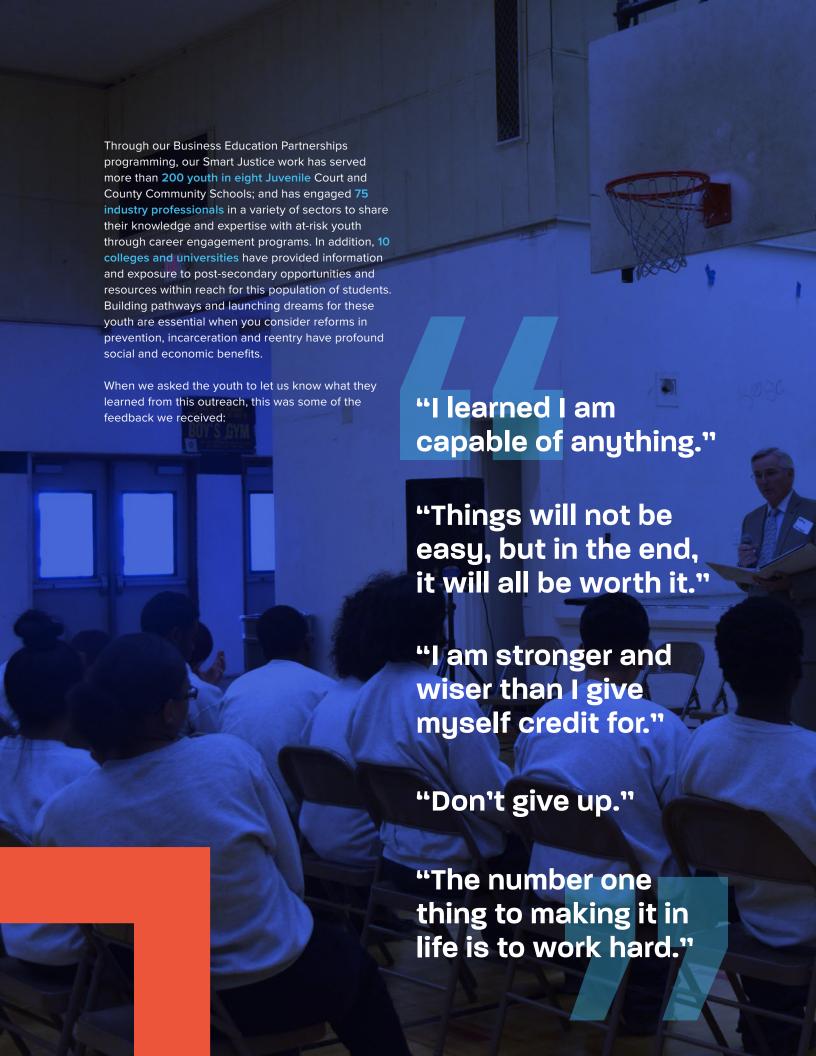
Incarcerated youth typically have limited access to the information and essential job skills training that would provide workforce launch pads and pathways. In L.A., the thousands of youth who have been involved with the criminal justice system are likely to enter adulthood without the education and skills necessary to be successful in the 21st century job market.

Business-Education Partnership Engagement in Juvenile Camps

UNITE-LA provides robust, career development programming in eight of the County's 12 juvenile court schools and County community schools to ensure justice-involved youth gain confidence in their unique abilities and gain the skills, experiences, and resources necessary to launch their dreams and succeed in the 21st century global workplace. An integral part of this programming is our work with business partners to foster their investment with the juvenile justice

population and build career pathways. Industry leaders bring real-world relevancy into the classroom by sharing their own career trajectories, successes and challenges, as well as anecdotes on their daily responsibilities in a diversity of fields, including health care, culinary arts, graphic communications, arts, media, entertainment, fashion design and merchandising.

Information flows in both directions. Business professionals' experiences in non-traditional classroom settings create opportunities to interact with justice-involved students, hear their story, and see their potential. Through these one-on-one interactions, professionals have an opportunity to change their perspective on the types of students who find themselves incarcerated, which may affect their own hiring practices and organizational cultures. Ideally, business advocates will help to break workforce barriers and build pathways for the students leaving probation and community schools.







POLICY

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EDUCATION AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT POLICY

You've seen some brief highlights of our policy work throughout this report. The following gives you an overall snapshot of these extraordinary efforts. UNITE-LA, in partnership with the L.A. Area Chamber, engages and educates business leaders on current education and talent development policy issues. UNITE-LA brings employers together with elected officials and content experts at the L.A. Area Chamber's annual federal, state and local ACCESS trips, Pancakes and Politics series, Education Councils and special forums.

ACCESS Washington, D.C.

In April 2016, the Chamber delegation to the nation's capital consisted of L.A. Mayor Eric Garcetti, 14 local elected officials and 170 business leaders. Our delegation met with:

- Kim Belshé, president of First 5 LA, and Kris Perry, executive director of First Five Years Fund, to discuss the regional importance of early education.
- Michelle King, the new LAUSD superintendent, to learn of opportunities to support our region's largest school district.
- MSNBC's Chris Matthews, and the Institute of Child Success' Vice President Joe Walters, to showcase a report on childcare in L.A. County.
- Six U.S. Congressmen in the welcoming reception hosted by First 5 LA.

ACCESS Sacramento

In June 2016, the Chamber delegation to our state capital included 75 business leaders. Our delegation, which included sub-delegations for early education, K-12 education, higher education and smart justice met with:

- Glen Price, chief deputy state superintendent of Public Instruction, California Department of Education and Marisa Arrona, Proposition 47 Implementation director, Californians for Safety and Justice, to be briefed on education and smart justice policy.
- Michael Cohen, director of the California Department of Finance, to discuss critical funding issues regarding the cradle-to- career continuum.

Accenture Pancakes + Politics

During 2016's Pancakes and Politics series, business leaders attended informative breakfast meetings with L.A. County Supervisor Chair Hilda Solis, California's Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon, LAUSD Superintendent Michelle King and Chancellor of the California Community College System Eloy Ortiz Oakley, among others.

Education Councils

Our Education Councils provide local business leaders with rich opportunities to engage in back-and-forth discussions with elected officials and leaders in the fields of education, workforce, immigration, criminal justice, and state budget and finance. Topics at 2016's eight Councils spanned the cradle-to-career spectrum and included issues such as:

- A Federal Conversation Around Immigration, Education and Policy
- Policy Solutions to Improve College Affordability, Increase Completion & Ensure Economic Competitiveness
- Juvenile Justice and Child Welfare in Los Angeles:
 Helping Youth Succeed Through Education and Rehabilitation
- 2016 Budget: Legislative Wrap-Up, Status & Forecast of California's Education Priorities

ACCESS TRIPS

Special Forum on Early Childhood Education

UNITE-LA and the L.A. Area Chamber hosted an informational forum on early childhood education (ECE), in collaboration with our partners (First 5 Los Angeles, L.A. Partnership for Early Childhood Investment, Tikun Olan Foundation and Atlas Family Foundation). The ECE forum — led by Harvard University's Dr. Jack Schonkoff — educated policy makers, legislative staff and business leaders on cutting-edge cognitive research on ECE and promoted powerful discussion of the importance of

investment in ECE, employee ECE programs and a skilled workforce of ECE providers.

Special Forum on Immigration

In December, the Chamber hosted an Immigration Forum with newly-elected Senator Kamala Harris, who serves on the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. At the Immigration Forum, Harris engaged in discussion with key elected officials, researchers, business leader and civic leaders regarding upcoming immigration issues and potential legislation.

STRENGTHENING QUALITY EARLY LEARNING TO IMPROVE COMMUNITIES

UNITE-LA has been an active member and signing partner of the coalition developing and supporting Educare L.A. at Long Beach — a public-private collaboration five years in the making that seeks to uplift the more than 200,000 preschoolers and families in L.A. County. UNITE-LA's efforts helped Educare LA at Long Beach officially kick off its capital campaign in 2016. To-date, the effort has received more than \$3.7 million toward the \$7 million challenge grant.

The new Educare Center, which aims to break the cycle of poverty through education and training, will build pathways to success for our youngest learners and their families. The Center — on-track to be fully operational in summer 2018 — will serve as a hub and model for quality early education programs, promotion of school readiness, strengthening parent engagement and supporting changes for the early childhood workforce.



Deane Leavenworth
Vice President
arnie berghoff & associates

Policy Close Up:

EDUCATION ADVOCATE NAMED CHAMBER BOARD MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Deane Leavenworth, an L.A. Area Chamber board member since July 2009 and a staunch advocate and supporter of the Chamber's education and workforce development programs, serves as Chair of the Education and Workforce Development Council.

As a former special education teacher, Deane understands the unique struggles our school system faces. Whether representing the Chamber at an early child education roundtable luncheon or speaking with members of Congress during ACCESS Washington, D.C., Deane is able to engage business and civic leaders on how to better align early education with the K-12 system and the importance of early childhood development.

For these reasons and more, Deane Leavenworth was bestowed the 2016 L.A. Area Chamber Board Member of the Year award and recognized for furthering the Chamber in its mission to champion economic prosperity and quality of life for the L.A. region. Not only are UNITE-LA and the Chamber proud to have Deane Leavenworth on our team, we are the better for it.

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SYSTEMS CHANGE

COMPACT

The L.A. Compact is an unprecedented, cross-sector collaborative effort and collective commitment to the education and career success of young Angelenos.

UNITE-LA was instrumental in the 2008 founding of the L.A. Compact and continues to serve as its overall convener. The Compact addresses some of the region's most pressing, complex problems—problems that no single organization could solve on its ownand its sustained work continues to drive systemic improvements that build solid pathways, positioning L.A.'s youth to achieve their dreams of education and career success.

By signing the L.A. Compact, 24 L.A. leaders representing the region's most prominent early education, K-12, higher education, business, labor and government organizations—affirm that the success and well-being of L.A. children and youth are everyone's responsibility and commit to working collaboratively across sectors to promote systemic solutions.

In 2016, several new leaders became signatories to the L.A. Compact, opening fresh collaborative possibilities for advancing student pathways to success. We are excited to welcome first-time signer, United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) and UTLA President Alex Caputo Pearl. In addition, we welcomed a number of new leaders of our partner organizations who replaced their predecessors as signers to the Compact—including Michelle King, Superintendent of LAUSD, Dr. Debra Duardo, Superintendent of the L.A. County Office of Education (LACOE), Rusty Hicks, Executive Secretary-Treasurer with the L.A. County Federation of Labor and Soraya M. Coley, President of Cal Poly Pomona.

Now in its ninth year of collaboration, the L.A. Compact engages the signing partners, as well as many other community and business organizations through over a dozen cross-sector working groups tackling issues along the cradle to career continuum, including STEM education, school readiness, teacher preparation pathways, postsecondary student success, joint advocacy and transition-age foster youth.

L.A. COMPACT SIGNERS

The Signers

Herb J. Wesson, Jr.

Michael D. Antonovich Board of Supervisors

Michelle King

Los Angeles Unified School District

Obra Quardo

See as les

Kim Belshé

Institutions of Higher Education

C.C. NICal

Francisco C. Rodriguez



L.A. Compact Collaborative Workgroups



Since 2013, the L.A. Compact has evolved into a multi-covener model, with a constellation of collaboratives supported by different agencies - all working toward the Compact goals.

L.A. Compact: 24 leading institutions commit to work collaboratively toward the following goals:



GOAL ONE

All students graduate from high school.



GOAL TWO

All students have access to and are prepared for success in college.



GOAL THREE

All students have access to pathways to sustainable jobs and careers.

L.A. COMPACT WORKGROUP HIGHLIGHTS

Stewardship Group (convener: UNITE-LA)

- Refreshed L.A. Compact strategies and commitments in advance of official signing by UTLA.
- Committed to full 2017 revision of the Compact agreement to incorporate new, explicit focus on social and racial equity as well as attention to the "whole child."

Joint Advocacy Group (convener: UNITE-LA)

- Successfully supported a \$500 million multi-year investment by 2020 to create 9,000 new pre-k slots, increase reimbursement rates for early childhood providers and preserve transitional kindergarten.
- Successfully supported establishment of the CA College Promise Innovation Grant Program to expand partnerships between K-12 and higher education to improve college access.
- Actively supported the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and successfully backed Dr. Derrick Chau (LAUSD Director of Secondary Instruction) as L.A. representative to the ESSA-negotiated rule making committee.

Institutions of Higher Education Collaborative (comprising the 12 IHE Compact signers)

Student Success Workgroup

(convener: UNITE-LA)

 Reconvened with senior academic administrators from six member IHEs to develop a coordinated plan for increasing regional postsecondary attainment through institutional strategies that increase student success and completion, such as revamping remediation, streamlining transfer pathways and re-engaging former college students who did not complete degrees.

Los Angeles Educator Pathways Partnership (LAEPP)

(co-conveners: UNITE-LA and LAUSD)

 Began implementation of the 2013 bilateral MOUs between LAUSD and eight IHEs (brokered by UNITE-LA) to facilitate data sharing on teacher training and effectiveness in order to investigate best practices and drive continuous improvement in our local teacher preparation programs.

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(convener: UNITE-LA)Certified 109 college students in healthcare programmer.

Health Sector Collaborative

- Certified 109 college students in healthcare programs as "Work-Ready" using a customized assessment developed by the HSC and used by health care employers.
- Placed 130 high school students from health-themed pathways into summer work experiences through the South L.A. Scholars program.

(convener: Alliance for Children's Rights)

Opportunity Youth

Collaborative (OYC)

- Partnered with iFoster to create job pipeline for foster youth: 225 foster youth completed work-readiness training, 122 earned a Work Readiness Certificate and 110 obtained paid employment with companies like Ralphs, Starbucks and Nabisco.
- The outreach and system improvement efforts of the Foster Youth Work Experience Campaign (convener: UNITE-LA) resulted in 845 foster youth accessing a subsidized work experience in L.A. County, a significant increase from 83 in 2014.
- Launched OYC Stewardship Group to establish common goals, strategies and governance to influence development and growth of education and employment pathways.
- Piloted a Transition Navigator Program providing oneon-one support to 840 foster youth in South, East and Northeast. L.A. to help them reach self-sufficiency, and OYC Digital Resource Guide to support this effort.
- Launched Project Tipping Point (convener: Coalition for Responsible Community Development) – a new college completion program providing intensive wraparound supports for foster youth seeking Associate of Arts degrees in Liberal Arts or Transportation at LA Trade Tech.
- Launched Foster Youth College Advancement Project (conveners: UNITE-LA and John Burton Advocates for Youth) to improve foster youth access and success in postsecondary education.

L.A. Performance Partnership Pilot

(convener: City of Los Angeles Economic and Workforce Development Department)

- Implemented P3 regional workgroups to coordinate wrap-around services for disconnected youth between the City's 14 YouthSource centers and dozens of community partners and county agencies.
- Implemented federal waiver to remove barriers to serving at-risk, in-school foster youth in City and County youth workforce programs.
- Released updated report by Dr. Paul Harrington on the status of L.A.'s disconnected youth, finding that one out of six youth in the L.A. region is out of school and unemployed.

L.A. Regional STEM Hub (convener: UNITE-LA)

- Coordinated annual State of STEM conference, where 120 education and business leaders discussed the role California's public colleges and universities will play in strengthening science, technology, engineering, math (STEM); sparking change and diversifying STEM fields; and improving equity in STEM.
- Formed an advisory group convening over 15 cross-sectoral STEM stakeholders, which identified professional development and industry/education alignment as the two 2017 priority issues.

School Readiness Workgroup (convener: First 5 LA)

- Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) subgroup developed an infographic and talking points to be used in stakeholder discussions advocating for greater L.A. County QRIS investment.
- Family Engagement subgroup analyzed potential methods of gauging effectiveness of L.A. County policies in engaging families to support children's school readiness.
- Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA) Subgroup completed research reports to inform development of a common, countywide KRA: Children Now's analysis of readiness assessments used in L.A. County school districts and UNITE-LA's complementary analysis of assessments used in the County's Pre-K programs.

L.A. Compact Data Workgroup (convener: UNITE-LA)

- Cross-sector data experts worked collaboratively to update and vet optimal cradle-to-career indicators for evaluating progress toward L.A. Compact goals.
- Hosted the first L.A. Compact Data Walk, which engaged Compact partners in data-centric discussion around the newly-released Charting Progress Toward L.A. Compact Goals, a comprehensive look at student progress since the founding of the L.A. Compact.

L.A. COMPACT CLOSE UP



Welcoming Michelle King as LAUSD's **New Superintendent**

In January 2016, the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education selected Michelle King to lead the nation's second-largest school district, responsible for the education of 640,000 students. The L.A. Compact partners—including UNITE-LA, Time Warner Cable, First 5 LA, United Way and Cal State University Northridge— mobilized resources, developed a \$40,000 transition fund and committed to welcome the new superintendent through a series of stakeholder engagement opportunities, including the Superintendent's Listen and Learn Tour. The tour launched with a Strategic Plan Retreat at Cal State LA, attended by 175 students, parents, school staff, community partners and civic leaders. In addition, the L.A. Compact partnered on several regional forums at LAUSD schools to garner input for LAUSD's new strategic plan. To promote cradle-tocareer alignment with LAUSD, the Compact also convened two roundtable discussions between King and leaders from the early childhood community, as well as Los Angeles Community College District Chancellor Rodriguez and the nine campus presidents.

In fall 2016, Superintendent King launched a new, three-year strategic plan focusing on 100 percent graduation. The L.A. Compact will be a strong partner to the district over the coming years to achieve our common goal that all students graduate from high school.



UTLA joins the L.A. Compact

On Dec. 14, the L.A. Compact hosted a historic Signing Ceremony at the Robert F. Kennedy Community Schools Campus. LAUSD Superintendent Michelle King and United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) President Alex Caputo-Pearl signed the L.A. Compact together—uniting the district, its teachers and Greater L.A. civic, business and education leadership in a groundbreaking collaboration to benefit public education and the success of young Angelenos from cradle to career. The event marked the first time in the nine-year history of the L.A. Compact that UTLA joined as an official signatory, opening the door to greater collaboration in support of LAUSD students. Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) Superintendent Debra Duardo also joined as a new Compact signer, representing L.A. County's commitment to improve student outcomes among vulnerable, system-involved youth. Other L.A. Compact leaders reaffirmed their commitments to work together on behalf of all students toward achieving the Compact's ambitious goals. Compact leaders who participated include Mayor Eric Garcetti, LAUSD Board President Steve Zimmer, Associated Administrators of Los Angeles President Juan Flecha, LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, Cal State LA President William A. Covino and First 5 LA Executive Director Kim Belshé.



100,000 Opportunities Initiative to Employ L.A.'s "Disconnected" Youth

While U.S. employers face a skills shortage, with 40 percent of employers struggling to fill more than five million jobs, six million young adults are neither working nor in school, including 200,000 in L.A. County. Many of these young adults are resilient, creative and talented foster and probation youth who have overcome significant challenges in their lives. Their disconnection is a significant loss of economic opportunity and human capital to the L.A. region. To create and sustain a thriving local economy, we need today's students to become tomorrow's well-prepared and successful workforce.

In February 2016, Los Angeles became one of five demonstration cities across the country to participate in the 100k Opportunities Initiative, a national employer-led coalition representing more than 40 top U.S. companies committed to training and hiring 100,000 disconnected youth by 2018. The 100k effort in Los Angeles kicked off on February 11 at the L.A. Convention Center with the largest youth hiring fair in L.A. history, drawing over 5,000 young adults, 30 employers and resulting in over 1,000 on-the-spot job offers. Many youth received a job offer only minutes after practicing a mock interview with

volunteers from UNITE-LA's LA Youth at Work program, which coordinated more than 350 mock interviews at the event.

The L.A. Compact's Opportunity Youth Collaborative (OYC), convened by the Alliance for Children's Rights, worked to ensure strong foster youth participation in the fair's hiring opportunities. 266 foster youth attended on Feb. 11 and 94 (35 percent) received conditional job offers. Additionally, several foster youth who are engaged with the OYC Young Leaders program and the OYC Careers Program participated in roundtable discussions with C-suite executives from 100k member companies at the event to share their experiences as Opportunity Youth.

In the summer following the fair, UNITE-LA and its affiliate the L.A. Area Chamber launched an Opportunity Youth Employer Engagement working group in partnership with The Alliance for Children's Rights, LeadersUp, and iFoster to further cultivate local hiring opportunities and career pathways for Opportunity Youth.

L.A. COMPACT CLOSE UP continued



Creating a Promise for College Success

UNITE-LA and the L.A. Area Chamber partnered with Mayor Eric Garcetti, the City of L.A., the Mayor's Fund for Los Angeles, LAUSD and LACCD on the Los Angeles College Promise. This exciting new initiative provides LAUSD and public charter school graduates one year of free community college tuition at any of LACCD's nine colleges, as well as myriad supports for these first-year college students. This includes: priority full-time course enrollment, math and English course placement to ensure timely progression, early outreach and engagement, including FAFSA completion support, and extended orientation, success coaching, advising and mentoring.

The L.A. College Promise was announced by Mayor Garcetti during his 2016 State of the City address and quickly drew national attention and recognition. In September, UNITE-LA joined the Second Lady of the United States and full-time community college professor, Dr. Jill Biden, California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, Mayor Eric Garcetti, LAUSD Superintendent Michelle King, LAUSD Board President Steve Zimmer, LACCD Chancellor Dr. Francisco Rodriguez and other dignitaries to officially launch the L.A. College Promise.



We Choose ALL Symposium

The L.A. Compact and several partner organizations hosted "We Choose ALL: Building a System of Excellent Public Education," an August 2016 research symposium that was endorsed by LAUSD and LACOE board resolutions calling for policy recommendations to ensure public school equity in a time of rising charter density. "We Choose ALL" brought together a dozen nationally-renowned academics with more than 60 L.A. civic leaders to discuss state-of-the-art research on charter growth, equity and policy. Utilizing input from our civic leaders, the researchers will produce 2017 whitepapers for the LAUSD and LACOE boards, providing guidance on the promotion of pathways to success for all students.



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L.A. COMPACT CLOSE UP continued



LA Strong Workforce and WIOA Regional Planning

UNITE-LA has worked to galvanize business and industry support to provide leadership, broad-based coalition and political will-building as L.A.'s Community Colleges and seven Workforce Development Boards transition to regional implementation of the Strong Workforce initiative and coordinated efforts toward Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act regional planning. UNITE-LA's work aims to ensure integrated systems of high-quality career pathways that are aligned to high-need, high growth industry sectors.

"The Chamber has been one of our most important business partners, workforce development advocates, and policy leaders—exceptionally successful in convening stakeholders and connecting us to business priorities."

- Richard Verches, regional director, L.A./Orange County Regional College Consortia

Last fall, UNITE-LA and its affiliate, the L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce, hosted a discussion with business leaders on the local implementation of the California Community College's Strong Workforce program. The event gave civic and business leaders a voice in critical decisions regarding investments in Career Technical Training programs at our community colleges, which are helping to inform and guide investments in projects that will reflect the region's priority occupations and industry sectors. L.A. Compact Partners, The L.A. Area Chamber and the L.A. Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), penned a letter to the five regional community college CEOs and Presidents outlining recommendations for the use of the regional and local Strong Workforce funds. To drive program development and improvement, UNITE-LA and the Chamber will continue to play a critical role in convening key stakeholders; eliciting input from employers; identifying opportunities for cross-fertilization of ideas; raising awareness of the importance of workforce education and training; and helping to systematize the way in which workforce systems engage the business community.

SYSTEMS CHANGE & STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS:

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R.E.A.L COALITION

UNITE-LA BUILDS EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS ACROSS CALIFORNIA AND THE U.S.

Working with the business community, UNITE-LA stimulates uncommon alliances and builds non-traditional education champions to create long-term change in education and workforce systems locally, statewide and nationally. UNITE-LA provides technical assistance and expertise to build coalitions of business leaders working for cradle-to-career improvements. These improvements lend to launching the dreams of students not just in the L.A. region, but also across the United States.

California: R.E.A.L. Coalition

UNITE-LA staffs the Education and Workforce Development Committee of the Regional Economic Association Leaders (R.E.A.L.) Coalition, an association of California's most influential business and economic development organizations.

R.E.A.L. Coalition represents:

20

member organizations

15,000

employers, who provide

3,900,000

California jobs

In the past year, the R.E.A.L. Coalition successfully supported key issues in early childhood education, college and career readiness, higher education attainment and workforce development.

R.E.A.L. supported implementation of recommendations from the Accountability and **Continuous Improvement** Taskforce, including The California Way, which moves away from testand-punish policies and focuses on the right drivers and capacity-building for systemic improvement. R.E.A.L. also supported use of a dashboard of multiple accountability measures and elimination of the use of summative rankings of schools and districts.



NATIONAL: ASSOCIATION OF CHAMBER OF COMMERCE EXECUTIVES EDUCATION ATTAINMENT DIVISION

The Education Attainment Division (EAD) is a partnership between the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) and the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce. The EAD capitalizes on UNITE-LA's expertise in strengthening cradle-to-career education and workforce development systems, policies and programs, and leverages ACCE's powerful national network.

EAD Highlights:

- Provided Technical Assistance to 617 chamber professionals via connections, support, resources and tools.
- Hosted five webinars, providing technical assistance to approximately 365 ACCE members.
- 48 new assessments to help Chambers evaluate education and workforce development outcomes. Increased the number of completed Chamber Education and Workforce Development Assessments from 146 to 194.
- Led nine sessions in Education Workforce Development Track at ACCE's 102nd Annual Convention.
- Developed five new online Chamberpedia resource pages, featuring information, research, and best practices from chambers across the country.
- Awarded \$240,000 to six chambers for education work in communities around the country.

EAD brings UNITE-LA expertise to ACCE's network of

1,200 chambers representing

1.2 million organizations employing

70 million people



PROGRAMMING

EAD Fellowship for Education Attainment:

The Fellowship is a year-long professional development program open to chamber executives who develop Regional Action Plans to improve the cradle-to-career education pipelines in their communities. The Fellowship application process is competitive; chamber professionals selected each year participate in three, two-day immersive sessions (one in L.A. and two in other cities around the country) to develop and advance their education and workforce development Regional Action Plans.

To-date, the EAD has graduated 60 Chamber professionals from the Fellowship, an education and workforce development "deep dive" involving: best practices in education attainment; exemplary case studies; development of logic models and program evaluation; interaction with national experts; and formation of strong peer-to-peer networks among fellows.

In 2016, the 2015-2016 cohort of 20 EAD Fellows developed and advanced 20 education attainment and workforce development Regional Action Plans for communities across the country.

The 2016-2017 cohort of 20 new EAD Fellows launched in September with their first two-day session.



2016-2017 Fellows attend their kick-off session in September 2016 at ACCE's office in Alexandria, VA.



Fellowship Spotlight

What better way to launch dreams than to ensure every child has access to a quality educational environment? As a 2015-16 Fellow, Kelly Hall,

president and CEO of the Longview Chamber of Commerce (TX), successfully developed Every Child Has Access, a collective impact initiative focused on the well-being of children during non-school hours, "in an effort to create a continuous environment conducive to learning and health," and created the Every Child Has Access 2016-2017 Resource Guide.

Education Attainment Award

This year, six chambers received the \$40,000 Education Attainment Award that supports innovative chamber-led efforts to increase attainment of post-secondary degrees and other high-quality credentials in their communities. The EAD provided technical assistance and access to education and workforce development champions and consultants to help expand and deepen the work of these award recipients.



Awardee Spotlight

Building a pathway is at the heart of Greg Laposa's work. Laposa, vice president of Education Strategies at the St. Louis Regional Chamber (and

2014-15 EAD Fellow), became an active EAD champion and advisory board member and accelerated his chamber's postsecondary education attainment efforts. The St. Louis Regional Chamber received a 2015-16 EAD Award for developing Degrees That Work, a program supporting employers in creating workplace conditions that facilitate degree attainment, along with an exemplary Employer Toolkit for businesses to help their employees pursue further education.



Inaugural EAD Annual Meeting (May 2016)

Convened 31 EAD program alumni and advisory board members

from 27 chambers of commerce to collectively explore innovative solutions to the toughest education and workforce development challenges and develop an active EAD chamber champions alumni network.

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UNITE-LA 2016 Gross Revenue: \$1,921,445

Individual Contributions— \$13,665 - 1%
Corporate Grants— \$10,000 - 1%

Foundation Grants— \$1,468,575 - 76% Government Grants— \$429,205 - 22%

We leverage an additional \$2,732,946 through our affiliated L.A. Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation. UNITE-LA's full impact in gross revenues, including the affiliate funding, is \$4,654,391.



SPECIAL THANKS:

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Our volunteers make UNITE-LA's programs possible. We and thousands of Angeleno youth are grateful for the individuals who offer their time and expertise to: assist with Cash for College, lead financial aid workshops, help with FAFSA and Dream Act completion, participate in mock interviews, bring career experience to classrooms and county probation camps, evaluate students' career-themed projects, and so much more. We truly could not do our work without you. Thank you!

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