



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

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Contact: Paige Marlatt Dorr

Office: 916.327.5356

Cell: 916.601.8005

Office E-mail: pdorr@cccco.edu

Mobile E-mail: pmarlatt@comcast.net

New Partnership that Helps Students Train for and Land Jobs in Retail Sector Highlighted by Clinton Global Initiative

Chancellor Jack Scott praises solution that helps close skills gap

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – A new partnership that brings together the California Community Colleges, a Silicon Valley technology firm and a leading business membership group was recognized by the Clinton Global Initiative as an innovative model for promoting economic recovery in the United States.

The partnership, formally announced at the Clinton Global Initiative America meeting in Chicago, combines real-time labor market information and online skills training for community college students seeking to fill in-demand jobs in the retail sector.

Silicon Valley-based LearnUp is an online job skills training platform that allows users to learn skills from employers and professionals, track progress on a “skills resume,” and receive job offers. For instance, training content for retail positions at Staples and the Gap is provided on the site. Completing the training modules gives students an advantage when interviewing for positions with participating companies. Some of corporations participating in the innovative job training and employment initiative include Staples, Gap, Safeway, KPMG, Prudential, and TeleTech. Foothill College students in Los Altos Hills recently participated in beta testing of the LearnUp platform.

Corporate Voices for Working Families is a business membership organization that engages the business community in public and private policy issues involving working families. As part of this partnership, Corporate Voices is informing its members about the LearnUp business model and encouraging them to join other corporate partners already using the website.

“Anytime we can connect businesses with our students is a win-win because we offer California’s best job training and coupled with this new tool our students will enter the workforce with the skills employers are looking for,” Chancellor Scott said. “I’m encouraged by this partnership and look forward to the great career potential offered to our students and more companies getting onboard.”

Twenty-five million Americans are unemployed or underemployed. Yet 52 percent of employers report

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difficulty filling jobs due to lack of available talent. In today's economy, the skills required in the workforce are changing so quickly that it's hard for job seekers to know which skills are in-demand.

"Working with LearnUp and Corporate Voices gives our system greater insight into the evolving skill sets and needs of a specific industry sector," said Van Ton-Quinlivan, vice chancellor of the California Community Colleges Workforce and Economic Development division. "LearnUp offers a fresh and innovative approach to how business and education can work together to close the skills gap. We need to do what matters for jobs and the economy and that means using real-time labor market information and leveraging platforms such as LearnUp, to align instruction with the needs of business in mind."

*The **California Community Colleges** is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.6 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>.*

***LearnUp** is a real-time job skills training platform that connects job-seekers and employers. On the site, job seekers can learn skills from employers and professionals, track progress on a "skills resume," and receive job offers. LearnUp, a Silicon Valley-based technology startup, was founded by Alexis Ringwald, CEO, and Kenny Ma, CTO. For further information, contact Alexis Ringwald at hello@learnup.me, visit www.learnup.me or follow us on Twitter at @LearnUp.*

***Corporate Voices for Working Families** is the leading national business membership organization shaping conversations and collaborations on public and corporate policy issues involving working families. A nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, Corporate Voices creates and advances innovative policy solutions that reflect a commonality of interests among the private sector both global and domestic, government and other stakeholders. Corporate Voices is a unique voice that provides leading and best-practice employers a forum to improve the lives of working families, while strengthening our nation's economy and enhancing the vitality of our communities. Publications, research studies and toolkits on a host of workforce readiness, workplace flexibility, family economic stability and work and family balance issues are available online at <http://www.corporatevoices.org>.*

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