



**BayICT Partnership**  
November 11, 2024  
Fall 2024 Meeting Report

**Meeting objectives:**

- Provide an overview/update of the Bay Region’s communities of practice, projects, and initiatives preparing students for regional workforce needs in the ICT/DM Sector
- Re-Introduce BACCC ICT/DM sector team
- Review Spring 2024 meeting outcomes and next steps
- Share regional project updates and partner announcements

**Agenda:**

- I. Project/Program Updates
  - A. AI Center of Excellence
  - B. Regional Virtual Production Academy (RVPA)
  - C. Cybersecurity
- II. BACCC ICT/DM Sector Team
  - A. BayICT Partnership
  - B. BACCC ICT Employer Engagement
- III. Spring 2024 Meeting Review
- IV. Partner Announcements and Updates
- V. Discussion and Opportunities to Collaborate

**Attendees:**

David Radwin	California Competes: Higher Education for a Strong Economy	Senior Researcher
Michael Katz	EASTBAYWorks	Regional Organizer
Rakesh Ramakrishnan	PayPal	Data Scientist
Mike Murphy	Foothill College	Faculty
Darlene Hawkins	Alameda County WDB	Business Services Manager
Debbie Fields	Las Positas College	Faculty
Clare Nguyen	De Anza College	Faculty
Viviana Soto	Love Never Fails/ ITbiz	Assistant ITbiz Program Manager

Dan Montoya	66 Training Services LLC	Principal Consultant
Dann Bergman	66 Training Services LLC	Consultant
Tuan Nguyen	Laney College	Faculty
Maeve Katherine Bergman	Foundation for CA CC Success Center	Regional Coordinator, Bay Area
MONICA CAPPIELLO	Ohlone College	Faculty
Sara Goldware	BACCC	Regional Director, East Bay
Jeff D'Andria	BACCC	Regional Director San Francisco/Peninsula
Mary Clarke-Miller	Berkeley City College	Department Chair MMART
Luis Ruelas	BACCC	Silicon Valley Subregional Director
Justin Hoffman	Berkeley City College	Faculty

### Project/Program Updates:

#### AI Center of Excellence

The AI discipline is now recognized by the California State Academic Senate, which offers colleges the flexibility to develop AI courses or departments. Various statewide initiatives are underway, including the AI caucus within the State Academic Senate, work groups focused on AI's impact on career technical education programs, the California Community College AI Consortium, and a pilot program merging generative AI and entrepreneurship. The Center's AI curriculum development is led by Tuan Nguyen at Laney College. A Center goal is to increase membership and implement curriculum expansion across the region. Tuan encouraged faculty and industry partners to get involved in these efforts. Tuan further discussed the AI website, which is now accessible at [baccc.net/ai/](http://baccc.net/ai/). Faculty interested in AI curriculum should reach out to Tuan ([tuanguyen@peralta.edu](mailto:tuanguyen@peralta.edu)) for further information.

#### Regional Virtual Production Academy

The Regional Virtual Production Academy (RVPA) is a collaborative program between 6 colleges to offer certificates and an AA that the individual colleges alone cannot provide because they lack all of the required courses. The program, launched this fall, now offers two certificates: VP Fundamentals and VP Advanced. The program's objective is to improve student accessibility and time to completion while increasing enrollment for the colleges by filling classes.

The RVPA's internship program is successfully underway. with a team of RVPA students across 3 of the colleges forming "RVPA Studios", doing joint projects with industry partners, [GoalLine Studios](#) and [MOVRS](#). The paid internship is funded by a partnership with the Foundation for

California Community Colleges and the California Film Commission, which provided \$100,000 for internships that can lead to jobs in the film industry.

### Bay Region Cyber Clinic Grant

Six Bay Area colleges (Merritt, Ohlone, Santa Rosa Junior College, City College of San Francisco, Foothill, and Las Positas) collaborated to submit a grant application proposing a unique model for a Cyber Clinic, based on a program developed by the Center for Long-Term Cyber Security at UC Berkeley, that serves the entire Bay Region. This would be an opportunity for our students to get the experience they can add to their resume. It was a very competitive application and we did not receive the award. However, the grant application was repurposed into a [template](#) for any single college to use to seek funding to integrate the cyber clinic course in its cybersecurity program.

### **BACCC ICT/DM Sector Team:**

#### BayICT Partnership and Sector Activity

The BACCC continues to give the ICT/DM sector high priority. As is the case for the industry itself, key initiatives are driven by emerging technologies. The region is using more collaborative approaches to address how our career education programs stay current and keep our partners and communities of practice engaged. Here are active initiatives and projects and the leads:

- AI Regional Joint Venture: [Dan Montoya](#), Principal Consultant, 66 Training Services LLC
- AI Workgroup (Statewide): [Rock Pfothenauer](#), BACCC Co-Chair
- BayICT and Regional Joint Venture (RJV) Marketing & Communications: [Lauren Tabata](#), Strategic Designs LLC
- BayICT Partnership: [Olivia Herriford](#), BACCC Project Lead
- BayICT Tech Talks, Newsletters: [Sarah Ferguson](#)
- Employer and Industry Engagement: [Jeff D'Andria](#), BACCC Subregional Director - San Francisco/Peninsula
- Generative AI Entrepreneurship Program (Statewide): [Dan Montoya](#), Principal Consultant, 66 Training Services LLC
- Regional Virtual Production Academy RJV: [Olivia Herriford](#), BACCC Project Lead

There are synergies across these efforts and the Region plans to tap the leads to develop its overall sector strategy.

#### BACCC ICT Employer Engagement

Jeff D'Andria, Subregional Director, San Francisco/Peninsula, is leveraging his experience as a tech recruiter to connect students to job and work experience opportunities. His approach is to act as a "concierge" to employers, finding the right candidates for the roles. Jeff is developing partnerships with companies like [CodeSignal](#) and [Skillfully](#) to provide industry assessments and work simulations

for students. He also mentioned the [Computing Talent Initiative](#), a 10 million dollar grant program that provides a 40-week curriculum to help students get into software jobs. Jeff encouraged the group to reach out to him if they have students interested in software or tech sales roles.

### **Spring 2024 Meeting Review:**

An action item from the Spring meeting was to identify tech jobs in non-tech companies and develop relationships with HRA and talent management executives in those organizations. The objective being to determine their tech talent needs and make them aware of how our students are qualified to meet them. An RJV proposal has been developed for possible consideration in Spring 2025.

### **Announcements, Discussion and Opportunities to Collaborate:**

- On behalf of Lora Jorgensen, BACCC Regional Director, Workforce Partnerships, Olivia shared information about how [community colleges](#) and [workforce development boards](#) can collaborate.
- Darlene Hawkins from the Alameda County Workforce Development Board shared an upcoming event and expressed interest in discussing apprenticeship and AI opportunities. The conversation ended with plans for further discussions and updates on the projects covered.

### **Action Items:**

- Olivia to share Darlene's USS Hornet "Tech on Deck" event information with the partnership and community of practice.
- Jeff to continue engaging with employers for hiring opportunities and student placements.
- Olivia to keep partners updated on the status of the proposal to develop relationships with HR executives in non-tech companies.
- Tuan Nguyen will keep faculty informed on AI curriculum development and implementation at Laney College.