



MEDIA CONTACT: Kimberly Goodnight
kim@mediaplaygroundpr.com
323 687 3360

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Clearing the Way for Careers in Engineering

*"Growth Sector and Cal State LA Host Second Annual
Engineering Degree Apprenticeship Pathway Showcase"*

LOS ANGELES, CA - Friday, August 7, 2026 - Growth Sector, in partnership with California State University (Cal State LA), proudly announces the second annual Engineering Degree Apprenticeship Pathway Showcase. Taking place Friday, August 7, at California State University, Los Angeles, this event will bring together students, educators, and industry leaders to highlight the innovative Engineering Degree Apprenticeship Pathway (EDAP) designed to expand access to high-paying and high-tech careers for community college students.

This collaborative event represents a major step forward in creating equitable educational and workforce opportunities for underrepresented students. It will unite three Summer Bridge cohorts from the Los Angeles Community College District, students from Los Angeles City College (LACC), East Los Angeles College (ELAC), Los Angeles Mission College (LAMC), and Glendale Community College (GCC) alongside approximately 25 current EDAP engineering interns at Cal State LA and representatives from Caltrans and the California Department of Water Resources.

Throughout the day, participants will engage in interactive sessions, hear from industry panels, and network with representatives from public agencies and higher education partners as they explore the promising future of civil and general engineering through structured pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs.

This one-day showcase is part of Growth Sector's EDAP national initiative that provides community college students with direct pathways to bachelor's degrees in high-tech fields and meaningful employment. Designed specifically to address systemic barriers, EDAP combines rigorous academic support with paid internships and apprenticeships, enabling students to transition seamlessly from college classrooms into lucrative technical careers.

"Growth Sector is committed to fostering a culture of innovation and excellence in high-tech Education," said Caz Pereira of Growth Sector. "Our Engineering Degree Apprenticeship Pathway initiative is designed to equip students with the tools and experiences they need to thrive in a competitive academic setting as well as in the professional workforce and beyond."

The program has already drawn strong support from prominent industry leaders such as NASA, Lockheed Martin, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and Caltrans. Through these partnerships, students gain access to hands-on experiences, including paid internships in their second year of college and part-time apprenticeships in their third year, all while pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree.

At the same time, students receive personalized academic, social, and career guidance from trained Student Support Specialists who remain with them throughout their academic and professional journeys.

Growth Sector is active in five states and has supported more than 3,300 community college students and placed over 1,000 paid internships, empowering students to build successful careers in engineering, computer science, aerospace, and other STEM fields.

This effort across California is supported by funding from the U.S. Department of Labor's Building Pathways to Infrastructure Jobs Grant Program, Eli & Edythe Broad Foundation, Crankstart, Tipping Point Community, Sobrato Philanthropies, and ECMC Foundation.

MEDIA INVITATION

Media representatives are invited to attend the event and speak with students, faculty, and representatives from Cal State LA, Caltrans, the California Department of Water Resources, and Growth Sector.

Interviews and photo opportunities are available upon request.

EVENT DETAILS

Event: Engineering Degree Apprenticeship Pathway Showcase

Date: Friday, August 7, 2026 (10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)

Lab Tours: 10:30 - 11:45 a.m.

Lunch and Panel: 12:10 - 12:50 p.m.

Poster Session: 1 - 2 p.m.

Location: California State University, Los Angeles,

Hosted by: Growth Sector, Cal State LA and Caltrans

Featuring: LACC, ELAC, LAMC and GCC Summer Bridge Cohorts and Cal State LA EDAP Interns

Building: Engineering and Technology (E&T) Courtyard

Parking: Please reach out to media contact for parking information.

EDAP Showcase Event Dates

July 31st, 2026 - University of Maryland

August 5th, 2026 - San Jose State University

August 6th, 2026 - Cal State University East Bay

August 7th, 2026 - Cal State Los Angeles

About Growth Sector

Growth Sector is dedicated to opening pathways to high-quality, high-paying STEM careers for students traditionally excluded from these opportunities. Through our innovative STEM Core Engineering Degree Apprenticeship Pathway, we combine academic preparation with paid, hands-on work experience. This dual approach supports community college students in transferring into four-year technical degree programs while simultaneously gaining real-world employment in their field of study.

Our Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship programs place students directly into the workplace, allowing them to earn while they learn. These paid positions provide invaluable experience and early career momentum before graduation.

The EDAP model builds a cohort-based peer learning community and provides paid engineering-related opportunities, ensuring that students receive both academic and practical support throughout their journey. By integrating education, employment, and a robust support network, Growth Sector is helping students from all backgrounds gain the credentials, skills, and confidence to thrive in the STEM workforce. (<https://www.growthsector.org/>)

About California State University, Los Angeles

California State University, Los Angeles is the premier comprehensive public university in the heart of Los Angeles. Cal State LA is ranked number one in the United States for the upward mobility of its students. Cal State LA is dedicated to engagement, service, and the public good, offering nationally recognized programs in science, the arts, business, criminal justice, engineering, nursing, education, and the humanities. Founded in 1947, the University serves more than 22,000 students and has more than 260,000 distinguished alumni.

Cal State LA's EDAP engineering interns are community college transfer students participating in the Summer Making, Academic Prep, and Research for Transfer Students (SMART) Internship Program, led by Professor Charles Liu in the University's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The program provides students with hands-on experience in research and technologies like artificial intelligence, machine learning, computer vision, and augmented/and virtual reality.

Since its inception, SMART has supported 74 interns, with 16 more joining in summer 2026. It is part of Growth Sector's EDAP, supported by the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Science Foundation, which focuses on helping underrepresented students succeed in STEM. (<https://www.calstatela.edu/>)

SAVE THE DATE

ENGINEERING DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAY SHOWCASE

**FRIDAY
AUGUST 7, 2026
@ Cal State Los Angeles**

CLICK TO RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/CSULASHOWCASE26>

SCAN TO RSVP:



**GROWTH
SECTOR**



EDAP
Engineering Degree
Apprenticeship Pathway

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



**Workforce
Development Board**
Contra Costa County





ENGINEERING DEGREE APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAY SHOWCASE

Showcase Agenda

- 10:00am - 10:30pm** Arrival at CSULA- Opening Remarks
- 10:30am-11:45am** Lab Tours
- 12:00pm-12:10pm** LACCD Transfer Resources and Services
- 12:10pm- 12:50pm** Lunch/Panel: Dept Water and Resources
- 12:50pm-1:00pm** CSULA Transfer Resources and Services
- 1:00pm-2:00pm** Poster Session
- 2:00 PM** Closing Remarks and Program Conclusion