

Overview

The Inland Empire (Riverside and San Bernardino Counties) lags behind much of California and the nation in terms of economic development, educational attainment and overall quality of life. As an integral part of the regional infrastructure, the University of California, Riverside (UCR) and the campus community are actively working to be a part of the solution by taking advantage of and building on the Inland Empire's strengths. In 2009, FACE (Federation for A Competitive Economy) was established with the mission of creating an intellectual climate in the Inland Empire that promotes and improves educational opportunities for ALL students, significantly benefiting the economy whose prosperity depends on a well-trained workforce at a time when society's jobs are demanding even greater education and skills. FACE, a community-education partnership, is focused on creating systemic change through collaboration with business, education and civic partners.

Goal

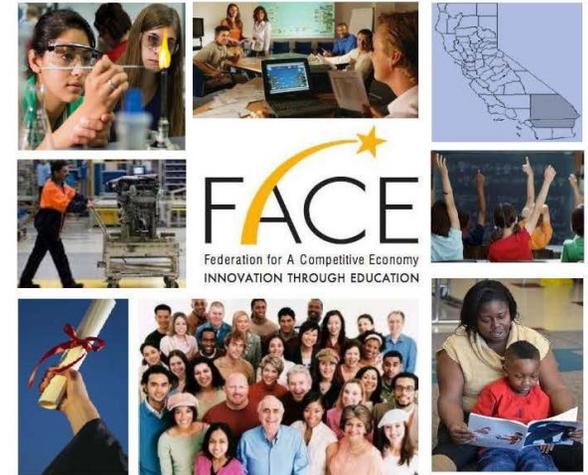
Working closely with our partners, FACE serves as a catalyst for improving the number of students who graduate from high school **prepared** to enroll, **succeed** and **graduate** from post-secondary institutions **ready** for a meaningful career.

Strategic Priorities

- ✓ Promote the value and importance of a seamless learning system that offers accessible, quality education for all students.
- ✓ Facilitate communication within the region as a means for sharing best practices and the development of working-partnerships.
- ✓ Introduce new initiatives that address unmet needs and challenges.
- ✓ Serve as an advocate for excellence in education and foster collaboration to advance student achievement across the entire education network.
- ✓ Encourage a strong pipeline of qualified workers-- especially in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics fields.

Outcomes

FACE measure's its success and tracks progress in three areas: engagement and communication with the community; development of working partnerships that further educational outcomes; and the support and promotion of successful educational initiatives/programs.



Justification

- ✓ 66% of K-12 students are from traditionally underrepresented populations.
- ✓ 63% of students receive free or reduced lunch.
- ✓ Only 25% of graduating high school students have completed the coursework requirements in order to be eligible for the University of California or the California State University Systems.
- ✓ College degree attainment rates are low with only 19.2% of adults 25 years or older holding a college degree.

Regional Strengths

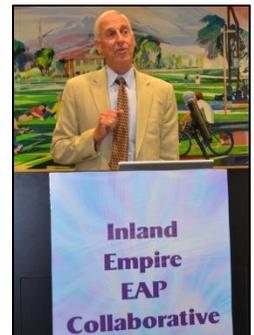
- ✓ In addition to seventeen other public and private higher education institution, UCR is a community leader that contributes \$1.4 billion to the state economy yearly and is ranked 5th in the nation in contributing to the public good.
- ✓ Local policy makers that are actively working to direct future growth.
- ✓ A commitment from the community to support progress in the region, exemplified by the wide array of stakeholder coalitions.
- ✓ Astounding population growth that encompasses a diverse, vibrant population.

Vehicles for Change

- ✓ FACE has created a strategic alliance with the Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP) to address the formal and informal education issues in our community with the support of the business community. IEEP exists to better the business climate and quality of life in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The goal of the IEEP-FACE alliance is to work with all of the multiple stakeholders in Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, with the support of the business community, to create pathways for exceptional educational outcomes and life-long educational opportunities that will ensure a vibrant local economy.
- ✓ FACE partners with the Policy Analysis for California Education (PACE) and the California Diploma Project on the **Inland Empire EAP Collaborative**. This work is designed to improve the college readiness of high school students in mathematics and language arts, and reduce the need for developmental education at 2 and 4 year colleges and universities. One of the most important strides the Collaborative has made is the formation of an Executive Action Board for guiding this endeavor. The Board has representatives from community colleges, Cal Poly Pomona, CSU San Bernardino, CSU San Marcos, UC Riverside, both County Offices of Education and K-12 school districts. Eight community colleges are now using the EAP as an indicator of readiness. Funding for this initiative comes from the Walter S. Johnson Foundation, the Alliance for Regional Collaboration to Heighten Educational Success (ARCHES) and the Irvine Foundation. This K-College effort has the potential to be a model for the entire state.
- ✓ FACE is collaborating with the San Bernardino Alliance for Education and the statewide California STEM Learning Network (CSL Net)-- a non-profit organization working to catalyze innovation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) teaching and learning in the state of California. The goal is to create an **Inland Empire STEM Network** that promotes significant change in policies and practices that will scale up quality STEM education and support teachers in preparing underserved students for post-secondary success.
- ✓ FACE regularly collaborates with a variety of partners in the region to support and host programs that are proven best practices in the region. Examples of our **Best-Practice Partnerships** include: the Science and Technology Education Partnership (STEP) Conference, the Soropotomist International of Riverside Conference, Las Alas Gems, and the STEM Professionals in the Classroom program.



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