











# **Uniquely Abled**

A Business Led Initiative to Employ People with Autism



Glendale Community College

## **Our History**



### **Needs under AB86**



Conduct Labor Intelligence Research

**Conduct Environmental Scan** 

**Gather Stakeholder Input** 

**Establish Partnerships** 

**Facilitate Planning Events** 

Develop 3 Year Plan

### **Our Purpose**



#### **Vision**

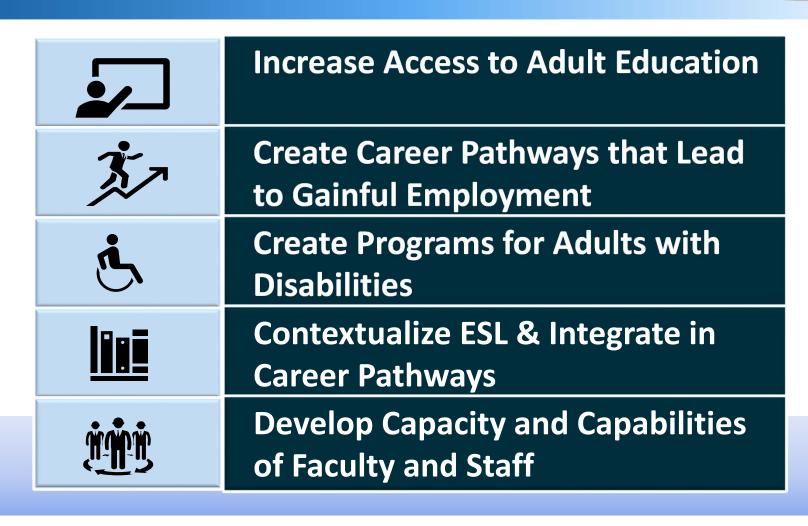
All adult learners will have access to and participate in education and resources leading to meaningful employment or higher education.

#### **Mission**

The Glendale Community College Regional Consortium provides pathways to skills and education towards viable employment, regardless of ability, through multiple community partners.

#### **Priorities**





#### The Need





Prevalence of ASD in US: 1 in 68 (CDC)
Prevalence in CA: 1 in 113 (TACA)
Los Angeles has 4 clusters of autism prevalence



**Unemployment Rate for People with Disabilities in LA: 17.7%** 



**Unemployment Rate for Cognitive Disabilities:** 59.7%

## The Challenge





"If you've met one person with autism, you've met one person with autism"

Dr. Stephen Shore

Each customer has unique abilities and needs, requiring a variety of supports and accommodations

# **Business Led Partnership**



























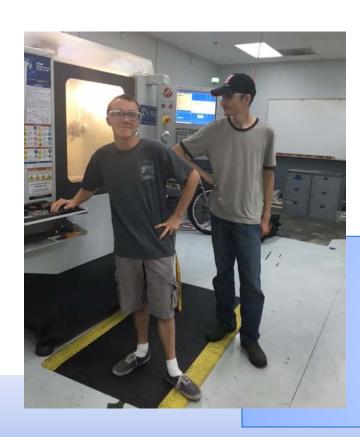




**Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Machinists** 

### **Work Readiness**





Work Readiness,
Job Placement
& Retention

## **Work Readiness**

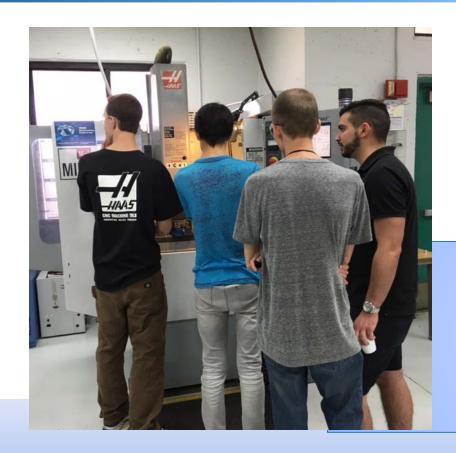




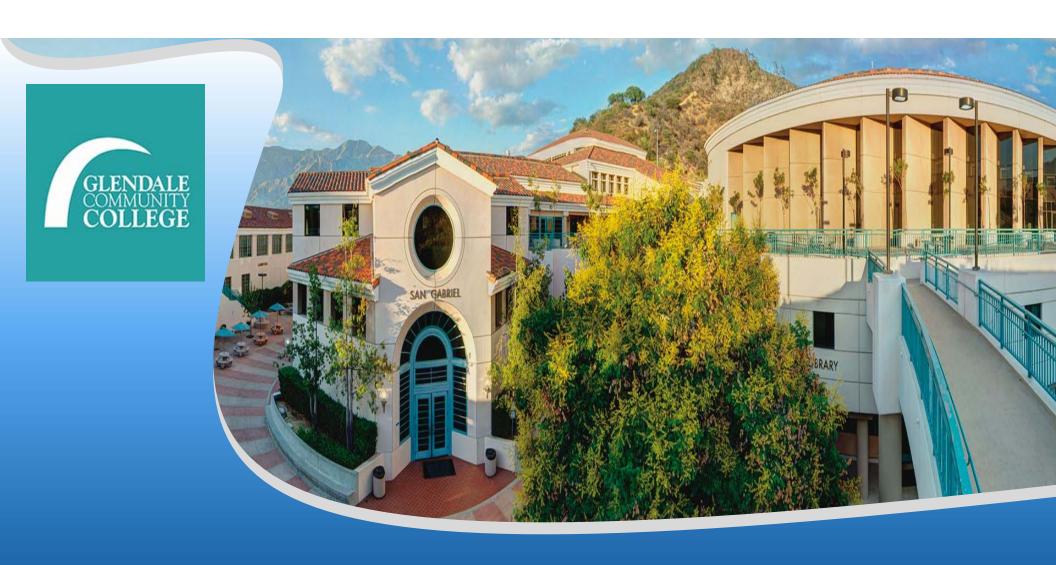
College & Career Pathway







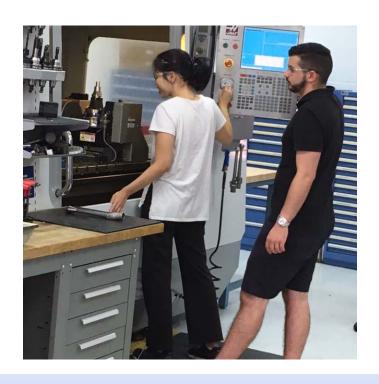
Paid Work Experience for Adults



Founders and Creators of the Uniquely Abled Academy







- Designed to fill the need for CNC machinists with this untapped source of talent.
- Focused on providing jobs where prior training is needed.
- Students get hands-on work experience



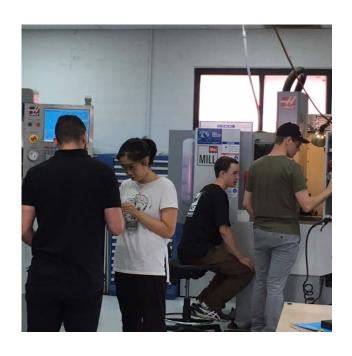




- > Students will learn to:
  - Program, setup, and operate CNC machines
  - Use quality control instruments
  - Shop mathematics
  - Blueprint reading







- ➤ Graduates will qualify for entrylevel positions including:
  - ➤ Machine Trainee
  - ➤ Machinist Apprentice
  - >CNC Operator
  - >CNC Programmer

# The Uniquely Abled Academy at GCC

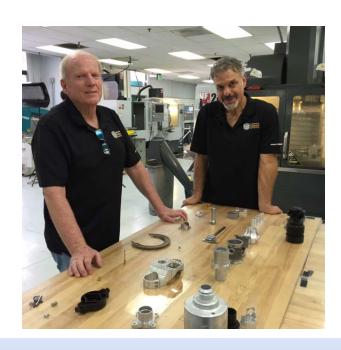




➤ Instructors are trained and experienced in teaching adults with ASD

# **Key Success Factors**





**Long-standing partnerships** 

**Industry-connected instructors** 

**Business driven culture** 

Rigorous curriculum with handson labs



Haas Factory Outlet, Inc.







**Assist with Curriculum Design** 



**Continuous Input** 



**Connect to Other Employers** 



**Leadership & Expertise** 

# **The Industry Outlook**



#### Addressing the Workforce Skills Gap



49%
Claim addressing
workforce challenges
is top priority



69%

Plan an increase in workforce in the next

12 months

Source: Sikich Manufacturing Survey 2017





### **Companies anticipate:**



48%
Organic growth in existing market



**34%**New product or service development

Source: Sikich Manufacturing Survey 2017

## **Top Facts About Manufacturing**

**Source: National Association of Manufacturers** 





Manufacturers contributed \$2.17 trillion to US economy in 2015



Vast majority of manufacturing firms are small



12.3M manufacturing workers in US comprising 9% of workers



In 2015, average annual earnings was \$81,289 with benefits



One of the highest percentages of workers with health benefits provided by employers



Have experienced tremendous growth over past couple decades



Over the next decade, nearly 3.5M jobs will likely be needed and 2M are expected to go unfulfilled due to skills gap



Taken alone, US manufacturing is the 9th largest economy in the world

# **The Opportunity**





**CNC Machinist Jobs are Unfulfilled** 

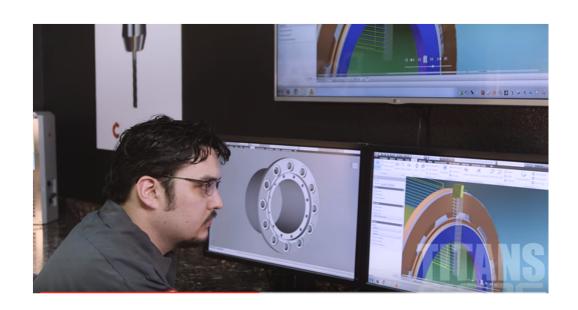
2.1% Annual Projected Growth Rate

**Median Hourly Wage: \$29.52** 

Data Source: Occupational Employment Projections, Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale Metropolitan Division Employment Development Department Labor Market Information Division

### The Job Match





#### **Job Requirements**

- Attention to detail
- Repetitive process orientation
- Ability to follow clear, objective instruction
- Computer aptitude

Capitalize on unique abilities of individuals with high functioning autism

### **The Attraction for Business**





Determine that the project will create qualified candidates



Connection to the partner(s)



Training customized to business specifications



http://www.htecnetwork.org/

# The Employer's Voice





- Design the curriculum
- Design the overall project
- Identify opportunities for excellence
- Ensure candidates acquire competencies they need
- Review resumes; conduct mock interviews
- Interview and hire graduates
- Contribute to program

# The Voice of the Employer



I just hired two CNC operators from The Uniquely Abled Academy. They are running the machines and they are running them very well. I could not be happier. They have already become an asset to the company.

Björn N.P. Paulsson CEO & President Paulsson, Inc.



# The Voice of the Employer



[Our UAA Employee] is actually working out so well, we are going to start cross training him on a more advanced machine.

Susan Solebello Human Resource Generalist





Verdugo Workforce Development Board & WIOA Title I







**Career Assessments** 



**Career Training** 



**Work Based Training** 



**Supportive Services** 



**Job Placement Assistance & Retention** 

### **Business Services**





**Recruitment & Job Matching** 



**Hiring Incentives** 



**Labor Market Information** 



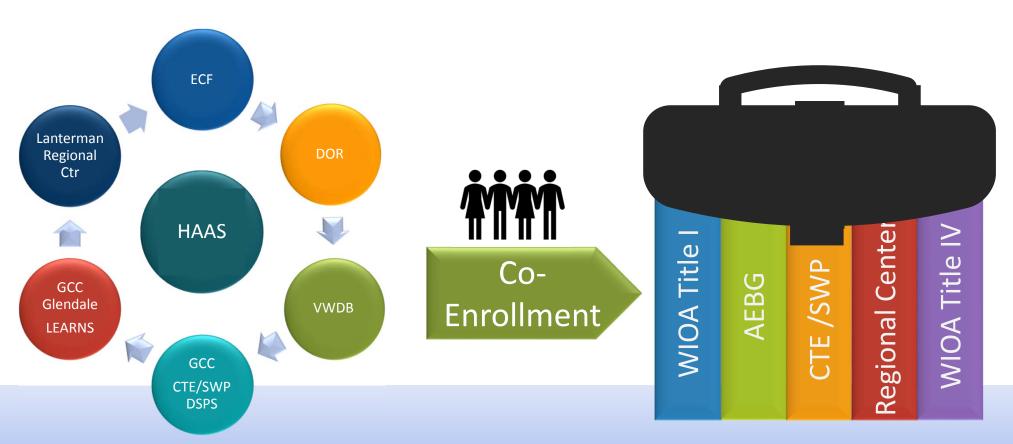
**Lay Off Assistance** 



**Connections to Resources** 

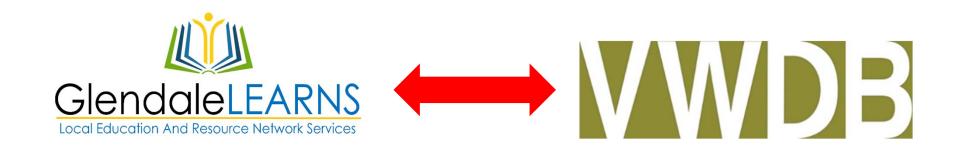


# **Customer-Centered Approach**



### **An Integrated Partnership**





VWDB enrolls AEBG students in CalJOBS and WIOA Title I

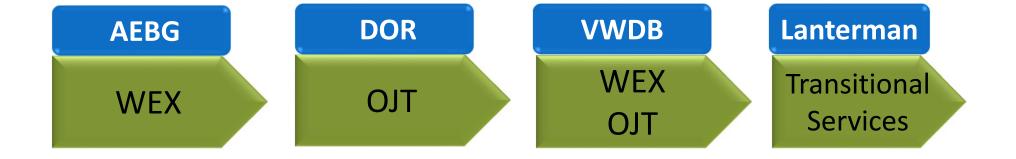












#### **Successful Results**





- ➤ After 2 Cohorts: 15 graduates
- > Two students are in higher ed
- Thirteen students are employed:87% placement rate
- Twelve graduates from December are in job search



State of California Department of Rehabilitation



#### **Rehabilitation Services: WIOA Title IV**



**Career Assessments** 



**Career Training** 



**On-the-Job Training: 100 % Reimbursement** 



**Supportive Services** 



**Job Placement Assistance** 







Coaching potential employers how to select







Coaching employers how to on-board, manage and integrate







Job Coaching for Employers and New Employees

### **Co-Enrollment**





**Starts at the Top with Leaders** 

Does not just happen

Must have infrastructure

**Requires continuous coordination** 

**Continuous team work** 



## **Co-Enrollment: Expect Confusion and Resistance**

My supervisor has not told me to co-enroll



Oh. You meant start co-enrolling **now**?

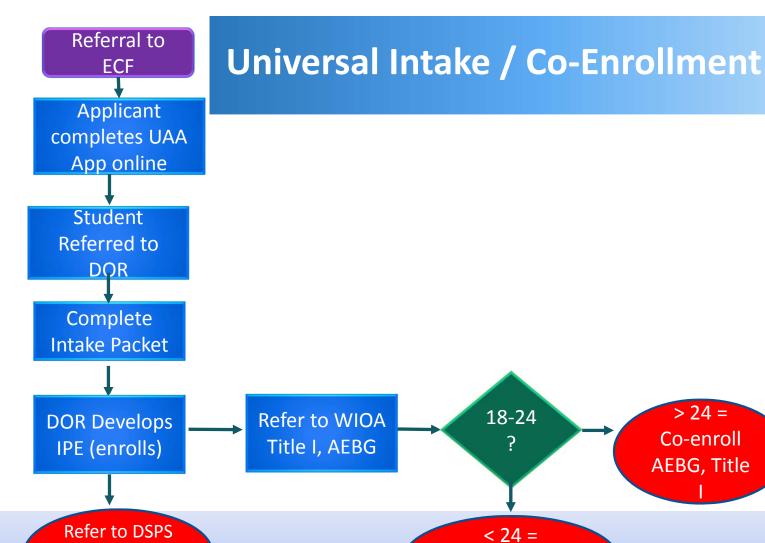


My customers don't need partner services.



If I do the work, why should I share the credit?





Co-enroll GYA,

AEBG, Title I

for GCC

**Enrollment** 





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## **Next Steps & Questions**





#### Next Steps:

- Next Academy begins in August,2018
- Career Pathways will be offered in Spring Semester to prepare for Fall course
  - > Open house: January 25, 2018
- What questions can we answer for you?













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