



# CENTRAL VALLEY HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

## **ABSTRACT – CENTRAL VALLEY DEGREE COMPLETION MODEL**

Proposed is a model of regional cooperation that is organized around the theory that improving degree completion is a viable economic recovery strategy. The *Central Valley Degree Completion Model* addresses a growing national need to redesign articulation agreements to improve completion rates and to reduce the time and costs of degree attainment. The model has four points: (1) establish region-wide articulation and transfer agreements (2) utilize common course numbering systems (3) structure curriculum that articulates region-wide and (4) create incentives for transfer and degree completion. Using a cadre of articulation design and implementation teams comprised of faculty leaders, articulation officers, admission, and outreach specialists, **Phase I** will focus on completion for degree programs in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and in Liberal Studies. Employment data and campus offerings will help to prioritize subsequent majors for replication. Measurable outcomes include: (a) completing articulation agreements (b) raising the percentage of underrepresented groups who hold demand-driven degrees (c) increasing the number of students in high demand and regionally offered majors who had all their courses articulated by the receiving institutions and (d) improving transfer rates between two and four year institutions – public, private and proprietary. Additional outputs of the initiative include providing broad communications to Central Valley students and employers and sharing best practices. Evaluation methods will produce quantitative and qualitative data addressing fidelity of implementation and all expected measurable outcomes.