



Connecting the Dots: Uplifting Communities Through Coordinated Education and Workforce Strategies



Technology changes and recent crises have brought about continuing acceleration of the pace of workforce changes and a greater awareness of the importance of equitable economic mobility.

Economic and workforce development organizations at the state and local level are facing:

- **Unemployment/underemployment with significantly higher rates in communities that face systemic barriers to prosperity**
- **Challenges with aligning labor supply and market demand**
- **Difficulties ensuring that postsecondary education and training providers are effective in meeting the changing needs of people and employers**

By bringing together the right stakeholders across the economic and workforce development ecosystem, CAEL creates partnerships that align postsecondary institutions and other learning providers; employers; industry associations, and workforce and economic development organizations to better connect adult learners to careers and promote equitable economic mobility.

WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS CAN:



Improve economic mobility and equity

Increase access to postsecondary credentials and degrees with clear links to rewarding careers within growth industries.



Support economic prosperity for all

Favorably position cities, states, and regions to attract and support businesses by creating effective workforce development strategies that align community stakeholders and resources, and provide prosperity for all.



Create effective partnerships

Bolster the effectiveness of regional employers and postsecondary institutions by participating in partnerships with them.



HOW CAEL CAN HELP

Advising and Program Support

- Improving the economic mobility of adult learners
- Strategic partnership development
- Data gathering and analysis, strategy development, goal setting, and tracking
- Accelerate credential completion by recognizing on-the-job and other non-institutional learning and by incorporating stackable credentials
- Labor market data review for regional labor markets
- Inventory of education and training options
- Inventory of community-based support in a region
- Career pathways to in-demand occupations
- Crosswalks from declining occupations to ones that are growing
- Mapping industry training and credentials to courses and including them in the awarding of credit for prior learning
- Communications and outreach strategy to ensure residents in a region understand their options

Membership and Events

- CAEL membership — join forces with CAEL's network of like-minded stakeholders
- Annual CAEL conference and events
- Professional development and training

Platforms and Tools

- Statewide/systemwide platforms and online career exploration tools that empower job seekers to discover career and educational pathways within a community

Learn more at cael.org and connect with us to discover how we can collaborate.



Recognizing that adult learners are the backbone of the U.S. economy, CAEL helps forge a clear, viable connection between education and career success, providing solutions that promote sustainable and equitable economic growth. CAEL opens doors to opportunity in collaboration with workforce and economic developers, postsecondary educators, and employers, industry groups, foundations, and other mission-aligned organizations. By engaging with these stakeholders, we foster a culture of innovative, lifelong learning that helps individuals and their communities thrive. Established in 1974, CAEL, a part of Strada Collaborative, Inc., is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) membership organization.