

The global COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically shifted the delivery of career technical education in the health care industry. The pandemic has also necessitated the rapid adoption of telehealth as a strategy to overcome physical barriers to care during stay-at-home orders, sustain continuity of outpatient care, and maximize health of the workforce while reducing patient and provider exposure. Consequently, the healthcare industry is currently in the midst of unprecedented change, providing an opportunity for this innovative partnership to play a key role in pivoting the industry toward telehealth, or long distance clinical healthcare, while sustaining high road jobs, increasing competitiveness and quality of care for patients, and maximizing climate resiliency.

Shirley Ware Education Center's mission is to empower a diverse health care workforce to advance in a changing environment through innovative education and training solutions in the Central Valley and Inland Empire. The project will take a comprehensive approach in acting as the bridge that connects the demand for quality jobs with the supply of workers. SWEC develops program participants for those jobs by providing effective education and training solutions. Their strategy is to support learners all along what is referred to as "The Learner Journey" so participants are successful at advancing in their careers and securing priority jobs that employers need filled.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Reduced displacement of workers from carbon-reducing technologies
- Proactive skill building for workers to succeed with new technologies
- Increased climate resiliency
- Increased uptake of telehealth options for patients, particularly in disadvantaged communities
- Partner with workers and community organizations to design and deliver online/hybrid postsecondary training that leads to industry-recognized certificates
- Increase equity and access to middle-wage healthcare careers for a population that has been traditionally underserved, which COVID-19 has only exacerbated
- Increased number of workers qualified to deliver telehealth care and support tele-medicine, allowing both workers and patients to sustain reduced carbon-emitting modes of healthcare delivery

KEY PARTNERS

- Kaiser Permanente
- Dignity Health
- SEIU-UHW
- Emerald Cities Collaborative
- Healthcare without Harm

