

CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARD AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

October 13, 2026

Full meeting documents, public comments, agenda, and future meeting dates may also be found on the [CWDB website](#).

Members in Attendance:

- Board Chair Joanna Rees*
- Alysia Bell*
- Chancellor Sonya Christian, represented by designee Vice Chancellor Anthony Cordova*
- Tyrone Evans*
- Director Nancy Farias, represented by designee Javier Romero*
- Laurence Frank*
- Brendalynn Goodall*
- Jennifer Haley*
- Hala Hijazi*
- Secretary Stewart Knox, represented by designee Abby Snay*
- Hilary Lentini*
- Magda Menendez*
- Robert Redlo*
- Nicole Rice*
- Director Kimberly Rutledge, represented by designee Nancy Wentling
- Angel Sanchez*
- Jeremy Smith*
- Anette Smith*
- Amelia Tyagi*

* indicates member participated in the meeting remotely via Zoom

CWDB Staff Participants:

- Kaina Pereira, Executive Director

Guest and State Partner Presenters:

- Reed Hastings, Board Member, Anthropic
- Ellyn Terry, PhD, Senior Economist, Employment Development Department (EDD) Labor Market Information Division (LMID)
- Sharon Terman, Assistant Chief Counsel, Labor & Workforce Development Agency (LWDA)

Agenda

1. Continuing Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence in the Workforce
 - a. A Conversation with Reed Hastings
 - b. Board Member Discussion
 - c. Public Comment
2. SB 135: Labor Market Information Division (LMID) New Priority Jobs List and Application for Workforce Pell
 - a. Labor & Workforce Development Agency/LMID Presentation
 - b. Board Member Discussion
 - c. Public Comment
3. General Public Comments
4. Adjournment

1. Continuing Dialogue on Artificial Intelligence in the Workforce

Board Chair Joanna Rees opened the meeting and introduced guest speaker Reed Hastings, noting his service on the board of Anthropic and his past leadership as Chair of the California State Board of Education. Reflecting on technological transitions he navigated at Netflix, Hastings emphasized that successful organizations must anticipate customer needs years in advance rather than rely on incremental improvement. Looking out three to five years, he said individuals and organizations that use Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance productivity will hold significant advantages, and he framed the economic outlook as a question of whether productivity gains will generate enough growth to sustain full employment or instead reduce overall demand for labor. He observed that hiring decisions increasingly turn on relative AI competency rather than age or tenure.

Turning to education, Hastings contrasted traditional classroom instruction with the far greater gains produced by individualized tutoring, and projected that affordable, humanlike AI tutors will become widely available within a few years. He cautioned schools

against blanket bans on AI or screen time, recommending instead that they curate strong educational tools, raise academic expectations, and integrate AI into everyday coursework. At the macro level, he pointed to early labor-market signals of displacement, argued that safety oversight is better handled at the federal level with a focus on biosecurity and cybersecurity, and anticipated a later wave of physical AI and robotics affecting blue-collar occupations.

Board members and the Executive Director engaged Hastings in an extended discussion covering education and critical thinking, skills-based hiring, workforce and industry transitions, data governance, California's long-term competitiveness, and public anxiety about emerging technology.

No public comment was received.

2. SB 135: Labor Market Information Division (LMID) New Priority Jobs List and Application for Workforce Pell

Sharon Terman, Assistant General Counsel for the Labor & Workforce Development Agency, presented an overview of Senate Bill 135, the trailer bill implementing the federal Workforce Pell Grant program in California. The program extends Pell Grant eligibility to approved short-term training programs aligned with high-skill, high-wage, or in-demand occupations. Under SB 135, the Employment Development Department (EDD) must develop and maintain a statewide occupations list, updated every two years alongside the WIOA State Plan, present the initial list to CWDB at a board meeting, and provide it to the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) to inform eligibility determinations.

Ellyn Terry, Senior Economist at EDD's Labor Market Information Division (LMID), presented the methodology behind the New Priority Jobs List and the derived Workforce Pell Occupations List. She explained that the New Priority Jobs List is intended to simplify complex labor market data for state agencies and higher education institutions. Calculated within each of California's Regional Planning Units, occupations are identified as in-demand based on projected job openings, projected employment growth, and recent online job posting activity, and are then evaluated against regional cost-of-living thresholds drawn from the United Way ALICE survival budget. Occupations that are both in-demand and above the insufficient wage threshold qualify as Priority Jobs. Terry illustrated the model using regional data and demonstrated an interactive tool allowing users to filter results by career cluster, location, and educational attainment. Applying additional filters for training and degree requirements yielded 571 qualifying occupations statewide.

Board members then discussed the methodology and its implications, including the stringency of the ALICE survival budget as a wage benchmark, the underlying federal and

state data sources, program quality safeguards, support services such as childcare and transportation, and CSAC's broader statutory role in evaluating program outcomes and institutional eligibility. Terry explained that using the baseline threshold preserves broad occupational eligibility while allowing agencies to apply higher wage filters suited to their own program goals.

Tina Carthell, representing the San Diego Imperial Center of Excellence, provided public comment in support of the baseline wage threshold, noting that standard wage data lags real-time market wages and that higher statutory thresholds can inadvertently exclude regional high-demand occupations.

4. General Public Comments

General Public Comment: [Sean Sullivan](#)

5. Adjournment

CWDB's Executive Director announced that the previously scheduled November 10 and December 16, 2026, meetings had been canceled, with the next committee and full board meetings scheduled for 2027. He encouraged board members to complete the planning survey and participate in the upcoming general election. All business having concluded, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:48 a.m.