

Project Title: **Early College Credit Ambassador (ECCA) Pilot Program**

Project Lead: Dr. Glyn Bongolan, Associate Dean of Early College Credit; Jennifer Finn, Manager Early College Credit

Performance Period: 5/13/24 – 5/31/26; Award Amount: \$14,136

Funding Source: The Border Region Inclusive Talent Pipeline Collaborative, California Regional K-16 Education Collaboratives Grant Program

Project Goal: Increase awareness and participation in dual enrollment by training high school students to serve as peer ambassadors for early college credit opportunities.



Key Achievements

- Developed and implemented a comprehensive Early College Credit Ambassador program, including a training manual, resource guide, and structured ambassador training.
- Trained and supported student ambassadors to promote dual enrollment opportunities and help peers with college applications, enrollment, Canvas, MyPalomar, and campus resources.
- Expanded access to college advising by providing dedicated Palomar counseling support at partner high schools and developing student planning resources.
- Leveraged Federal Work-Study funding to sustain a Palomar student ambassador beyond the pilot period.



Student Impact

- Increased student awareness of dual enrollment opportunities through peer-to-peer outreach led by trained student ambassadors.
- Supported high school students in navigating Palomar College's application process, enrollment, and student support processes.
- Equipped students with educational planning tools, including dual enrollment course offerings, associate degree requirements, and Cal-GETC course maps.



Partnerships & Collaborations

- Partnered with Escondido Union High School District and San Marcos Unified School District to pilot the Early College Credit Ambassador program.
- Strengthened coordination between Palomar College and partner high schools to support students transitioning into dual enrollment.
- Deepened Palomar College's partnership with the Border Region Inclusive Talent Pipeline Collaborative through successful implementation of the pilot program.



Institutional and Community Impact

- Established a scalable Early College Credit Ambassador model and training resources to support future dual enrollment initiatives.
- Strengthened institutional capacity to support dual enrollment through coordinated outreach, advising, and student ambassador initiatives.
- Laid the foundation for a larger K–16 Strategic Award focused on instructional pathways, student retention, and student success.



What's Next?

Building on the success of the pilot, Palomar College secured a Border Region Inclusive Talent Pipeline Collaborative Strategic Award to broaden dual enrollment outreach and strengthen student pathway supports. Future efforts will strengthen instructional pathway guidance, enhance systematic collection of student feedback, improve college navigation and student success resources, and distribute updated Ambassador Handbooks and Palomar catalogs annually to K–12 partners.