

Community Focus Statement C: Build human capital and promote enterprise, with a focus on environmentally friendly businesses, to strengthen the local economy and provide opportunities for residents and families to be self-reliant.

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Action Statement C.2: Establish entrepreneurship, business training, and career development programs in partnership with local colleges and universities that empower locals to grow careers or businesses related to the Big Bear Valley economy such as outdoor recreation, high altitude training, health, wellness, and rehabilitation services, environmental science, and natural resource extraction and management.

Benchmarks: Identify regularly available jobs around the Bear Valley area that provide a living wage for local residents and create a database for easy access.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: Costs variable depending upon the program desired.



Business forum on vocational training. Photo source: [DGEMPL](#)

Educational programs often require basic infrastructure, including meeting space, computers, Internet access, and other amenities. One way to access those types of facilities without having to develop or fund a new building is to enter into a joint use agreement with an existing public facility. Joint use agreements between communities and universities or junior colleges take various forms, depending on the type of agreement and who owns the facility being used. The form most applicable to the Bear Valley communities is a basic joint use

agreement where non-district entities are granted the use of facilities controlled, owned, or used by the school district. This type of agreement would allow universities and junior colleges to set up satellite campuses in different communities with minimal infrastructure costs and to offer adult classes or higher education learning opportunities in the communities.

Currently, the Bear Valley communities have a number of existing establishments, from elementary schools to adult schools, which have the existing infrastructure to potentially provide joint use educational opportunities for residents in most traditional subjects. Additionally, Bear Valley residents would have access to opportunities in the Rim of the World Unified School District if a regional mountain system were established. Such a system could increase the diversity of classes offered and attract a wider audience of residents.

A basic joint use agreement is fairly easy to establish and is usually a short-term agreement. This agreement would allow classes to change frequently while still allowing for renewal or a long-term agreement if the program is widely desired. Basic joint use access generally does not require an extensive legal framework and can be created with an agreement establishing basic fees and some indemnification of the school district related to liability. Communities can create a specific organization which identifies educational gaps in the community and looks for outreach from universities or colleges that specialize in those topics. Such an organization would serve as the point of contact for schools and keep information new and relevant for community members.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Convene educators, employers, non-profit organizations and/or student leaders to form a working group. Designate a chairperson.	Champion	Month 1	Big Bear Chamber of Commerce http://www.bigbearchamber.com/
2. Contact major employers and identify living wage jobs, and their associated skillsets, are anticipated to be in demand in the Big Bear economy.	Working group	Months 1–3	Big Bear Career Institute https://www.cinow.org/ Business Training Works https://www.businesstrainingworks.com/
3. Identify local colleges and other educational institutions that offer programs relevant to the job skills listed in action step 2.	Working group	Months 4–6	Big Bear Valley Ecotourism http://bigbearecotourism.org/
4. Work with local colleges and other educational institutions to offer academic and vocational programs that can lead to the desired types of jobs.	Working group, local colleges	Months 4–12	Bear Valley Unified School District https://www.bearvalleyusd.org/
5. Work with local employers to offer internships for the desired jobs.	Working group, local employers	Months 4–12	San Bernardino County Economic Development Agency- Workplace Development http://wp.sbcounty.gov/workforce/
6. Advertise educational programs and internships to high school students and underemployed residents.	Working group, Big Bear Chamber of Commerce	Year 3	
7. Report on the effectiveness of local programs, and revise the programs to improve success.	Working group	Annually, starting in Year 3	