

Community Focus Statement D: Grow the local economy in a manner consistent with the rural desert character.

Action Statement D.4: Partner with local educational institutions such as Copper Mountain College to develop or expand educational programs that lead to higher wage employment.

D4

Benchmark: A one-stop resource is created to locate educational opportunities at local institutions in the area and through online sources.

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

Estimated Cost: Dependent upon programs needed.



CSU San Bernardino offers extended learning programs and certificates to people of any age and education level to expand their workforce opportunities.

As technology increases and professions continue to change, access to extended learning opportunities for people of all ages is important. Generally, local educational institutions are ideal places to implement these educational programs because they are in line with what is already being done at the institution and there is the infrastructure (classrooms, computer labs, lecture halls) to support it.

Because of its location within the community, Copper Mountain College would be a sensible place to lobby for the creation of more educational programs focused on skill development. Community members would likely need to try and convince the college that these programs are necessary, as it is not a County-run institution.

Another option is to review the classes already in place at California State University San Bernardino's satellite campus in Palm Desert. CSU San Bernardino's College of Extended Learning focuses on expanding students' opportunities in various career paths by offering programs and courses to guide them toward professional development. This campus is farther away from the community than Copper Mountain College, but still within driving distance. The local SCORE office in Palm Desert also offers free business mentorship and employee training. The Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce could serve as an information hub to provide community members with connections to these existing programs.

Action Statement D4, D5, and D6 could be completed together.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Identify a group of local business leaders and interested partners to create an Economic Enforcement Team	Team with Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce	Months 1	Cal State University, San Bernardino http://cel.csusb.edu/
2. Coordinate a location (either web-based or in person) for community members to get information on educational opportunities.	Team with Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce	Months 1 – 2	Copper Mountain College http://www.cmccd.edu/ SCORE https://www.score.org/
3. Designate a Chamber board member as an educational liaison who stays in contact with local universities and colleges.	Team	Month 2	
4. Organize conference calls four times per year to discuss upcoming programs or potential new programs.	Team with Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce	Month 2	
5. Contact the local SCORE office to get employees and new business owners access to business education and mentoring.	Team with Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce	Month 3	
6. Advertise educational opportunities and career-ladder programs at community events and meetings.	Team with Joshua Tree Chamber of Commerce	On-going	