



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media Contact:**

Marla Eby – Director, Marketing & Media Relations

(323) 539-2104

[meby@goodwillsocal.org](mailto:meby@goodwillsocal.org)

## **Goodwill Southern California To Host Regional Meetup To Convene Public/Private Stakeholders In Discussions About The Future Of Work**

Palmdale, California, March 22, 2018 – California Community Colleges Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Digital Futures Van Ton-Quinlivan announced the 2018 schedule for regional convenings that seek input from a variety of leadership audiences on the future of work, including opinions about the relevancy and value of a cohesive digital learning infrastructure to meet the needs of California's diverse workforce.

As a partner in the workforce development effort, Goodwill Southern California will host a meetup on Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018 from 9:30am to 12pm in Antelope Valley at 38550 Sierra Hwy, Palmdale, CA 93550.

Topics of the regional events align with Gov. Jerry Brown's recent budget proposal to establish a new online community college tailored to provide working learners with skills and credentials they need to move ahead in today's economy, especially for "stranded" working adults who cannot access traditional community college programs.

"Today in California, millions of adult workers find themselves economically and educationally stranded," said Ton-Quinlivan. "The rapid rise of technologies such as automation and artificial intelligence is transforming the skills necessary to succeed in the workforce of today and the future."

A survey of California employers by the Society of Human Resource Management in 2016 revealed that 64 percent of employers seeking workers in skilled trades had difficulty filling the roles. The skills gap is compounded by the fact that California has 2.5 million adults in the prime working ages of 25 to 34 that have only a high school diploma or some college but no degree, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Another 6.2 million adults between the ages of 35 to 65 years old have a high school diploma but no college degree.

The 2018 Future of Work MeetUps seek to gain insight from leaders in business and industry, education, workforce development, community-based organizations and policy makers about the skills challenges, the future of work and the creation of a digital infrastructure through regional

public/private partnerships. The events are a collaborative effort among the California Community Colleges, California Forward, California Economic Summit, and leaders in workforce and education across California.

“We are looking forward to hosting the Future of Work Meetup in Antelope Valley. At Goodwill SoCal, we believe it's crucial to come together and communicate with our community's leaders as we strategize the best ways to continue Transforming Lives Through the Power of Work for individuals who have any kind of barrier to employment,” said Simon Lopez, Goodwill Southern California VP of Workforce and Career Development.

Seating is limited at these regional events. For a full schedule and to secure a seat, go to <http://doingwhatmatters-2018meetups.com/> If you are interested in hosting an event, contact Leah Moehle at [leah@CAFWD.org](mailto:leah@CAFWD.org)

Media who wish to film at or cover the Meetup may contact Marla Eby, Director of Marketing & Media Relations, at [meby@goodwillsocal.org](mailto:meby@goodwillsocal.org).

### **About Goodwill Southern California**

*Transforming lives through the power of work, Goodwill Southern California (GSC) serves individuals with disabilities or other vocational challenges by providing education, training, work experience and job placement services. Each year, GSC prepares and places thousands of individuals into sustainable employment through programs and services offered at GSC campuses, Career Resource Centers, WorkSource Centers, Deaf, Youth and Veteran Employment Programs throughout Los Angeles (north of Rosecrans Ave.), Riverside and San Bernardino counties. GSC supports its mission with proceeds generated from 85 stores and 46 attended donation centers. GSC spends 95 percent of its budget on programs and services. Committed to caring for the earth, last year GSC diverted over 100 million pounds of reusable or recyclable goods from landfills. Goodwill is GOOD for Everyone!*

###