STANISLAUS 2030

A public-private partnership that advances a shared vision for economic prosperity for all.

Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors Quarterly Report

April 1 - June 30, 2026

GOVERNANCE

Stanislaus 2030 Goal:

To ensure leadership, infrastructure, and resources are in place to implement Stanislaus 2030 strategic priorities and measure impact over time.

TRANSITION PLANNING

- Stanislaus 2030 will officially sunset in December 2026. Staff met 1:1 with Advisory Committee members to discuss transition steps for the organization and how to ensure implementation partners are positioned for long-term sustainability.
- In addition to successful project completion, staff is focused on resource development, impact tracking, and program evaluation. Stanislaus 2030 extended the grant writer's contract through October 2026 to provide additional proposal support for implementation partners, and launched a storytelling series to elevate impact through the voices of real individuals participating in pilot projects.

REGIONAL & STATE COORDINATION

- Apr 1 - Participated in California Jobs First childcare cohort
- Apr 15 - Attended North Valley THRIVE Steering Committee
- May 1 - Participated in North Valley THRIVE's Catalytic Skills working group; shared Stanislaus 2030 manufacturing pathway map as template for regional workforce strategy
- Jun 1 - Prepared a policy brief for County DC delegation that highlighted key priorities across childcare, talent development, and small business development, as well as summaries of federal grant proposals submitted by VOLT and Modesto Junior College
- Jun 17 - Participated in North Valley THRIVE Steering Committee; priority focus is on building a permanent nonprofit for regional inclusive economic development organization

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

- Total raised/leveraged by Stanislaus 2030 to date: **$6,465,510**
- New funding secured by implementation partners this quarter:
  - CVOC - $985,200 Farmworker Resource Center - Renewal Award
  - Nurture - $263,000 California Social Entrepreneurs for Economic Development Grant
  - Valley Sierra SBDC - $309,000 from California Office of the Small Business Advocate to expand procurement program
- 7 grant proposals in the pipeline totaling $8,660,000

NEWSLETTERS (SUBSCRIBE HERE)

- April 16 - Funding & Policy Update
- May 1 - Funding & Policy Update
- May 28 - Stanislaus 2030 Impact in Motion: VOLT
- June 22 - Stanislaus 2030 Impact in Motion: CVOC

SMALL BUSINESS SUPPORTS

Vision

By 2030, any person who wants to start, sustain, or scale a business in Stanislaus County will have the support they need to be successful.

Lead Partner:
Stanislaus County Workforce Development

SUPPLIER READINESS

The Supplier Readiness Initiative had a strong second quarter. Valley Sierra SBDC hosted its first **Procurement Expo of 2026, connecting 53 businesses with 18 buyers** and resource partners to learn how to start or grow in government contracting. Among the attendees were two returning clients who met directly with agencies seeking their products or services; one has already secured a contract with the agency they connected with, and the other is actively pursuing the opportunity.

Since the initiative launched in July 2025, Valley Sierra SBDC clients have **secured a combined $7.1 million in government contracts**, with additional opportunities currently in the pipeline.

The initiative also recently received new funding from the California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA), delivered through the Central California SBDC Network, to expand its services across the region. This support will allow the program to connect clients with more agencies and private-sector buyers, and to offer access to advanced bid-matching software — strengthening its ability to help small businesses compete for and win contracting opportunities.









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LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS CONTINUE WORKING TO BETTER SERVE SMALL BUSINESSES

Progress continues on the CDFI capacity-building partnership between Valley First Credit Union, Mocse Credit Union, Rolling F Credit Union, and CAMEO Network to strengthen local lending capacity in Stanislaus County.

All three CDFIs have advanced through CAMEO's professional development series, completing the Strategic Management Framework — covering impact measurement, deployment planning, multi-year financial projections, and feedback loop design — and are now working through the Microlending Essentials (MILES) Underwriting Series, focused on loan product design, underwriting, and outreach. Each CDFI has since moved closer to launching or expanding its lending products. Valley First upgraded its data tracking system and completed iBank CalCAP and State Guarantee program training. Mocse finalized its target market and strategic plan framework, laying the groundwork for its small business lending product. Rolling F is in the process of launching a new micro loan product. Several CDFIs also flagged a need for storytelling support and financial consulting capacity going forward.

This momentum was reinforced by two major funding wins: all three organizations secured California Investment & Innovation Program (Cal IIP) awards, and Mocse and Rolling F — with Stanislaus 2030's support — applied for the FHLBank San Francisco AHEAD grant.

Next steps focus on deploying these lending products, building community and partner awareness, developing a funding case statement, and strengthening each CDFI's storytelling and positioning.

MAKING PERMITTING WORK FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

Stanislaus 2030 research found that permitting support varies widely across jurisdictions, processes rely too heavily on individual staff knowledge rather than standardized systems, and many businesses simply don't know where to start or who to call. One business owner put it best: "I just want one place or person who can explain exactly what to do."

In response, we're building stronger coordination between cities and county departments, including the Department of Environmental Resources, to align permitting processes across jurisdictions. As part of this work, we developed journey maps for each participating municipality, illustrating the step-by-step permitting experience city by city, and distilled these into a condensed, universal map to anchor the One-Stop Shop being developed by Stanislaus County Workforce Development.

On the technology front, the County Tax Collector has identified and invested in a permitting platform solution — a key step toward modernizing and standardizing the permitting experience countywide.

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ONE-STOP SOLUTION

During this reporting period, the Stanislaus County Workforce Development team advanced the development of a one-stop business resource platform through three primary workstreams: partner engagement, website development, and marketing.

Partner Engagement

- SCWD staff met with key partner organizations, including Valley Sierra SBDC, Valley First Credit Union, Rolling F Credit Union, and MOCSE Credit Union, to obtain content relevant to their designated sections within the One-Stop. Each partner provided summaries of relevant programs to feature on the platform.
- Stanislaus 2030 developed detailed copy and design recommendations for both the permitting and access to capital sections of the website, which included guidance on how to make the site more approachable and friendly.

Website Development

- The website platform has been purchased, and work has started on developing the event calendar.
- Content creation and review have been completed, and placement of materials on the website began on July 1.

Business One-Stop Marketing

- Preparing for advertising campaign, identified and secured vendors, and scheduled promotions to launch at the beginning of October. Creative concepts for the campaign are currently in development.
- Marketing strategy includes radio commercials, billboards in target neighborhoods, bus advertising, ad-buys with local news publications, direct mailers, and a robust digital media campaign.

CHILDCARE EXPANSION

Vision

Stanislaus County's child care deserts become oases, where parents can find licensed care and providers earn family-sustaining incomes.

Lead Partners:
First 5 Stanislaus & Nurture

NURTURE TRAINING PROGRAM

- 20 new entrepreneurs completed Business Start-Up training; 5 are licensed and 12 are on track
- 9 entrepreneurs completed Business Operations course to increase business profitability
- 4 entrepreneurs completed Business Growth program; 1 attained large license and 3 are on track

EVALUATION

- Completed interviews with three Nurture graduates and developed participant profiles
- Evaluator completed data analysis of March survey and reported initial findings:
  - Stanislaus County had incubated 92 child care businesses at the time of the study
  - Of the 70 respondents, 90% are now open, collectively serving 302 children
  - 86% of participants hold small licenses, and 56% of those are very or extremely likely to expand capacity in the next two years
  - Average revenue is about $4,000 monthly for small licensees and $8,000 for large licensees—a strong incentive for business expansion. In just one month, Stanislaus County child care businesses generated almost a quarter million in revenue
  - 95% view their business as a good opportunity, and 85% say it has changed their life for the better. Thanks to Nurture's stellar support, participants feel significantly more knowledgeable and capable of running their business. They are proud of their part in helping families thrive.
  - Enrollment is an acute challenge: 76% of participants cite it as a top challenge, mentioning subsidy delays/ refusals and local market dynamics as barriers
  - The survey insights point to opportunities—increasing subsidies, continuing business incubation and expansion in targeted areas, and stronger referral/matching approaches—that can further strengthen Stanislaus 2030's impact
  - Final data analysis and findings will be published in a report in August 2026.

PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY & EVOLUTION

- Nurture is now on Stanislaus County ETPL, which opens a new funding stream for training reimbursement after ARPA funding ends. Connected Nurture & Stanislaus County Workforce Development to confirm reimbursement process.
- Nurture published a feasibility study to assess how to facilitate home child care business expansion, reduce the administrative burden of employing an assistant, and increase assistant job quality. Stanislaus 2030 supported the research process, which included interviews with current and potential assistants, including community health promoters and community college students. The study found strong interest in child care assistant work, and in being part of a worker-owned staffing service. To help advance recommendations included in the report, Nurture was invited to participate in Democracy at Work Institute's (DAWI) Rapid Response Cooperative Development Program, a 10-month cohort that will build Nurture's capacity to incubate childcare cooperative start-ups.
- Helped Nurture secure $263K from California Social Entrepreneurs for Economic Development Grant, which will support childcare training programs and participation in DAWI cooperative cohort.

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NURTURE & DEBRIEF OUTREACH PARTNERSHIP

- This quarter, the team shifted its outreach strategy away from formal presentations, which generated relatively few participant leads, and instead focused on targeted flyering, canvassing, and community-based outreach in priority neighborhoods
- Conducted phone banking to more than 275 individuals, both English and Spanish speakers. These conversations resulted in promising leads.
- Launched a Facebook advertising campaign to expand awareness. While it is still too early to evaluate conversion rates, the campaign significantly increased the program's reach and will continue to be monitored.
- Supported Cafecito & Alumni Spotlight (4/25): Helped coordinate a gathering space for Nurture program alumni to reconnect with one another and re-engage with the program. The event served as a touchpoint for alumni to share experiences, strengthen relationships, and learn from Nurture staff about opportunities to participate in the upcoming Ambassador Program.

OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

- 30+ businesses, parks, churches, and community locations reached through flyer distribution
- 6 community tabling/information events
- 7 neighborhood and park outreach efforts (sites were visited multiple times)
- 275+ direct resident contacts via phone bank
- 3,559 residents reached through Facebook advertising



Cafecito & Nurture Alumni Spotlight event on April 14

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NEW BUSINESS STARTS BY CITY

City	New Businesses
Modesto	53
Ceres	13
Turlock	13
Patterson	9
Newman	4
Salida	3
Riverbank	3
Oakdale	3
Keyes	3
Hughson	3
Denair	1

NEW BUSINESS STARTS SINCE JANUARY 2024
$30 million annual economic impact of businesses supported to date

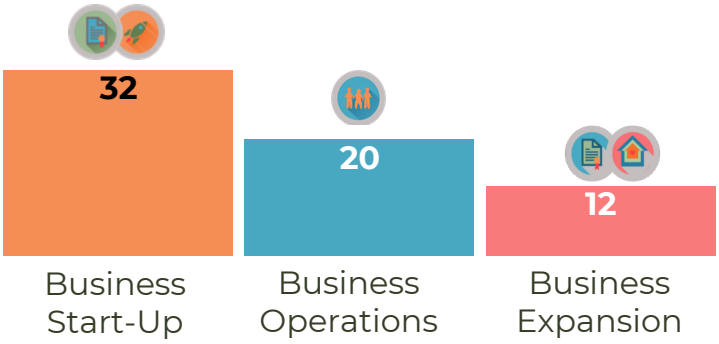
872 permanent licensed spaces
as of July 14, 2026



Plus ... 16 businesses improved profitability

4 businesses expanded = **+ 24 spaces**

Pipeline of participants
in training, by program



TALENT DEVELOPMENT

Vision

Stanislaus County will have a strong talent base, representative of our diverse population, that is equipped for good or promising jobs in manufacturing occupations.

Lead Partner:
Stanislaus County Workforce Development

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Debrief conducted their final report for the community engagement work they delivered to support the manufacturing workforce and education providers in designing their programs using human centered design. The full report captures the process, data, and recommendations. Stanislaus 2030 provided mini-grants to help partners advance report findings and remove access barriers for varying populations they serve (e.g. opportunity youth, incumbent workers, English Language Learners, adult learners)

MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE SECTOR STRATEGY

- Finalized the Stanislaus manufacturing competency model prototype, published the prototype in an engaging and accessible format, and socialized stakeholders to the final product.
- Developed and revised a draft shared evaluation framework to shape future learning efforts and guide current grantees and other partners as the work continues to evolve.
- Continued learning and evaluation activities to develop a shared theory of change. During the second peer learning session with Manufacturing Grant recipients on May 27, 2026, we introduced the theory of change for the county's manufacturing talent development system and the individual grantees. We helped participants map themselves onto the theory of change, and supported the community of practice to begin exploring opportunities for stronger coordination or alignment with the theory of change.
- Strengthened the fundraising and development capacity of implementation partners through 1:1 technical assistance with a grant writer who is working with grantees to develop customized funding strategies and support them in completing funding applications. The grant writer supported VOLT in applying for an SBA federal grant. VOLT also entered into a new contract with the county workforce team to support the development and implementation of a predictive maintenance training program, intended to leverage automation and AI for predictive analytics for industrial application and workforce training for the manufacturing sector. MJC also submitted an application for the Title III Strengthening Institutions Program FY 2026 Grant Opportunity.
- Developed recommendations for continuing and deepening the Stanislaus manufacturing sector strategy work, which includes using a competency model that focuses on priority skills and strengthening the ecosystem's capacity to leverage qualitative and quantitative employment insights provided by industry conveners like MCCV, and the workforce team's LMI resources.

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MANUFACTURING WORKFORCE GRANTEE UPDATES

VOLT INSTITUTE

VOLT experienced high demand, tracking 35 total enrollees toward its program goals and successfully increasing cohort diversity by bringing in more women and early-career software engineers. A cohort of 15 participants logged 232 total training hours, kicked off weekly career coaching, and collaborated on a regional SBA grant application.

CENTRAL VALLEY OPPORTUNITY CENTER

CVOC successfully finalized its work experience (WEX) agreements and placed its initial waves of trainees into hands-on roles with local employers. Although some employer partners faced minor hiring bottlenecks due to tariff-related slowdowns, three students successfully completed their extensive work experience terms by early June. To scale up future recruitment and track long-term economic mobility, the team began gathering trainee success stories for their website.

MODESTO JUNIOR COLLEGE

MJC successfully concluded its 60-hour Phase 1 PATCH training program on April 29, with all graduating participants earning three distinct professional certifications. The division announced a structural transition under the broader district umbrella to enhance regional program flexibility and reach across multiple campuses and solidified training commitments with three local manufacturing companies to transition nine remaining students into paid work experience tracks.

MANUFACTURERS COUNCIL OF THE CENTRAL VALLEY

MCCV accelerated preparations for the North Valley Manufacturing Summit scheduled for September 29, 2026, by purchasing the event domain, creating a promotional video, and launching the live landing page. They formally signed keynote speaker Dr. Kevin J. Flemming, finalized a multi-tiered corporate sponsorship menu, and secured their first major event sponsor.

CERES UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ceres advanced the launch planning for its Student-Run Manufacturing Enterprise (SRME) by hosting its first official industry advisory group meeting and touring local plants to secure tech alignment. The team prepared its physical campus production room and finalized major procurement orders—including a laser UV printer and CNC machinery—ahead of a planned zero-period pilot launch in August. Regional excitement built around the enterprise model as two participating district teachers began obtaining their formal CTE credentials.

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CLIMATE ACTION PATHWAYS FOR STUDENTS

CAPS finalized a comprehensive three-year strategic plan centered on regional subregional hubs and neared the completion of its student recruitment cycle for the summer cohort. The team successfully contextualized its facility energy-auditing curriculum to fit the industrial manufacturing sector, securing an interactive field-trip and project partnership with EMETIS Biofuels. They also initiated an exploratory partnership with the Manufacturing Skills Institute to embed microcredentials into their student pathway.

TRADED SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Goal

The region will be a top location in the country for bioindustrial manufacturing firms from scale-up to commercialization, creating new quality jobs for residents across all skill levels.

SOLUTIONS IN FOCUS

↗ Execute on the Stanislaus 2030 Blueprint traded sector development strategies across 5 pillars: Cross-Cutting, Innovation Access, Capital Connections, Infrastructure, and Talent

QUARTER ACTIVITIES

CBIO Collaborative

Initiative 2: Cross Cutting Initiatives – Innovation Engine/CBIO Collaborative

- BEAM Circular brought together over 175 innovators, investors, regional partners, and national industry leaders for the second annual ***BioCatalyst: Industry & Innovation Exchange*** on May 21st, 2026 in Lodi, CA. The convening focused on exploring market trends and emerging opportunities shaping the fast-growing circular bioeconomy sector, and featured a live pitch showcase spotlighting the 2026 BEAM Circular Accelerator startups.
- A pre-conference event on May 20th called ***The Reserve Experience,*** welcomed early attendees to explore regenerative agriculture and tour local wineries in the region in order to attract business interest in the region, culminating in a special live taping of the Manufacturing Happy Hour podcast.









Top Left: Manufacturing Happy Hour podcast during The Reserve Experience. Top Right: Panel from BEAM Circular Accelerator Program powered by gener8tor- Fermeate, Krokos Bio, Ruby Bio, Supercarb, and Tastee Tape. Down Left: CalRecycle Director, Zoe Heller (event speaker) and BEAM CEO, Karen Warner. Down Right: Participants at BioCatalyst.

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QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

CBIO Collaborative (cont)
Initiative 2: Cross Cutting Initiatives – Innovation Engine/CBIO Collaborative

- CBIO Collaborative has 129 organizational members as of June 2026. We anticipate our numbers will continue to grow, with a boost from BioCirCA registration - the California Circular Bioeconomy Summit, hosted by BEAM circular annually in November 2026.

- The governance structure guiding the CBIO Collaborative work continues to convene:
  - The Core Management Team met on April 14th and May 12.
  - The Leadership Council met on June 26th.
  - The Community Steering Committee met on April 15th, May 28th, and June 17th.
  - The Research & Development Steering Committee met on April 27th, May 28th, and June 22nd.
  - The Workforce Development Steering Committee met on May 13th.
  - The Industry Development Steering Committee met on April 23rd, May 26th, and June 23rd (a webinar open to the Collaborative).



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QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

CBIO Collaborative (cont)

Initiative 2: Cross Cutting Initiatives – Innovation Engine/CBIO Collaborative

- BEAM Circular distributed CBIO Collaborative Member Newsletters each month, showcasing: job opportunities, industry news, partner events, shared resources, and highlights from MJC MESA students' work researching the circular bioeconomy. (Distributed April 13, May 7, June 3)
- CBIO Collaborative hosted 3 webinars this quarter:
  - Apr 14: ***CBIO Conversations*** with 3 BEAM funded education programs, featuring:
    - Dr. Alok Arun, Stanislaus State
    - Clara Cushing, Ignited
    - Ying-Tsu Loh, PhD, BABEC
  - Jun 5: ***Industry Listening Session: Technical Impacts of SB 54***, with four speakers:
    - Beverly Kennedy, Pacific Coast Producers
    - Neil Edgar, CA Composting Coalition
    - Shannon Pinc, NatureWorks
    - Carla Castagnero, AgRecycle
  - Jun 23: ***A Conversation on SB 54 & SB 1383 SB 1383*: What These Policies Mean for Bio-Based Materials***, with guest speakers from CalRecycle
    - Karen Kayfetz, Branch Chief, Product Stewardship Branch
    - Cara Morgan, Deputy Director, Division of Materials Management and Local Assistance







*Senate Bill 54 Plastic Pollution Prevention and Packaging Producer Responsibility Act Senate Bill 1383 Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy - California climate law requiring all residents and businesses to separate organic waste from regular trash to divert it from landfills

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QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development
Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment Initiative
Initiative 9 : Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

Overview

- With support from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding provided by Stanislaus County, BEAM launched two competitive grant programs on June 9, 2025 totaling $2.3 million, to strengthen local schools, school districts, and workforce training providers.
- By the end of this quarter 2026, all funds from the two programs (Stanislaus Wet Lab & Training Facilities Fund and the Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund) were fully awarded to a total
- of 19 projects.
  BEAM convened an independent evaluation panel to review and score all submissions, leading to final award recommendations. Contracts have been fully executed for all the projects, which are currently in progress.

Funding Strategy:
The ARPA Workforce and Wet Lab Funds were invested in six key areas:

1) Curriculum Development: Support the research and development of curricula to reflect the emerging knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) required in today's biotechnology workforce. These curriculum enhancements ensure that students and educators are exposed to current industry practices and tools, better preparing learners for careers in the industrial biomanufacturing sector.

2) Professional Development: Ensures that educators are equipped to deliver current, industry-relevant content, strengthening the quality of biotechnology instruction available to students across the region.

3) Workforce Development (High School and Adult Learners): Through hands-on learning experiences, industry site visits, and career-connected activities, students gained practical insight into biotechnology career pathways, helping to build early interest and readiness for future employment in the region's growing bioeconomy workforce.

4) Early Career Exposure: Introduce young people to the circular bioeconomy by bringing hands-on, industry-connected learning experiences in biotechnology and STEM well before they reach college; lays the foundation for a stronger and diverse workforce, particularly for students who might not otherwise have access to these opportunities.

5) Research and Career Pathway Development: The development of a landscape analysis by consultant Bienestar Community Economics in partnership with Central Valley Mother Lode Regional Consortium, aims to identify where curricula align with industry needs, where gaps exist, and how existing programs can be strengthened or connected to create clear, navigable pathways for students.

TRADED SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

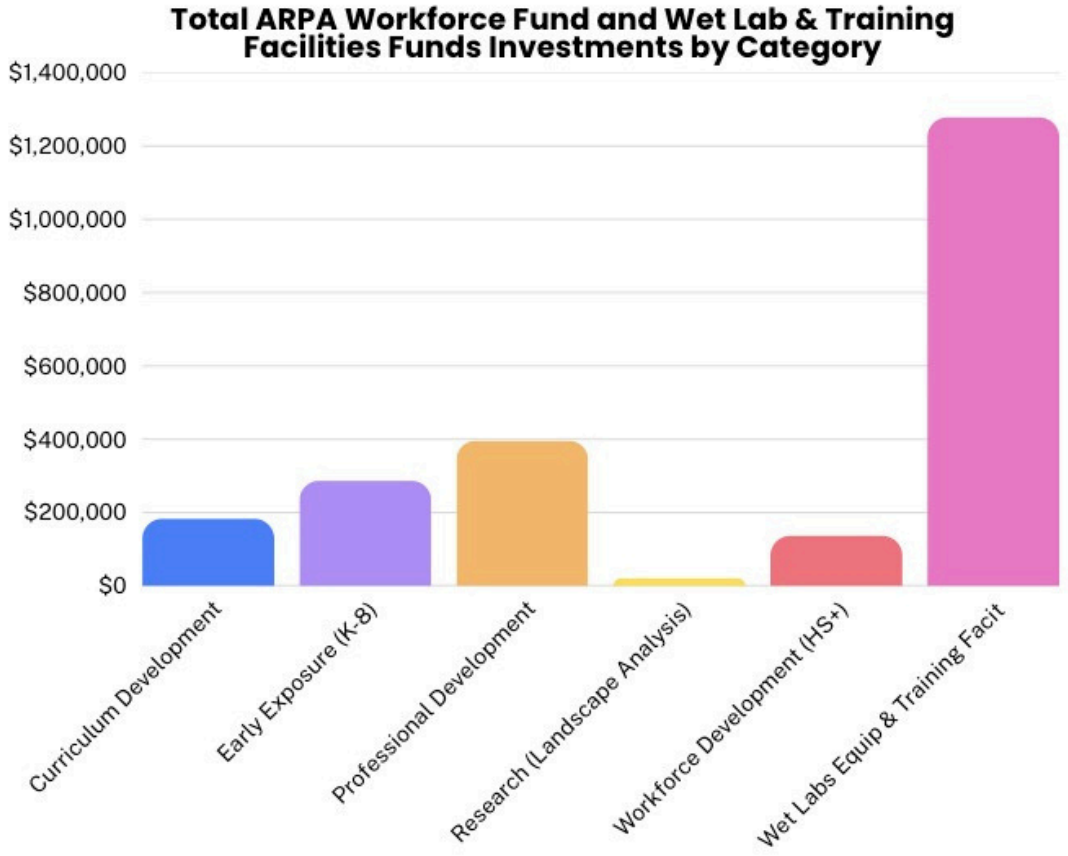
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QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont)
Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment Initiative
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6) Wet Lab Equipment & Training Facilities investments: Equip educators with updated industrial grade laboratory equipment and dedicated space to implement industry-aligned biomanufacturing training.



Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Dev. Fund: Curriculum Development - Activities this quarter 2026

- Modesto Junior College - Exploring Bioeconomy Curriculum Pathways for the Central Valley:
  - During the first six months of 2026, Prof. Eryn Lucas focused on designing a new non-credit Biotechnology Certificate Program at MJC. As part of the program's development, MJC researched and incorporated emerging educational technologies, including BioSuite Immersive, a mixed-reality laboratory platform that provides students with virtual laboratory training in preparation for hands-on, in-person application. To strengthen regional biotechnology education and career pathways, Professor Lucas also engaged with UC Merced faculty to explore transfer pathways, internship opportunities, and potential shared use of university facilities to support biotechnology program development.

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QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont)
Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment Initiative
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Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Dev. Fund: Professional Development - Activities during this quarter

- **CSU Stanislaus -** Strengthening Pathways to Biotechnology Careers by STEM Education and Workforce:
  - On June 1–2, 14 K–12 teachers from schools across the region participated in a two-day, hands-on professional development workshop at Stanislaus State University. Designed by Prof. Alok Arun, the workshop introduced local educators to the fundamentals of plant biology, laboratory investigation protocols for students, engineering design challenges, and biotechnology practices that support sustainable agriculture and the circular bioeconomy. Participants who completed the workshop received comprehensive lesson plans, a curated science lab kit developed through a collaboration supported by an associated SPIE grant (described later in this report), two units of credential certification credit, and access to ongoing technical support from university faculty. Teachers will continue to receive guidance from professors at UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC San Francisco, and Stanislaus State as they integrate these concepts and hands-on activities into their classrooms.

- **Modesto Junior College** - Bioeconomy Educator Training Initiative:
  - During the week of May 18, four MJC faculty members completed a four-day intensive biotechnology training program at Life Space Labs and Solano Community College. The training covered the full bioprocess workflow, including media preparation, sterilization of a laboratory-scale bioreactor, probe calibration, inoculation and sampling procedures, media harvesting, equipment cleaning, and data collection and analysis. The faculty will apply this training to refine a new non-credit biotechnology certificate program currently under development at MJC. The program is planned to launch in Fall 2026, with a two-year Associate of Science degree in Biotechnology to follow in subsequent years.





Left: Prof. Eryn Lucas, MJC presenting new non credit certificate to other professors. Middle and Right: Stanislaus County Teachers during June 1 and 2 at Stan State during hands-on training.

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QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont)
Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment Initiative
Initiative 9 : Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Dev. Fund: Professional Development - Activities during this quarter

- **Stanislaus County Office of Education Child & Family Services Division** - Early and Engaging Access to STEAM:
  - SCOE Early Education continued implementing the grant through a series of professional learning experiences focused on circularity, systems thinking, and STEAM integration. Sessions were held on April 15 and 29 and May 4, 11, and 13. Activities emphasized patterns, movement, sequencing, and the exploration of natural cycles through inquiry-based and experiential learning. Thirty-four educators participated in professional development training using recyclable and upcycled materials to strengthen skills in patterning, sequencing, and problem-solving. Sessions included creating and extending mathematical patterns with reusable materials, exploring patterns through body movement, and completing introductory coding exercises designed to develop sequencing and logical thinking skills.







Up Left: Teachers during BABEC's training at Stan State.
Down Left: Stanislaus County professor with lab equipment after completing Stan State and BABEC workshops.
Right: Lab equipment procured through SPEI.

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QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont)
Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment Initiative
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Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund: Professional Development - Activities during this quarter

- **BABEC** - Building a Sustainable Bioeconomy Ecosystem in Stanislaus County through Teacher Training, Equipment Access, Microbadging, and Career Exposure:
  - From June 3–5, 19 teachers from Stanislaus County participated in a three-day, hands-on biotechnology bootcamp designed to equip educators with core biotechnology skills, concepts, and techniques they can apply in their classrooms. Each training module was laboratory-based and aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), ensuring the curriculum met rigorous academic benchmarks while providing educators with practical, real-world laboratory experience they can translate into engaging student instruction. Participating educators received Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits and stipends recognizing their time and commitment. They also received laboratory equipment and a curated lab kit developed through a collaboration supported by the SPEI grant (described later in this report), providing educators with the tools needed to implement biotechnology lessons and hands-on activities with their students. These resources help remove barriers to biotechnology instruction and ensure the benefits of the training extend well beyond the three-day bootcamp. Additionally, in May, BABEC, through a partnership with BioLink Depot, facilitated the donation of approximately $40,000 worth of STEM laboratory equipment to local educators, further expanding access to the equipment and resources needed to deliver hands-on science and biotechnology education.
- **Stanislaus Partnerships in Education (SPIE)** - Biotechnology Professional Development:
  - A grant award was provided to SPIE to play a key role in ensuring that the biotechnology summer programs offered by Stanislaus State and BABEC reached a broad range of educators across Stanislaus County. The investment supported SPIE's coordination of teacher recruitment, helping identify and engage educators across schools and districts who are well positioned to bring biotechnology instruction into their classrooms. The funding also supported the purchase of laboratory equipment distributed to educators participating in the Stanislaus State and BABEC biotechnology summer programs. By providing educators with the tools needed to apply their newly acquired skills and implement hands-on biotechnology lessons, the grant helps reduce barriers to classroom implementation and extend the impact of the training beyond the summer programs. Together, these two components, educator recruitment and laboratory equipment procurement, help bridge the gap between professional development and classroom implementation. This investment serves as a critical link in building a sustainable biotechnology education pipeline across Stanislaus County.

TRADED SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

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The region will be a top location in the country for bioindustrial manufacturing firms from scale-up to commercialization, creating new quality jobs for residents across all skill levels.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont)
Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment Initiative
Initiative 9 : Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund: Workforce Development for Grades 9-12+ - Activities during this quarter

- **yüda ayuda -** Ignite EmTech Futures: Pathways into Biomanufacturing through Industry 4.0 Tools:
  - From March 6 through June 10, the Ignite EmTech Futures program, delivered in partnership with MJC, IO SCADA, and VOLT Institute, advanced a 15-learner cohort, primarily composed of individuals from disproportionately impacted backgrounds, through 15 weeks of intensive technical training. The curriculum covered bioeconomy fundamentals, SCADA systems, Ignition platform configuration, Arduino IDE, and SQL and Python development, culminating in hands-on "Smart Farm" projects. Participants also engaged in industry mentorship sessions, gaining exposure to industry perspectives and career pathways. Of the 15 participants, seven earned the Ignition Core Certification, an industry-recognized credential validating skills in SCADA/HMI development.
- **Modesto Junior College** - MESA-Circular Bioeconomy Research Internship:
  - During this quarter, the MESA Circular Bioeconomy Student Research Internship Program continued supporting bioeconomy interns and exceeded its original objectives by expanding the number of students trained. To date, the program has engaged 12 student interns, five STEM faculty mentors, one faculty librarian, two research reviewers, and two library staff members. The program also reached more than 150 community members through a student poster session and science talk, extending its impact beyond participating interns and into the broader community.



yüda ayuda - Ignite EmTech Futures: Pathways into Biomanufacturing through Industry 4.0 Tools student graduation at MJC on June 10.





TRADED SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Goal

The region will be a top location in the country for bioindustrial manufacturing firms from scale-up to commercialization, creating new quality jobs for residents across all skill levels.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont)
Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment Initiative
Initiative 9 : Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Dev. Fund: Early Exposure - Activities during this quarter

- **Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE)** - Bioeconomy at the Career Inspiration Center:
  - SCOE continued rolling out its Career Inspiration Center's circular bioeconomy curriculum across multiple school districts, engaging students in hands-on, team-based activities focused on innovation and career exploration. Activities included a "BIO Tank Pitch" exercise, in which students explored opportunities to repurpose agricultural byproducts, such as olive and tomato waste, into high-value products while learning about career pathways in agriculture, food science, sustainability, and manufacturing. During this reporting period, the program reached 202 new students and 15 teachers, bringing the cumulative total to 472 students served, 47% of the annual target of 1,000 students in just one quarter. SCOE also procured and began installing Fork Farms hydroponic tower systems to support future experiential learning in controlled-environment agriculture.

- **Walnut Elementary Education Center** - Expand and Enhance Math and Science Magnet
  - Program: Walnut Elementary's Math and Science Magnet Program has nearly completed implementation of its grant-funded activities. During this reporting period, the program continued to expand, with the fourth-grade class sharing its FlexFarm hydroponic garden with 15 classrooms spanning kindergarten through fifth grade, while a fifth-grade class began working with LEGO Robotics kits. These activities supported the school's goal of refreshing its magnet program materials and sparking student interest in renewable resources, sustainable agriculture, and technology. Students explored the hydroponic growing and harvesting process, while older students shared their knowledge of the system with younger peers, fostering peer-to-peer learning and building excitement around sustainable agriculture, coding, and robotics.





Left: Students at SCOE CIC learning about Stanisalus Foods' potential use of tomato sauce byproducts
Right: Walnut students appreciation for BEAM grant funding

TRADED SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

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QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont)
Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment Initiative
Initiative 9 : Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Dev. Fund: Early Exposure - Activities during this quarter (cont)

- **Modesto Children's Museum** -Traveling Circular Bioeconomy Exhibit:
  - The Modesto Children's Museum (MoChiMu) began working with its exhibit design firm, Gyroscope, with a project kickoff held on April 7. The half-day workshop, included a core team brainstorming session, a gallery walkthrough, and meetings with three stakeholder groups representing the Almond Board of California, BEAM Circular, and the Farm Bureau. In June, several additional community meetings were convened, engaging a broad and diverse group of stakeholders to provide input and inform the exhibit's design. This feedback will help guide the next phase of exhibit development in preparation for the exhibit reveal at the MoChiMu Gala on September 18.



Pictures of MoChiMu staff and Gyroscope during kickoff and workshop day with local stakeholders

TRADED SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

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QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont)
Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment Initiative
Initiative 9 : Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

Stanislaus Bioeconomy Workforce Dev. Fund: Early Exposure -Activities during this quarter (cont)

- **Salida Middle School -** Biotech Pathways: A Middle School Lab-Based Introduction to the Bioeconomy:
  - Salida Middle School's Biotech Pathways program hosted a Human Resources representative from Blue Diamond Growers, who presented to all eighth-grade students about career opportunities within the local circular bioeconomy. The presentation provided students with insight into Blue Diamond Growers' role in the regional bioeconomy and connected classroom learning to tangible career pathways within their own community. This career exploration experience complemented the hands-on biotechnology activities introduced at the beginning of the 2026 school year, helping students connect technical learning with potential future education and employment opportunities.

The Stanislaus Bioeconomy Wet Labs & Training Facilities Fund: - Activities during this quarter

- **CSU Stanislaus** - Establishing the Centre for Sustainable Biotechnology: Empowering a Green Workforce for Stanislaus County
  - California State University, Stanislaus is establishing the Center for Sustainable Biotechnology, a research and training hub designed to advance biotechnology innovation, workforce development, and the circular bioeconomy. Center renovation activities were underway in Q2, with completion anticipated in Fall 2026. Key components of the initiative include:
    - Renovating approximately 1,106 square feet of dedicated laboratory space, including new laboratory benches, storage, shared equipment, and workspace for up to 15 students.
    - Installing advanced scientific equipment, including bioreactors, sequencing tools, and plant growth chambers, to support hands-on research and training.
    - Launching a new Certificate in Biotechnology and summer experiential learning opportunities to expand biotechnology education and workforce pathways.
    - Formalizing industry collaborations to create internship opportunities and strengthen pathways to biotechnology employment.

- **Modesto Junior College** - Advancing Biotechnology & Bioengineering Training in the Valley
  - During the second quarter of 2026, MJC advanced the procurement of bioreactor equipment through its partnership with DisTek and coordinated with campus Facilities to secure approval for classroom modernization needed to support the new equipment. The team continues to work proactively with campus stakeholders and suppliers to finalize remaining purchases and prepare the instructional space for implementation.

TRADED SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Goal

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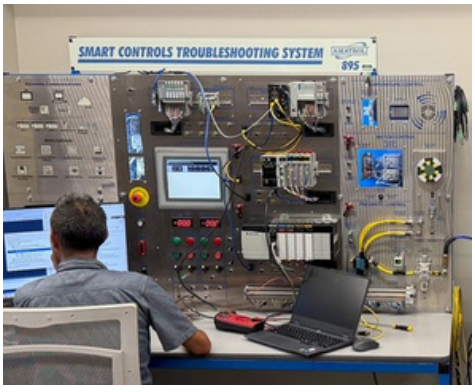
QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Talent & Workforce Development (cont)
Initiative 8: Infrastructure – Grants for Job Training Facilities and Equipment Initiative
Initiative 9 : Talent – Bioeconomy Workforce Development Fund

The Stanislaus Bioeconomy Wet Labs & Training Facilities Fund: - Activities during this quarter (cont)

- **VOLT Institute -** BioSmart Technologies Education Pathways (BioSTEP):
  - VOLT Institute's BioSTEP program completed equipment procurement and made significant progress with the delivery and commissioning of its new automation and controls equipment. This included Klein Educational Systems' on-site setup of the steam and boiler system and Endress+Hauser instrumentation, creating one of the first training systems of its kind in the United States. VOLT also hosted a career exploration "VOLT Day" for more than 75 Ceres High School and junior high students, continued expanding its Smart Automation Certification Alliance credentialing program—with 68 exams completed to date—and advanced a new systems integration internship pathway with employer partners. During this reporting period, the program served 21 students and four teachers, bringing cumulative participation to 421 individuals across its Explore, Equip, and Advance tracks. Partnerships continue to span multiple school districts and workforce agencies. On June 3, VOLT hosted an Automation Lab Ribbon Cutting and Open House to showcase the new equipment and training capabilities supported through the BioSTEP grant. The event marked a significant milestone in the program's implementation and highlighted the expanded hands-on training opportunities available to students and workforce participants.







Training equipment procured by VOLT through The Stanislaus Bioeconomy Wet Labs and Training Facilities Fund at the Automation Lab Ribbon Cutting and Open House on June 3.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Business and Economic Development
Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

Business & Economic Development Stanislaus County ARPA Grant Deployment

- Launched and awarded the Stanislaus County Bioeconomy Jobs Catalyst Fund: Successfully allocated $2.0 million in ARPA funding under the Anchor Employer Development Fund (AEDF "Track 2") to four high-impact bioeconomy projects, projected to create hundreds of regional jobs:
  - ***Central Valley Circular ($600,000):*** Advancing FEL-2 engineering with AFRY for a $500M recycled paper manufacturing facility, projected to create ~200 permanent local jobs over 5 years.
  - ***Artefact ($500,000):*** Establishing its first high-volume biocomposite manufacturing facility using bio-based inputs, bringing 14 jobs at launch and 25 by Year 2.
  - ***Mango Materials ($500,000):*** Deploying a biomaterials compounding facility to convert bio-based inputs into industrial pellets, bringing 11 near-term jobs and ~50 jobs over 5 years.
  - ***Full Circle Brewing ($400,000):*** Launching an upcycled fruit processing platform to convert surplus regional agricultural products into high-value ingredients, creating 4 near-term and 50+ long-term jobs.

- Small Business Capital Access, Research, & Commercialization Fund: Awarded a total of $100,000 in ARPA funding to two innovative local companies to support early-stage growth:
  - ***Optimized Foods ($75,000):*** De-risks the conversion of tomato pomace into a stable, sugar-rich liquor product by performing technoeconomic and market analyses and by deploying pilot scale equipment required for on-site research and development by regional processors. Adoption of a liquor product by processors would create jobs in Stanislaus County. Optimized is working with Stanislaus Food Products and will hire local interns for the project.
  - ***Renew Your Body Butter ($25,000):*** A Modesto-based business developing a sustainable exfoliating body scrub using ground almond shells sourced from Stanislaus County. This project reduces waste while creating a high-value skincare product, supporting environmental sustainability and local small business development.

Human Capital & Capacity Building: Bioeconomy Fellows

Onboarded two dedicated Bioeconomy Fellows on April 1, 2026, significantly expanding regional capacity and directly accelerating economic development efforts:

- Victor Garza (Economic Development Fellow): Began a comprehensive audit of shovel-ready industrial sites across the 3-county region. Victor hosted a targeted webinar focused on bioindustrial site needs and established direct, foundational connections with local Economic Development Directors to streamline future employer attraction.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Business and Economic Development (cont)

Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

Human Capital & Capacity Building: Bioeconomy Fellows *(cont)*

- Gil Cardon (Business Development Fellow, hosted by Opportunity Stanislaus): Initiated a robust ecosystem re-engagement campaign, connecting directly with regional bioeconomy companies to assess their current operational growth status and strategically align ongoing BEAM support with their commercial needs.

Ecosystem Engagement & Strategic Events

- On April 23rd, during SF Climate Week, BEAM Circular hosted a portfolio showcase at MISTA in San Francisco focused on building connections between Bay Area companies and investors and the North San Joaquin Valley. The event attracted 90 attendees, including 15 high-profile climate and institutional investors, driving critical capital attention to the region's manufacturing potential.
- On April 28–29, See Lee, Director of Education & Workforce Strategies; Cynthia Ni, Director of Innovation Programs; and Neal Best, VP of Business and Economic Development, represented BEAM Circular at BioMADE's Annual Members Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The national event featured two full days of keynote presentations, expert panels, lightning talks, an exhibit hall, and networking sessions focused on emerging trends, technologies, and opportunities across the biomanufacturing sector.





Top Left: BEAM Team at BioMADE. Top Right: Event Flyer. Down Left: Panel of circular bioeconomy startups supported by BEAM circular. Down Middle: BEAM event attendees.
Down Right: Karen Warner opening the SF Climate Week Showcase event.







QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Bioeconomy Innovation Campus Planning (Testbed Facility Development)
Initiative 4: Cross Cutting Initiatives – Circular Bioeconomy Innovation Campus

Site Selection & Real Estate Progress

- Completed Campus site selection process, with criteria covering infrastructure, site readiness, community and environmental benefits, workforce access, and regulatory considerations.
- Announced a preferred site for the Campus in Modesto, CA.
- Advanced site diligence and lease negotiations.
- Completed a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment with local firm Provost & Pritchard, with no environmental concerns identified.

Campus Team Development

- Opened recruitment for an Innovation Campus Project Associate role and built a candidate pipeline.
- Onboarded 4 specialist consultants across campus development workstreams: construction/project management, business-development and tenant pipeline, business-model strategy, and accounting.

Tenant Pipeline & Economic Impact

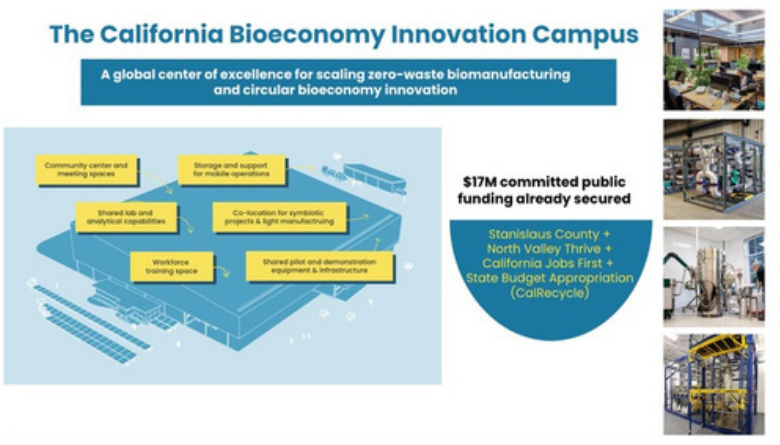
- Advanced the Campus tenant intake pipeline with scheduled technical and infrastructure needs calls.

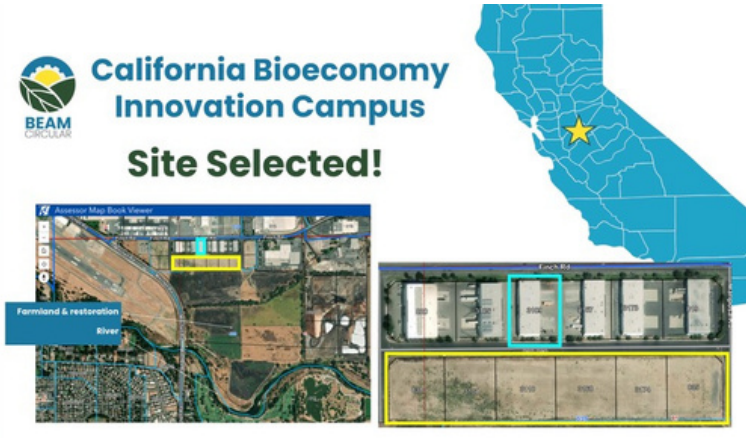
Engineering, Permitting & Infrastructure

- Initiated utility coordination with the Modesto Irrigation District for electrical service upgrade required for the warehouse buildout, and began regulatory engagement with Stanislaus County (Planning, Building & Fire, HazMat) and air district staff.

Community Engagement

- Worked with BEAM's Community Steering Committee for feedback on site selection and local outreach planning for next phase of Campus development.
- Held Innovation Campus informational webinar on 6/23 (more information below).
- Developed community engagement plan, which will include 8 community conversations across multiple locations and cities in Stanislaus County in the second half of 2026, designed to get local resident input and feedback on Campus plans.
- Marketing launched for informational Open House at BEAM Office scheduled for July 23.



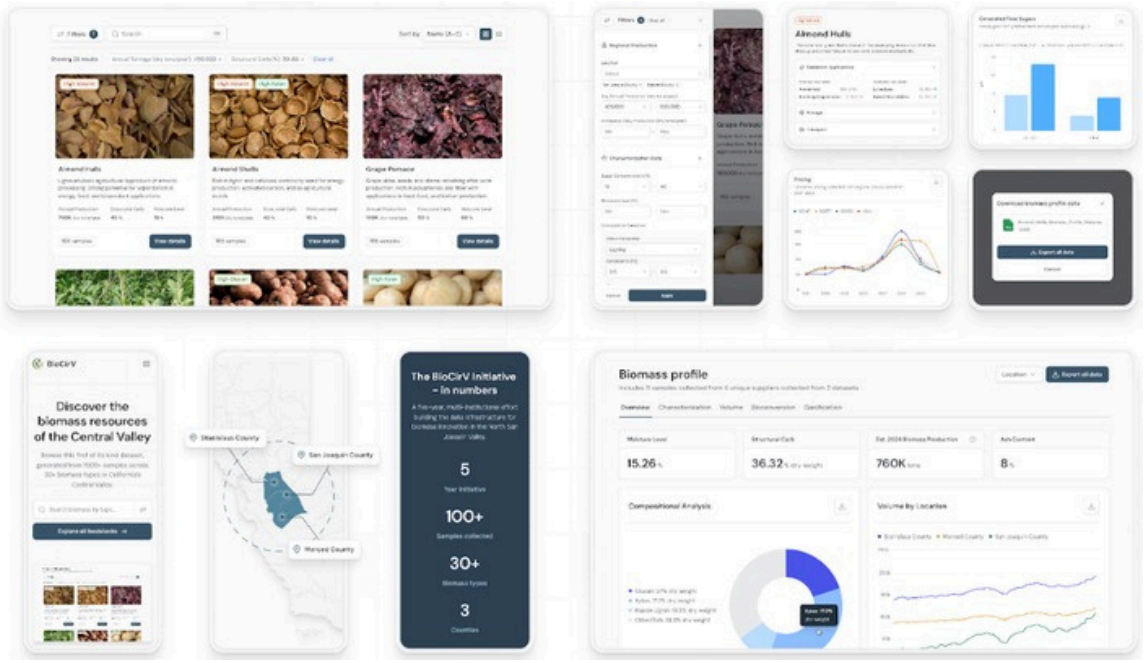


QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Innovation

Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

- On May, BEAM Circular was recognized with the 2026 Bioeconomy Leadership Award from the Society for Industrial Microbiology and Biotechnology. The award was presented in New Orleans, LA at the 48th Annual Symposium on Biomaterials, Fuels and Chemicals (SBFC), a premier gathering of researchers, entrepreneurs, and industry leaders advancing the science and commercialization of bio-based products. The Bioeconomy Leadership Award recognizes an organization that has demonstrated exceptional vision, innovation, and impact in accelerating the bioeconomy. The recognition helps advance the North San Joaquin Valley's national reputation.
- BioCircular Valley Feedstock Data MVP Portal development, funded by Schmidt Sciences, has made significant progress in building an open-access portal containing data on the region's biomass resources. In Q4, the team launched the first version of the portal for internal testing, and is now moving into quality control (QC) and debugging, and preparing for the next round of user testing and public launch.
- BEAM Circular provided Letters of Support for our involvement in three research grant proposals with partners at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to advance technologies that create new value from local agricultural sidestreams.





Up: Multi-screen shot of the BioCircular Valley Feedstock Data MVP Portal.
Down: Cynthia Ni, BEAM Circular's Director of Innovation Programs, accepting Bioeconomy Leadership Award on behalf of BEAM Circular at Symposium on Biomaterials, Fuels and Chemicals in New Orleans.

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Public Partnerships, Economic Development, and Policy

Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

Community Prosperity and Community Engagement in Stanislaus County

- During Q4 2026 (April - June), BEAM directly engaged with 210 Stanislaus County community members through our Community Prosperity & Community Engagement programming and participated in a total of 6 outreach events. Multiple engagement activities were conducted in both English and Spanish
- April Activities:
  - 4/8 Improve Your Tomorrow - College and Career Readiness webinar
  - 4/18 Modesto Earth Day
    4/22 Invest in Me - Invest in Communities tree planting event in Patterson
- May Activities:
  - 5/14 SCOE STEM Fair
  - 5/30 MoChiMu Bike n' Trike
- June Activities:
  - 6/23 Innovation Campus Community Information Webinar Session: 1-hour presentation with Q&A designed for local residents. Live translation services made the event available in both English and Spanish. BEAM CEO Karen Warner shared updates and information on the Innovation Campus, including details on site selection, expected on-site activities and resources, and ways for community members to get engaged.
  - On June 9th, Bri Gonzalez, Senior Manager of Community Partnerships, presented to the Turlock City Council about BEAM Circular, the circular bioeconomy, and its potential impact on the region. The presentation covered BEAM's current programs, including the BEAM x Gener8tor Accelerator Program, Turlock-specific workforce development grants, and the Youth Ambassador Program. She also provided an overview of the California Bioeconomy Innovation Campus, its purpose, and how the community can get involved.







Up Left: Bri Gonzalez, Senior Manager of Community Partnerships presenting to Turlock City Council.
Up Right: Flyer for Innovation Campus Webinar
Down Left: Modesto Earth Day at Graceada Park

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Community Prosperity and Community Engagement in Stanislaus County (cont)
Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

Stanislaus County Youth Ambassador Program

- 15 Youth Ambassadors were selected through a competitive application process for the first cohort of this BEAM program run in Stanislaus County. The selected cohort included high school students from cities across the County including Modesto, Turlock, Riverbank, Ceres, Keyes, and Patterson.
- During the 3-month leadership development program, students engaged directly with professionals working across the bioeconomy, including sustainability and climate experts, startup CEOs, a fermentation scientist, and the CTO of Mango Materials, gaining firsthand insight into career paths ranging from lab assistants and technicians to entrepreneurs.
- The Youth Ambassadors also took part in hands-on field experiences, touring UC Merced's Biochar Lab, learning to fly drones, visiting the local manufacturing facility of fertilizer company Nitricity, and exploring regenerative agricultural practices at a local winery.
- The Youth Ambassadors Program concluded on June 30, 2026, with a final Presentation Celebration held at the Stanislaus County Office of Education. The Youth Ambassadors chose an environmental topic to research, and presented their exploration of how the circular bioeconomy can help address challenges facing their community.
- There were 43 total attendees at the Presentation Celebration, including family members, educators, and dignitaries from state and federal government offices.



Pictured: Youth Ambassadors from Stanislaus County meeting with startup founders

QUARTER ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Community Prosperity and Community Engagement in Stanislaus County (cont)
Initiative 1: Cross Cutting Initiatives – BEAM Circular Growth Partnership

Community Prosperity Grants

- During this quarter, BEAM Circular completed the review and selection process for its pilot Community Prosperity Grants program funded by a California Jobs First Regional Investment Initiative Implementation Grant. The funding opportunity generated significant community interest, with 43 applications received representing a total of $856,000 in funding requests, far exceeding the $65,000 available grant funds. A total of 12 applications were received from San Joaquin County, 20 from Stanislaus County, 5 from Merced County, and 6 multi-county applications were received.
- Applications underwent a review process conducted by a panel of 12 reviewers, including members of BEAM Circular's Community Steering Committee. Each proposal was independently scored by 3 reviewers using a review rubric to ensure a fair and transparent selection process.
- The total of $65,000 was awarded to 15 projects. Of these, total of 8 community projects totaling $27,060 were funded in Stanislaus County.
- Funded projects represent a diverse range of community-driven efforts across the region, including urban greening, community composting and soil health education, culturally responsive circular bioeconomy education led by community health workers, youth-led sustainability and environmental storytelling initiatives, STEM and science outreach, cooperative economic development, and school-based environmental justice curriculum. Collectively, these projects will increase community awareness of circular bioeconomy principles while advancing locally identified priorities related to environmental, economic, and social prosperity.



Pictured: Youth Ambassadors from Stanislaus County on a field trip to UC Merced, learning to fly drones, and visiting a local fertilizer company.