Project PIPELINES
Awarded from the Office of Special Education Programs – US Department of Education

The purpose of the project is to provide professional development and support to community college faculty who are preparing early childhood educators so that they have the knowledge and skills to teach students enrolled in their courses how to maximize the potential of young children with disabilities, including dual language learners, and provide support to families living in the diverse communities served by the college.

Three community college partners (Cuyamaca, Palomar, San Diego Community College District) will be the focus during the first four years of the project and the fifth year will focus on dissemination of what we learned to community colleges throughout California supported by First 5 California and the California Community College Early Childhood Educators (CCCECE) organization.

The competencies will be embedded throughout the project and include:

a) Collaboration skills to work effectively with other adults,

b) Implementation of instructional and intervention practices that are evidence-based,

c) Skills to support literacy and STEM activities and to support families’ understanding of literacy and STEM development,

d) Supporting the social emotional and behavioral development of young children with disabilities,

e) Use of technology to enhance development and participation,

f) Observing and collecting data for progress monitoring,

g) Engaging and communicating with families,

h) Assisting with transition plans and services across settings,

i) Working with children, including dual language learners, and their families from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

The project will take a community engagement approach and will also focus on enhancing mentor support and creating inclusive opportunities for each and every young child.