WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

As the demand for clean energy grows, so does the need for a skilled workforce specially prepared for jobs in the green economy. CPA has dedicated over $1 million in funding to support training programs over the past four years, including funding for training programs at Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI), the Los Angeles Electrical Training Institute (LAETI) and the Ventura County Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (VCEJATC) program. These programs focus on providing job training skills to local workers related to CPA-priority projects such as microgrids, electric vehicle infrastructure and advanced lighting control systems.

Voyager Scholarship

The Voyager Scholarship was established in May 2019 with an initial grant of $150,000 to support students pursuing energy career pathways such as electric vehicles and advanced transportation technology, energy and environmental science, and alternative energy. In 2023, $105,000 in new funding was approved for the Voyager Scholarship, allocated to support 105 $1,000 scholarships for students studying energy programs attending seven colleges throughout Los Angeles and Ventura counties. The funding is equitably distributed to Antelope Valley College, Compton College, East Los Angeles College, Rio Hondo College, Ventura College, Oxnard College, and Moorpark College. The seven schools were chosen due to the range of sustainability focused programs offered to students, the high rate of completion within the programs, and their geographic location in our Southern California service area.

Los Angeles Cleantech Incubator (LACI)

LACI's Green Jobs Fellowship Program supports underserved communities with classroom education, hands-on and in-field training, and paid internships in the cleantech space. The program provides a unique opportunity for students to acquire new abilities or to apply existing academic and vocational training to a new career in renewable technologies. In 2023, CPA funded LACI’s Project Management Training Course for 30 students that focused on training students on management skills related to electric vehicle infrastructure maintenance projects. CPA provided $100,000 to design the curriculum, cover instructor costs, and provide stipends for internships post-training. Select participants are matched with LACI startups and partners for internships and potential job opportunities.

Smart Buildings and Smart Cities

Since 2021 CPA has partnered with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) on the Smart Buildings and Smart Cities Program. This program develops a highly trained, high earning workforce in the solar, storage and wind sectors, some of whom have worked directly on CPA's clean power projects. CPA provided $348,500 for 17 training boards used for hands-on training for apprentices.

I will be using the scholarship award toward my Environmental Science and Resource Management bachelor’s degree at CSUCI. Not having to worry about how to pay for my tuition this fall semester will allow me to focus more of my energy on my classes.

—Makayla Byerly, student at Moorpark College