

President's Message

Hello everyone,

It is January and you know what that means: time to get ready for the CWC State Educational Conference and Awards Luncheon! You have until February 14th to send in your candidates' submissions. Please submit your nominations to: jsszei@hotmail.com and vvelazquez.cwc.ie@gmail.com, please see flyer. The CWC Board will select the winners for the local awards and offer submissions to the State Award's Committee. Good luck to everyone who is participating!

Do not miss the latest piece by our featured writer Ahjamu Makalani, who explores the fascinating topic of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and a Brave New World. He discusses how AI is transforming our society and what challenges and opportunities it brings for the future. You can read his bio and article below.

Do you want to learn some cool skills for your career? Like how to use AI tools or other useful things for your career? You might be able to get some money from the CWC Bybee Grant to help you out. Do not miss this chance to find out more about this amazing



PRESIDENT JOHN SZEIBERT

opportunity for all CWC members. Join us on February 7th, at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom, check out the flyer for the details. See you there!

Mark your calendar for this year's Spring Celebration Party on April 14th at Hunter Park, in Riverside. Come out with your family and enjoy the park with your CWC friends. Food and fun will be provided, and the park is home to The Riverside Live Steamers 501c3, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing steam powered train rides to the public, rides are free. More information is forthcoming.

We are excited to announce that the IE CWC Chapter is one of the sponsors for the upcoming United We Stand Health and Wellness Fair on February 24th at Teamsters Local 63 in Bloomington. This event is organized by the State Council on Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) and will offer free limited health care services as well as fun activities,

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education, and snacks. Check out the flyer below for more details.

The IE CWC Chapter board is looking towards a fun and rewarding year. Please consider nominating someone for an award this year. If you are interested in getting involved with your local CWC Chapter, please reach out to any board member, and attend a board meeting.

Unlocking Opportunities: “Navigating and Meeting Challenges for Tomorrow”

Our highly anticipated CWC Annual Educational Conference and luncheon themed, "Navigating and Meeting Challenges for Tomorrow" is fast approaching! It is set to take place on May 3, 2024 at the Ontario Airport Hotel in Ontario, CA. This event promises to be a pivotal moment for our members, offering a wealth of opportunities for professional growth, networking, and skill enhancement while addressing the challenges of the future.

Why attend?

Dynamic Keynote Speakers: Our conference lineup features industry insiders and thought leaders who will share insights and perspectives on the latest trends and challenges in our field. Gain valuable knowledge and inspiration to navigate the ever-evolving landscape of workforce development.

Interactive Q&A Panel with Department Directorate: Connect directly with leaders in our field during an engaging Q&A session. This is your chance to have your questions answered and gain unique perspectives from those at the forefront of addressing the challenges of tomorrow.

Awards Ceremony and Luncheon: Celebrate excellence within our community as we recognize outstanding achievements. Enjoy a luncheon where you can network with peers, share experiences, and build lasting connections.

Networking Opportunities: Connect with fellow professionals, exchange ideas, and build meaningful relationships. Networking is a cornerstone of professional development, and our conference provides the perfect platform to navigate challenges collectively.

Career Insights: Whether you're looking to advance in your current role or explore new career paths, the conference offers valuable insights that can guide your professional journey in meeting the challenges of tomorrow.

Don't miss this opportunity to navigate and meet the challenges for tomorrow. Secure your spot at the Annual Education Conference on May 03, 2024. Register now to ensure you don't miss out on a day filled with learning, networking, and inspiration.

REGISTER NOW

FEATURED WRITER

A H J A M U M A K A L A N I
D I B , A R U 2 2 3



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND A BRAVE NEW WORLD

As a teenager, I would sit and watch in awe of the sci-fi TV drama Star Trek to hear the open monologue by Captain Kurt in a low, monotone voice, *"Space the final frontier, these are the voyages of the spaceship enterprise, its five-year mission to explore strange new worlds to seek out new life, new civilizations to boldly go where no man has before."*

Star Trek presented a futuristic picture of an advanced society where robotic androids acting with mannerisms akin to humans will exist in unison with humans. Our daily life would undergo significant transformation due to the integration of these profound technological advances. A robotic android will respond to verbal commands, like when Captain Picard requests information from the android data. Furthermore, in Star Trek, we enthusiastically saw the technology of the future instantly when Lieutenant Uhura would be writing on a table, which is today the iPad, or when Captain Kurt would be speaking to Scotty on a

gadget that's now the cellular phone.

Moreover, movies like iRobot, where robotic androids display very human-like characteristics, and probably the most famous and iconic robotic android is the Terminator, who infamously said, "I'll be back." This AI robotic android made the evolution in AI robotic technology natural.

The 21st century, like the preceding century, opens with contradictions and great possibilities in human development, ranging from new forms of social and organizational structures, which inevitably recast social relationships profoundly, meaning, of course, ethics, values, and the reproduction of human existence. The driver behind this new incoming reality and what is being called the Fourth Industrial Revolution 4.0 is Artificial Intelligence (AI).

AI is the supposition and evolution of computer systems

that can perform duties that generally require human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and language translation. AI will take over monotonous, repetitive tasks, improve communication, increase collaboration, and expand disciplines. This technology will and is becoming increasingly involved in day-to-day business operations.

Autonomous robots, through predictive analytics, will enable business enterprises to streamline the production process, increase productivity, and reduce environmental damage. More importantly, (AI) at this stage of development will not replace humans in the production process per se but will augment human abilities and enable us to work more safely and efficiently.

Cobots are the new iteration in (AI) robotics. They are inexpensive to operate, don't require a space to operate from, and safely work without requiring protective cages or segregation from workers.

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CWC STATE AWARD NOMINATIONS



The CWC State Awards offers a unique opportunity for the dedicated team at EDD to acknowledge and celebrate the outstanding contributions of their colleagues, workforce partners, employers, and community organizations in the realm of workforce development. These awards recognize exceptional efforts, innovation, and unwavering commitment to service.

This year, we encourage you to take a moment to nominate an exceptional manager or staff member who consistently goes above and beyond. The CWC State awards are a platform for honoring excellence and dedication, and this opportunity extends to both members and non-members alike. Here's the best part: anyone can be part of this celebration of excellence by writing a nomination! Your voice matters, and your recognition can make a significant difference.

Nominations must be submitted by February 14th to: jsszei@hotmail.com and vvelazquez.cwc.ie@gmail.com

Don't miss your chance to shine a spotlight on those who make a real impact in the field of workforce development. Let's come together to celebrate excellence, innovation, and outstanding service within the California Workforce Connection.

Award Categories

| | |
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| Award of Distinction | Eligibility: Member or Non-member – individual and group Recognizes outstanding contributions to the CA Chapter or to workforce development programs. The recipient(s) must be from the private sector or a non-governmental, nonprofit organization and not employed by a workforce development entity. |
| Meritorious Award | Eligibility: Member or Non-member – individual and group Recognizes outstanding contributions to the CA Chapter or to workforce development programs. The recipient(s) must be from the private sector or a non-governmental, nonprofit organization and not employed by a workforce development entity. |
| Services to Veterans Award | Eligibility: Member or Non-member – individual and group Recognizes those who have done the most to assist veterans and promote interest in their rights in the workplace. In addition, it recognizes an outstanding, innovative program or awareness and promotion of veterans' interests and rights in the workforce. |
| Retiree Award | Eligibility: Member – individual Recognizes a retiree who has shown continued outstanding commitment to the association's objectives following retirement. Nominees should have demonstrated exceptional accomplishments in advancing CA Chapter objectives, e.g. leadership on a board, committee or initiative group (not restricted to CA Chapter); participation in educational, membership, communication, fund-raising or legislative activities; mentoring chapter leaders and/or participation that advances the member's local community |
| Employee Performance Award (EDD & Partner) | Eligibility: Member – individual and group Recognizes an individual or group who has gone above and beyond their assigned duties to provide outstanding service to the public through excellent performance. The Nominee must have demonstrated exceptional achievements that contributed to the smooth performance of operations through positive attitude, accuracy, representing the agency with the public, handling workload under unusual conditions, adaptability, initiative and dependability. |
| Customer Service | Eligibility: Member or Non-member – individual and group Member or Non-Member – individual and group – Recognizes exceptional service to customers served throughout the workforce system including, but not limited to work with job seekers, UI claimants, businesses, schools, and vocational rehabilitation, people with disabilities, former felons, youths, welfare recipients and job training participants. |

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Award Categories

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| Fostering Partnership Award | Member or Non-Member – individual and group Recognizes an individual or group who has demonstrated diligent efforts to partner with the EDD and/ or CA Chapter while collaboratively delivering valuable and innovative services to meet the evolving needs of members, employers, workers, and job seekers. Partner organizations such as the Department of Rehabilitation, Workforce Investment Act Partners, the Small Business Administration, Employment Advisory Councils, Chambers of Commerce, governmental agencies, etc. all play an important role in the workforce system and employment security, so the CA Chapter would like to acknowledge them accordingly |
|-----------------------------|--|

2023 SUBMISSION COMPONENTS

The nomination must be typed, double-spaced, 11 or 12 size fonts, on 8½ x 11-inch paper.

Standard Nomination Form: This form must be the first page of every written nomination.

Narrative: This concise, precise and descriptive narrative must focus on the details/ examples of the actual accomplishment and include any necessary background information that explains why the accomplishment was exceptional to the association or agency. Give information based on the criteria listed on the judging sheet (found on the website in the Local Chapter Handbook), as this will assist the judges in properly and efficiently scoring the nominations.

Documentation: The narrative must be supported only by documentation that relates directly to the accomplishment activities on which the nomination is based. The documentation may be articles, endorsements, recommendations,

testimonials, or original and/ or digital photographs with a brief description of what each photograph is intended to show. If you need help writing an award nomination, look at awards on the CWC website. For those award categories where a non-member could win, the nomination must be written by a member.

For those awards that are only given to CA Chapter Members, CA Chapter membership is required in both the year during which the activity occurred (2023) and the year in which the nomination was submitted (2024). **Nominations must be submitted by February 14th.**

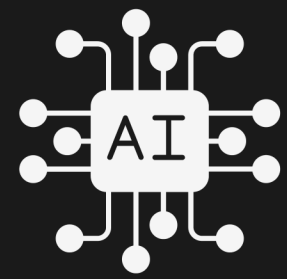
Please email award nominations to:
jsszei@hotmail.com and
vvelazquez.cwc.ie@gmail.com



FEATURED

WRITER

FROM PAGE 3



Cobots can preselect components to carry out tasks like screwing, sanding, and polishing, in addition, to carrying out quality inspection control. While this is fascinating in the evolution of technology, there are several stages of AI.

The first stage is the rules base or knowledge base; this is where AI operates not intuitively but learns on a predefined set of rules. This type of AI can be found in many everyday technologies, such as home security devices, alarm clocks, thermostats, microwaves, and car radios.

Secondly, it is context-based and not only processes immediate inputs but responds to the surrounding environment by using behavior, historical data, and real-time cues to make informed decisions and predict user's needs. Siri, Lexa, and Google Assistant are examples of this form of AI. Its retention system can retrieve information from previous interactions.

Thirdly, Narrow or Domain AI is tailored to master specific tasks and is used in the stock market to track trends, analyze market patterns, and predict stock movement beyond what any trader can do.

Fourthly, Reasoning or chat GPT simulates complex human processes that humans use daily to analyze data and identify anomalies by connecting patterns and drawing logical conclusions. An example is self-autonomous vehicles, or, in other words, driverless cars.

Finally, Artificial General Intelligence is a more advanced form of AI that can perform any software task. Humans can learn a million times faster than the human brain. Moreover, Artificial General Intelligence can, with the use of quantum algorithms, model human consciousness, understand your mood, and when the brain-computer interface reaches an adequate level of maturity, humans can merge with this type of AI and communicate in real-time by employing thoughts.

Furthermore, by the end of the century, AI could be trillions of times more intelligent than humans, thus becoming transcendent. Futurist Ray Kurzweil, an advocate of the transhumanist movement and author of *The Transcendent Man*, further maintains that AI will become super-intelligence and will exponentially grow in intelligence, eclipsing the combined cognitive ability of

every human that ever existed and tackle problems that were deemed unsolvable. Moreover, the advancement of AI will lead to its ability to become self-aware of being a model human consciousness and possess a full range of emotions and sensitivities.

In addition, transcendent AI can formulate new life forms, whether biological or digital. It is postulated that AI will ultimately be able to pierce the dynamics and complexes of the cosmos. While AI technology is heavily employed in the private sector and has shown great success in improving the development of goods and services, the federal, state, and local government sectors also employ this technology. California State government recognizes AI's transformative and salutary effects in enhancing first-class efficiency, accuracy, and competency in adjudicating fairness in service delivery.

For example, Megan Carbonell, Employment Development Administrator for the Inland Empire, in a staff briefing, informed everyone about the new software the Disability Insurance Branch will be launching to enhance the customer relations experience

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for a more pleasurable encounter and promote efficiency. Amazon Connect will have an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) component that will employ voice recognition, allowing the user to engage the system as though you are interacting with a person. also, there's a chatbox where the user can type in a question and get an immediate reply, aiding the user in getting information and issues resolve quickly, thus saving time and allowing claim examiners to work on more problematic claims.

AI technology's potential to revolutionize the California workforce is acute. However, there may be unforeseen drawbacks that may have deleterious consequences for its application to ensure AI efficaciousness and safety. State Senator Scott Wiener authored SB294 the Safety in Artificial Intelligence Act, the bill intends to require rigorous testing for AI models and planned safety contingency measures of action for safety breaches. Moreover, the bill will ensure that California remains the powerhouse for AI innovation while steering AI's technological development safety convention and creating the CalCompute cloud base cluster for AI researchers, held by the UC educational system. Applying science and technological innovations

ranging from simple tools such as the hammer to the wheel and horse buggy has enabled humans to navigate and impact their physical environment.

These technological innovations are an outgrowth of science, which serves a social function in the human experience. Through technical innovation, science is a means to satisfy our material needs. In other words, science is to be one of universal beneficence and a continuous progressive improvement in the conditions of life. Science is not an abstract endeavor but concretely grounded in the material reality of the human experience and not set apart from society's influences.

On the contrary, it is shaped and determined by the prevailing social institutions, economic, political, cultural values, and ethos at a historical epoch. In the United States, the primacy of private property is associated with freedom and is considered the highest value. While a private entity does not particularly own science, the technology resulting from its inquiry is private ownership. On this private property, the owner can determine when, where, and how the technology will be implemented and at what cost.

Consequently, a paradox occurs when the private interest of the individual owner interest conflicts with the broader interest of humanity or the utilitarian social function of science. Being that the social benefits of AI are transformative and life-affirming, that will profoundly impact every aspect of human life, raises a crucial social question as to whether technology, such as AI, should be collectively owned and used for the benefit of all human society or be privately owned by a few. As AI evolves, it will become more potent due to increased intellectual capacity. It could influence governments beyond the control of human participation by way of mega-corporations.

Star Trek introduces a captivating universe where human life is free from the socio-political conflicts prevalent in the 21st century. Portraying a 22nd-century future, the series envisions abundant material sustenance and creative leisure facilitated by artificial intelligence (AI). However, the advent of AI brings both promise and peril, with the potential for radical changes and the looming specter of a dystopian reality, reminiscent of Terminator, due to its unpredictable implementation and *raison d'être* (purpose).

CWC BENEFIT SERIES:

The Bybee Application Process

Via Zoom



District II Presents



Presented by the Bybee Board:

- Arlene Bautista (Bybee Chair)
- Tom Sims (Board Trustee)
- John Szeibert (Board Trustee)



**Learn how to submit a complete
Bybee application packet.**



Review the eligibility requirements.



**Discover what the grant can and
cannot be used for.**

February 7, 2024 6:30 – 8:00PM

[Click for Zoom Link-](#)

Or use

Meeting ID: 890 0508 1907

Passcode: 496123



United We Stand Health & Wellness Fair

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2024

11AM-3PM

@ TEAMSTERS LOCAL 63

955 BLOOMINGTON AVE. BLOOMINGTON, CA 92316

Join us for the TNBC SoCal Chapter Health and Wellness Fair, a collaborative event organized by the State Council On Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) and our community partners.

FREE HEALTH SCREENING!



Food is on a first come basis !

GAMES

PRIZES

FOOD

VENDORS

MUSIC

Participants and Vendors may register @

<https://forms.gle/Bm2Tr7rBBF1KA76a9>



The **United We Stand** Health & Wellness Fair offers resources from various organizations and agencies.

- Physical & Mental Health
- Nutrition / Free Medical Screening
- Education
- Employment
- Transportation
- Housing
- Recreational & much more



California
Workforce
Connection

The SCDD San Bernardino Regional Office protects the rights of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Inyo, Mono, Riverside and San Bernardino counties.

CALIFORNIA WORKFORCE CONNECTION

2024 STATE & CHAPTER AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The Power of Validation

Never underestimate the impact of validation. Recognizing achievements and excellence is not just a gesture; it's a crucial element in fostering an outstanding workplace.

An award nomination is a wonderful way to recognize a coworker, team, manager, or administrator for their contributions in the field of workforce development.

AWARD NOMINATIONS MUST BE
SUBMITTED TO YOUR LOCAL CHAPTER
BY FEBRUARY 14, 2024

OFFICE AWARD CATEGORIES

- ✓ Outstanding Customer Service
- ✓ Outstanding Team Player
- ✓ Outstanding Leadership
- ✓ Outstanding Overall Performance - Staff
- ✓ Outstanding Leadership - Management

STATE AWARD CATEGORIES

- ✓ Award of Distinction
- ✓ Meritorious Award
- ✓ Services to Veterans Award
- ✓ Customer Service Award
- ✓ Retiree (Individual)
- ✓ Fostering Partnership Award
- ✓ EDD Employee Performance Award

Please send your nominations or inquiries to:
jsszei@hotmail.com and vvelazquez.cwc.ie@gmail.com

www.californiaworkforceconnection.org



CWC STATE EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE & LUNCHEON

“NAVIGATING AND MEETING CHALLENGES FOR TOMORROW”

Embark on a transformative journey at our Annual Educational Conference. Join us for a day of inspiring keynote speeches, an interactive Directorate Panel with Q&A, and celebrate excellence at our awards ceremony and luncheon.

Seize the opportunity to network, enhance your skills, and stay ahead of industry trends. Elevate your professional path and shape the future of workforce excellence.

REGISTER NOW

**MAY 03, 2024
9AM - 5PM**

ONTARIO AIRPORT HOTEL
700 N. HAVEN AVE., ONTARIO, CA
91764

REGISTER EARLY AND SAVE!

EARLY REGISTRATION PRICES: ▪ MEMBER: \$35 ▪ NON-MEMBER: \$75 ▪ RETIREE: \$35 ▪ PI: \$35 ▪ YEOP: \$35

AFTER APRIL 7, 2024: ▪ MEMBER: \$75 ▪ NON-MEMBER: \$85 ▪ RETIREE: \$55 ▪ PI: \$55 ▪ YEOP: \$40

REGISTRATIONS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE.



California Workforce Connection Annual Education Conference

“Navigating and Meeting Challenges for Tomorrow”

Registration Form

May 3, 2024

Ontario Airport Hotel
700 N. Haven Ave., Ontario, CA 91764

Room reservations are **\$129 single/\$139 double** plus tax.

Hotel registration [LINK](#) or Call **1-800-654-1379** before April 20, 2024 to get this CWC rate

*Free self-parking

Zelle Registration use the QR Code (See below)

[Eventbrite Online Registration Link](#) (Processing fees will apply)

Online Registration ends April 20, 2024

Register Early and Save!

Early Registration Prices: • Member: \$35 • Non-Member: \$75 • Retiree: \$35 • PI: \$35 • YEOP: \$35

After April 7, 2024: • Member: \$75 • Non-Member: \$85 • Retiree: \$55 • PI: \$55 • YEOP: \$40

2024 CONFERENCE CHECK REGISTRATION FORM

Complete and mail this form (one form per person) with your check (payable to CWC) to:

California Workforce Connection, Attn: Phil Dwyer, 12550 Calle Tamega #125, San Diego, CA 92128

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: State: ZIP code: _____

E-mail: _____

Home Phone Number: Work Phone Number: _____

Local Office Name and ARU #: _____

Are you a member? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, which Local Chapter: _____

Meal choices (select one): Herb Roasted Chicken ☐ Marinated Tri-tip Roast ☐

Please indicate dietary restrictions: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ Check Number: _____

Postmark your Registration by April 15, 2024

Registrations are non-refundable.



Membership Application

☐ New
 ☐ Update
 ☐ Renewal
 ☒ Cancellation

Date:

Mail application and payments to: **CWC Membership Coordinator**, P.O. Box 7858, Oxnard, CA 93031
 or email application to cwcworkforceconnection@gmail.com (mail payment, if applicable)

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| *Full Name: | First MI | Last |
| *Local Chapter: | | Telephone: |
| *Personal email: | | |
| *Address: | | |
| *Employer: | | *Location: |
| *Job Title: | | ARU# |
| | | *Bargaining Unit #: |

| *Type of Member | Annual Dues | *Payment Option |
|--|-------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> Employment Development Department (EDD) Employee (Bargaining Unit 1 or 4) ** | \$48.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (\$4.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check *SSN: |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> EDD Supervisor/Exempt Employee ** + | \$0.00 | *SSN: |
| <input type="radio"/> Other State Employee (Non-EDD) ** <i>Refer to your Bargaining Unit Contract for possible reimbursement</i> | \$98.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (\$8.17) <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check *SSN: |
| <input type="radio"/> Partner (Non-EDD) | \$98.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Check |
| <input type="radio"/> EDD Student/Youth Assistant ** | \$36.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Automatic Deduction (\$3.00) <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check *SSN: |
| <input checked="" type="radio"/> Retiree | \$36.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check |

I recognize that the processing of this form/payment may take 1-3 months. If I have selected the **Automatic Deduction** option, I hereby authorize the State Controller's Office (SCO) to automatically deduct from my salary each month the amount listed above and transmit, as designated, an amount for membership dues to the CWC; I understand that processing may take 2-3 pay periods. If I have selected the **cash or check** option, I hereby agree to be sent annual dues renewal invoices (**make check payable to: CWC**). I agree to provide my full social security number, which will be kept confidential. I certify that I am now a member of the CWC and allow the organization to establish, change, and/or cancel my deduction, as applicable. I understand that this authorization will remain in effect until I submit a written request to the CWC Membership Coordinator to terminate my membership and cancel any deduction, as appropriate. I also understand that the CWC organization does not issue refunds for unused dues or the months taken for processing.

***Signature:** _____ ***Date:** _____
Name of Recruiter (if applicable): _____

* Required

** If you do not wish to provide your Social Security Number (SSN), then you must pay the full membership dues for that type of member by cash or check.

+ For this membership type, if you do not wish to supply the SSN, then the amount due is \$98.00.