



## News Release

Blake Konczal  
Executive Director

**For Immediate Release**  
**Date: February 1, 2019**

**Contact:** Blake G. Konczal  
(559) 490-7102 (o) or (559) 960-1282 (c)  
[bkonczal@workforce-connection.com](mailto:bkonczal@workforce-connection.com)

### **Fresno Chosen by National Group to Implement Family-Centered Employment Strategies**

**FRESNO, CA** – After a highly competitive process, the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board (FRWDB) was chosen by the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) to be trained on implementing family centered employment strategies via the NAWB Innovate+Educate (I+E) Project.

Supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, the family centered employment pilot is in its' third year and focuses on creating scalable strategies for Boards to engage families in their efforts around training and employment success. "The goal of this grant is to develop multiple ways for workforce development boards to incorporate family centered employment strategies in their day to day operations. A large number of workforce clients are facing barriers that include taking care of their family and small children. We believe this work is a critical part of addressing economic mobility, which is at the heart of all of our projects," said Jamai Blivin, CEO of Innovate+Educate. Fresno is one of the youngest, most diverse, and fastest growing cities, but it also has the nation's second-highest rate of concentrated poverty according to United States Census data.

The FRWDB is among the 12 additional Workforce agencies throughout the country selected from a pool of twenty-two applicants. Applications included family centered employment concepts to include integrated systems, innovative polices, and strategies to better serve families for economic success. "Individual success is almost always tied to family success, it's critical that we increasingly look to assisting the family if we are to achieve success with an individual job seeker," said Blake Konczal, Executive Director of the Fresno Regional Workforce Development Board.