Leaders in promoting and supporting inclusion for all children

Santa Clara County Office of Education

Strategies Professional Learning Solutions

INNOVATIONS COLLABORATIVE

Annual Report 2024-2025

From the Director

Dear friends of the Innovations Collaborative,

This year reminded me of something simple but powerful. When we lead with belonging, people show up differently. They engage differently. They learn differently. And across the Innovations Collaborative, I saw this truth come alive in the most beautiful ways. I am excited to share a few highlights that shaped our work in 2024–2025.

Our federally funded Data Adventures project continued to grow and strengthen this year. We expanded playtesting, began piloting, and refined lessons through feedback from educators and students. The joy and curiosity we saw in students as they engaged with hands on, universally designed data activities reminded us why this work matters. It has become a powerful example of how innovation, inclusion, and academic rigor can support one another. We also continued our role in state and regional systems of support, contributing to statewide work through CCEE, CDE, CAST, and county office partners. Our participation in statewide UDL efforts directly strengthened the quality of our training and coaching this year, giving us access to shared learning across COEs and deeper alignment with statewide priorities. This allowed us to bring the most relevant, equitable, and accessible practices into every session we delivered.

Professional learning was another cornerstone of the year. Our team offered sessions across early learning and K-12 classrooms as well as site and center-based programs on topics such as inclusive learning environments, belonging, co-teaching, trauma informed practices, UDL lesson design, funds of knowledge, and reflective practice. Our partnerships with districts this year have been a bright spot, creating real opportunities for educators to learn; and plan together in ways that directly support students. We've formed close and lasting relationships through this work. The Warmline remained a vital part of our department's work. We saw a steady rise in calls and referrals, and our multilingual support in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, and Mandarin allowed us to meet families and educators with care and clarity. We refreshed our outreach materials, strengthened our ties with family child care providers, and continued supporting districts and community partners who rely on us as a trusted resource.

None of this would be possible without the Warmenhoven Advisory Committee and the thoughtful guidance and support of Mrs. Charmaine Warmenhoven. Her belief in children, families, and inclusive learning environments remains one of the greatest gifts to our work.

As we look ahead, I feel hopeful and energized. Our team is moving into the next phase of our work with clarity and compassion and a commitment to creating learning environments where every child and every adult feels seen and valued.

With gratitude,

Sandra Lopez

Director, Innovations Collaborative

Inside:

Inclusion Supports for

Community Agencies	Preschool and Child Care Centers
School Districts	Families

2024 Innovations Collaborative State Conference

- Hybrid event
- 392 attendees
- 20 concurrent sessions
- Four Keynote speakers

Keynotes

The 11th Annual Inclusion Collaborative State Conference was held October 21–23, 2024, bringing together 392 attendees for a fully hybrid professional learning experience focused on equity, diversity, and inclusive practices. Under the theme "Inclusioneers INSPIRE!", the conference featured sessions on anti-bias education, early childhood, UDL, and innovative instructional strategies.
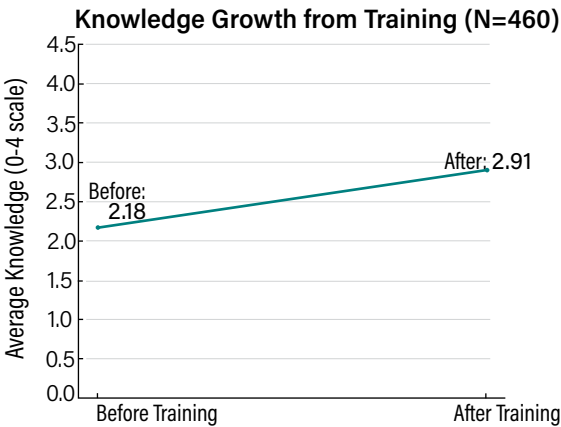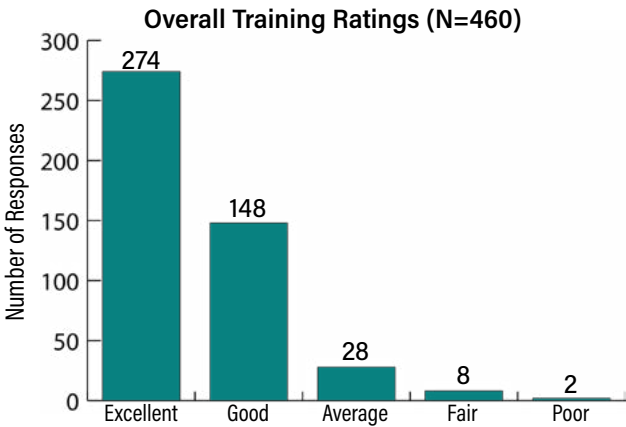
Keynotes from Ken Shelton, Rebecca Cokley, Dr. Bettina Love, and Dr. Wendy Murawski provided powerful insights on equity, abolitionist teaching, inclusive innovation, and co-teaching practices. Participant feedback reflected strong satisfaction, with many reporting increased inspiration and practical strategies to apply in their roles.

Ken Shelton
Reimagining Learning with AI: A Path to Equity and Empowerment

Rebecca Cokley
Beyond IEPs: Unlocking how Inclusion Promotes Innovation

Dr. Bettina Love
Punished for Dreaming: The Case for Abolitionist Teaching and Educational Reparations

Dr. Wendy Murawski
Co-Teaching, HLPs, and SDI: Oh my!

Customized Professional Learning

Last year, our professional learning program reached more than 500 educators across the county and beyond. We offered sessions on a wide range of topics, from inclusion and UDL to behavior, belonging, teaming, and early learning strategies. The overwhelming majority of participants rated their experience as Excellent or Good, and we saw meaningful growth in knowledge across sessions. We also received thoughtful constructive feedback, which we take seriously and use to strengthen the learning we design.

Educators shared how the training impacted them in deep and personal ways. One teacher from Castro Valley Unified wrote, "The presenters were flexible and accepting. They were personal and made the learning very approachable." A participant from Santa Clara Unified shared, "I appreciated the many opportunities to have meaningful connections with others. This is a presentation I will forever remember." And an educator from East Side Union High School District reflected, "The presentation was fresh and presented well. Very interactive. I have already gotten so many inclusive classroom ideas to bring back to my colleagues."

These comments reflect what we strive for each year: professional learning that is practical, relational, and grounded in real classroom experiences. Most importantly, they remind us that when educators feel seen and supported, they bring that same energy back to their students.

Overall Training Ratings (N=460)

Rating	Number of Responses
Excellent	274
Good	148
Average	28
Fair	8
Poor	2

Knowledge Growth from Training (N=460)

Before: 2.18
After: 2.91
(Average Knowledge 0–4 scale)

Professional Learning
Top Trainings 2024-25:
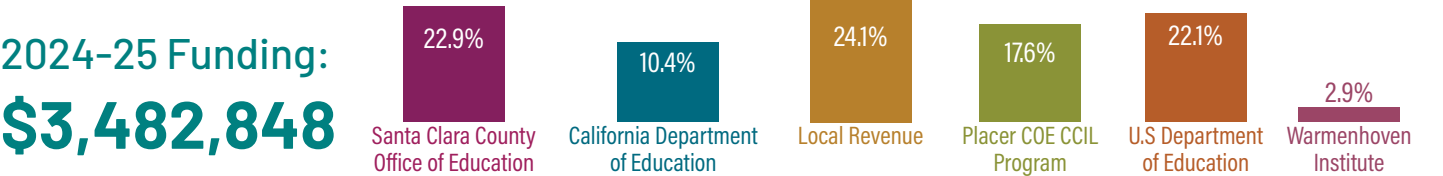
1. Teaching Pyramid
2. Universal Design for Learning
3. Welcoming & Belonging
4. Behavior Related
5. Co-Teaching
6. Equity Related

Program Spotlight: Santa Clara Unified Early Learning Co-Teaching Teams
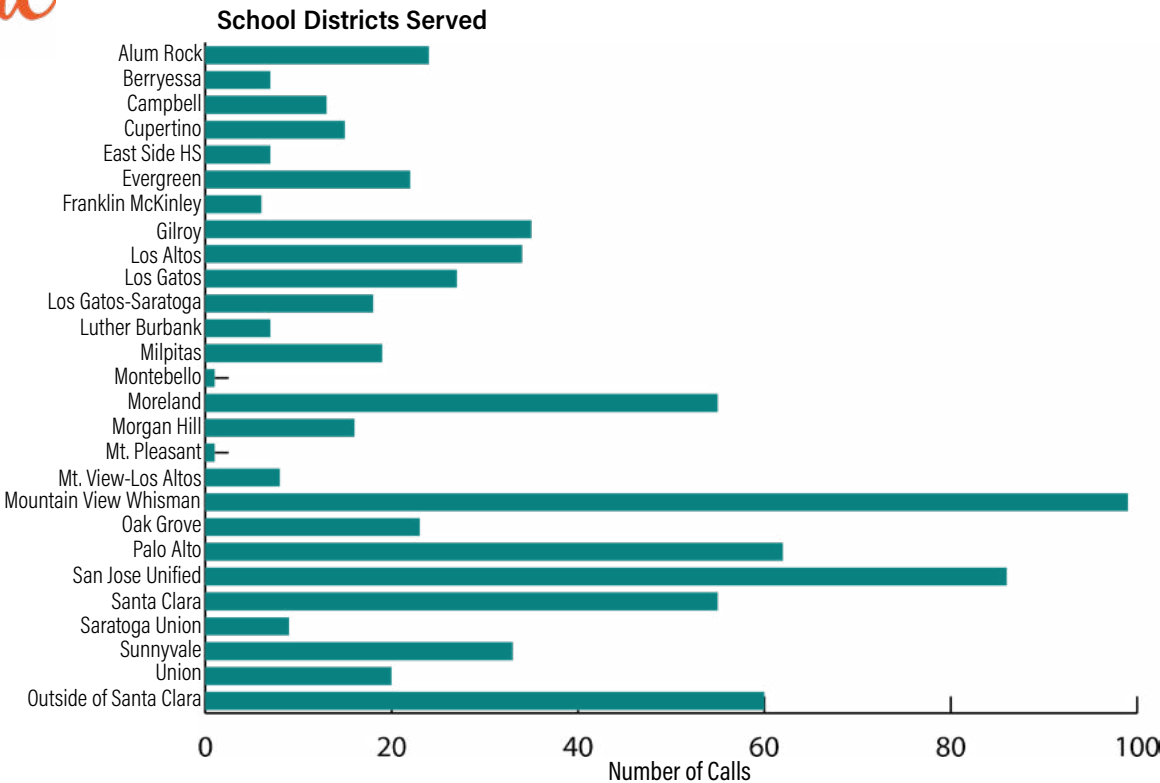

One of the most inspiring moments of the year was closing our Warmenhoven Advisory Retreat by celebrating the Santa Clara Unified preschool co-teaching teams and their equity-driven practices. The IC has partnered with them across a range of professional learning, including Kimochis, the Teaching Pyramid, co-teaching, and other early learning supports. The collaboration between the general education teachers and education specialists is so seamless that it is hard to tell where one role ends and the other begins.

What stands out most about this team is that they center belonging in everything they do. Their classrooms feel warm and connected, and you can see how intentional they are about making sure every child feels seen and supported. It was a joy to recognize them at our retreat and to lift up the impact they are making for young children and their families.

2024-25 Funding:
$3,482,848

22.9%	10.4%	24.1%	17.6%	22.1%	2.9%
Santa Clara County Office of Education	California Department of Education	Local Revenue	Placer COE CCIL Program	U.S Department of Education	Warmenhoven Institute

WarmLine

(408) 453-6651
warmline@sccoe.org

- The Warmline continues to serve caregivers, teachers, and the community at large.

- Warmline support includes informational e-packets on disabilities, education, language development, social-emotional growth, behavior, and community inclusion; customized visual supports and social stories; and referrals to inclusive community programs, preschools, after-school programs, and child care.

- The Warmline continues to provide Ages and Stages screenings for children birth to 60 months and Triple P parenting classes.

School Districts Served

Number of Calls

Partnerships

Charmaine Warmenhoven

The Innovations Collaborative Team

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The Innovations Collaborative of SCCOE believes every individual, with their unique strengths and experiences, has the right to high quality learning and community environments.

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408-453-6756

Santa Clara County Office of Education

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