

### **NOVA Awarded State Workforce Accelerator Grants**

NOVA has been awarded several Workforce Accelerator grants from the California Workforce Development Board, as follows:

1. **Bay Area Networking Catalyst Initiative:** This initiative is a partnership with Yes We Code and the Economic Advancement Research Institute. Yes We Code has created Coding Corps to train underrepresented workers, specifically, African-Americans, Latinos and Native Americans to become Web and mobile app developers. In order for these students to enjoy sustained career success, it will be important for them to access professional networks and acquire networking skills. This funded project will introduce Yes We Code to NOVA's ProMatch program model and customize ProMatch best practices for the Yes We Code students and graduates. The resulting network will promote career retention for current students and create a statewide model for fostering authentic tech diversity programs. Through this project, NOVA will also better understand how to adapt the ProMatch model to underrepresented populations that it can apply to its services going forward. Approximately 40 job seekers will be served through this project. This grant award will total \$150,000.
2. **Disability Employment Accelerator Project:** This project is a partnership with EvoLibri Consulting, Expandability, and Milken Institute. The project will work with major Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) sector employers interested in expanding their employment and retention of persons with disabilities on the autism spectrum to develop a training and retention program; recruit, screen and enroll at least 20 unemployed persons; and implement the training/retention model at each employer site. This grant award will total \$150,000.
3. **Career Mapping Initiative (CMap):** NOVA is also a partner in a grant-funded project initiated by Upwardly Global, an agency that provides job search and placement assistance to newly arrived immigrant professionals. The project will prototype a best-in-class private sector career mapping assessment tool, developed by Virgil, that will enable job seekers to quickly assess their skill sets and competitiveness for in-demand jobs, address any upskilling needs, and target their job search that will move the needle on employment. If successful, this tool could be utilized in NOVA's service-delivery system. Approximately 40 job seekers will participate in this project. This grant award will total \$150,000.

For more information about all of the Workforce Accelerator grant awards, visit the California Workforce Development Board Web page, [http://www.cwdb.ca.gov/res/docs/Workforce%20Accelerator%20Fund/WAF%203.0/Accelerator\\_3.0\\_FINALWeb\\_Announcement.pdf](http://www.cwdb.ca.gov/res/docs/Workforce%20Accelerator%20Fund/WAF%203.0/Accelerator_3.0_FINALWeb_Announcement.pdf).