California Innovation Corridor

It all started in 2001...

And hasn't finished,

Just yet.

IT Workers Transition to Aerospace

CALIFORNIA SPACE AUTHORITY

A Tale of Passionate Persistence
www.CaliforniaSpaceAuthority.org

Actually, the bigger picture issue
started earlier than 2001.

And will continue forever,
most likely…

Lifelong learning in technical
fields.

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Once there was a ***Silicon Valley*** space company that desperately needed ***hundreds*** of software engineers…

While there were ***thousands of*** displaced dot-com technical professionals without jobs.

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Once there were two seemingly disparate organizations, one industry (*California Space Authority*), one workforce *(NOVA)*…

That talked.

Once there was some money in the Governor's discretionary pot…

While there **were two organizations** talking about **possibly transitioning dot-com workers into space careers**

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Once there were ***employer*** vocabularies that did not seem to overlap, ***even though the skills needed were similar…***

Until some persistent people delved below the surface.

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Once there was an initial **State** grant that got the issue defined, but only defined...

Followed by a seemingly different opportunity – *a federal grant* - that funded the balance of the project.

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What may not have been worth doing for one company…

Was valuable across an industry.

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There was more to it than skills assessment and curriculum…

Industry culture.
Creative, multiple-source funding.
Industry/Assoc's/Workforce partnering.
Project role swapping.

Flexibility.

Now that the training is in place…

The loop needs closed re. awareness and respect for the value of the program by the companies.

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In other words…

Industry champions.

California Space Authority

When there are many players...

Passing the baton and keeping your eye on the ball count.

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Where there are many obstacles…

Passion and persistence matter.

Initial assessment project:
http://www.californiaspaceauthority.org/awia-sicoa/

UCSC Extension Certificate:
Software Engineering for Aerospace and Defense Applications