



NEWS

El Camino College | Public Relations & Marketing Department
16007 Crenshaw Blvd., Torrance, CA 90506
Contact: Ann M. Garten, Director, Community Relations
Telephone: (310) 660-3406 | Email: agarten@elcamino.edu

For Immediate Release

August 18, 2016

El Camino College CACT Honored by Department of Defense Mentor-Protégé Program

El Camino College was recently presented with the prestigious Nunn-Perry Award for its assistance in mentoring a manufacturing business and helping the company improve its performance under the U.S. Department of Defense's Mentor-Protégé Program.

The college's Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) worked with the Arizona-based company Orbital ATK for three years to help develop Martinez & Turek, Inc.'s business. Martinez & Turek, based in Rialto, Calif., started working with Orbital ATK in 2011 and provided the design and build of the transporter and launch ground support system for the Antares space vehicle.

"El Camino College is honored to receive this award acknowledging the assistance we provide to help businesses compete successfully in changing markets and the global economy," said El Camino College President Dena P. Maloney. "Supporting economic development is part of the mission of the California community colleges – and this recognition reflects the excellent work of El Camino College in that effort."

The Mentor-Protégé Program aims to assist small businesses to compete for prime contracts and sub contract awards by partnering them with large defense contractors to develop business and technical expertise, along with diversifying the small business' customer base. El Camino College's CACT assisted protégé Martinez & Turek by providing training in strategic planning, process re-engineering, project and supply chain management, lean and value stream mapping, as well as leadership and team building training.

"The end goal was to make Martinez & Turek a much better supplier to Orbital and getting them to the next level," said Jose Anaya, Dean of Community Advancement at El Camino College.

Representatives from the El Camino College CACT traveled to Martinez & Turek's factory to deliver more than 50 training courses over the past three years. Anaya said the partnership meets the goal of providing economic and workforce development and building strong business relationships.

"By engaging with this company, we were able to impact not only their business model, but develop their workforce," Anaya said. "We recognize that healthy businesses both contribute to a healthy economy and help our students get jobs."

Martinez & Turek and Orbital ATK received the Nunn-Perry Award from the U.S. Department of Defense Office of Small Business Programs late last year. The award recognizes the top mentor-protégé teams in areas of technical assistance, returns on investment, quality and protégé development.

El Camino College's Community Advancement Division includes the ECC Business Training Center in Hawthorne, which houses the CACT, the Center for International Trade Development, the Small Business Development Center, Contract Education, and the Workplace Learning Resource Center.

For more information about the El Camino College Business Training Center's training, expansion or workforce development programs, contact: 310-973-3178, btc@businessassist.org, or visit www.businessassist.org.

###