



NEWS

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El Camino College Completes Second Grant for Alternative Fuel & Vehicle Training *Innovative training program reports a 93 percent performance rate*

El Camino College's Business Training Center recently reported a 93 percent performance rate for its second Alternative Fuel and Vehicle Technology grant supported by the California Employment Training Panel (ETP).

The grant was coordinated through the Center for Customized Training and partnered with the Community College's Advanced Transportation and Renewable Energy (AT&RE) Sector. The program is one of the most successful in the state. El Camino College received its third new grant this past September based upon the success of the second grant.

The overall goal of the program is to support a transition from petroleum-based transportation to alternative and renewable fuels and clean, low-carbon vehicle technologies. Students learn to work safely and efficiently with alternative fuels, which are any fuel other than the traditional gasoline and diesel from petroleum sources. Bio-diesel, ethanol, methanol, electricity, propane, compressed or liquid natural gas, and hydrogen are examples of alternative fuels.

The two grants total \$439,640 and included a training partnership with the AT&RE Centers at Cerritos College, Long Beach City College, and City College of San Francisco. In all, the program trained 429 people, for a total of 18,100 hours.

El Camino College invested heavily in the first contract, building the necessary infrastructure needed to support the new ETP program, becoming a pioneer in alternative fuel and vehicle technology training. With the infrastructure now in place, the program plans to offer more training and expects an even better success rate with the next group.

The curriculum includes topics such as hybrid vehicle maintenance, Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certification for alternative fuels, hydraulics for alternative fueled vehicles, first responder training for all alternative fueled vehicles, advanced engine control systems and diagnostics, and natural gas vehicle technology.

Some of the South Bay employers that participated in the training include: City of Hawthorne, City of Long Beach-Fleet Services, City of Torrance, Compton Fire Department, El Camino College Police Department, LA County Department of Public Works, and MV Transportation.

First Responder Training for firefighters is also part of the program. More than 200 area firefighters have already been trained on how to respond to emergencies involving alternative fuel vehicles, with the El Camino Fire Academy as a training partner. The first responder training is now approved by the Fire Marshal for credit toward firefighters' education requirements, making ECC the only college with this approval.

For more information about this program, contact Eldon Davidson, the ECC Business Training Center's director of the Center for Customized Training, at 310-973-3158 or edavidson@elcamino.edu.

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