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**For Immediate Release**

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## **El Camino College's Center for International Trade Development to Establish an International Trade Compliance Institute**

The El Camino College Center for International Trade Development (CITD) was recently awarded a two-year Business and International Education grant for \$172,468 from the U.S. Department of Education to establish an International Trade Compliance Institute.

The institute will be a one-stop shop for trade compliance advice, information, training and assistance for California exporters and importers, focusing on international trade regulations, including the State Department's International Traffic in Arms Regulations (ITAR). The U.S. Department of Commerce and the California Space Authority (CSA) are partners on the grant and will serve on the Advisory Board for the International Trade Compliance Institute.

"The International Trade and Compliance Institute is designed to increase the level of U.S. compliance with international trade regulations that affect both the nation's national security and its access to global markets," said Maurice Kogon, El Camino College CITD director.

"Substantial growth in California's production and jobs can only come from increased penetration of foreign markets, where 95 percent of the world's consumers and two-thirds of world purchasing power resides. El Camino College looks forward to working with its government and industry partners to provide compliance counseling, workshops and technical assistance for the benefit of California's exporters, particularly in the high-tech sectors most affected by U.S. export regulations."

California's aerospace sector is especially at risk. A recent study of the U.S. space industry by the U.S. Departments of Defense and Commerce found that U.S. export control regulations are the number one barrier to entering foreign markets.

Separately, CSA and its partners conducted a 21st Century Supply Chain Transformation Survey as part of the industrial rejuvenation element of the U.S. Department of Labor's Workforce Innovations in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) initiative. Results of this survey found that 35 percent of aerospace suppliers are either not compliant or are unaware of ITAR regulations.

CSA's small to medium-sized members repeatedly state that ITAR is affecting business in a negative way. Simply put, ITAR is a problem for California space enterprise—an industry that has a total economic impact exceeding \$50 billion and represents 31 percent of the \$55.5 billion U.S. space market.

“We are pleased that El Camino College CITD was awarded this grant as the International Trade Compliance Institute will be a valuable resource for our members,” said Andrea Seastrand, executive director of the California Space Authority.

“CSA has long sought to bring relief to California businesses that have been negatively impacted by ITAR. We have worked on this issue from a policy perspective through our advocacy in Washington, DC. We now will have the opportunity to refer our members, especially our smaller companies, to the International Trade Compliance Institute for practical, hands on training and assistance about export control regulations.”