



NEWS

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For Immediate Release

July 1, 2014

El Camino College Partners with a Multi-Million Dollar Grant; Will Bring Engineering Education to Area High Schools, Create Pathways to College/Careers

El Camino College is a partner in a recently awarded multi-million dollar grant to bring engineering education to area high schools, while also creating a pathway to college and career opportunities.

ECC is part of the five-college Consortium for Advanced Manufacturing, which secured a \$15 million grant from the California Department of Education through the California Career Pathways Trust, a \$250 million competitive grant program. Long Beach City College will serve as the fiscal lead on the grant project that also includes Cerritos College, Harbor College, and Pasadena City College.

El Camino College's share of the grant is approximately \$2.8 million, which will be used to implement its highly successful engineering technology pathway – known as Project Lead the Way – at Long Beach City College, Harbor College and Pasadena City College.

Project Lead the Way (PLTW) is already in place at ECC and Cerritos College, offering exciting courses such as principles of engineering, introduction to engineering design, and computer integrated manufacturing. The courses also provide relevant hands-on activities to provide meaningful relevance and improve success in higher level math and science courses.

The colleges in the consortium are creating or refining career pathways in engineering technology education. The El Camino College model has more than 800 high school students earning college credit in engineering technology every year. The consortium plans to replicate this success in other colleges.

Another main goal of the project is to create an advanced manufacturing hub where students, instructors, and industry representatives can come together and find innovative ways to improve and share the curriculum while also building bridges into the workplace.

Each college in the consortium will serve as the local headquarters for its K-12 partners. El Camino College will partner with the Centinela Valley High School District, Torrance Unified School District, El Segundo Unified School District, Compton Unified School District, and the Lennox Mathematics, Science & Technology Academy.

Other plans in the works for the grant are the launch of an annual regional event that includes an engineering design competition for high school students.

MORE

Project Lead the Way's mission is to prepare students for the global economy and is designed to open up opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields. The U.S. Department of Commerce estimates that STEM-related jobs will grow 17 percent by 2018 – nearly double the growth for non-STEM fields. By 2018, the U.S. will have more than 1.2 million unfilled STEM jobs because there will not be enough qualified workers to fill them. STEM is where jobs are today and where the job growth will be in the future.

High school students interested in El Camino College's Project Lead the Way program are encouraged to apply and register now for fall 2014. For more information, go to <http://www.elcamino.edu/academics/cte/pltw.asp> or contact ntokuda@elcamino.edu.

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