



Peralta Community College District

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Peralta Colleges Among Winners of \$14.9 Million Department of Labor Grant To Expand Job Training Through Local Employer Partnerships

OAKLAND, Calif., September 20, 2012 - The Peralta Community College District, as part of an East Bay Consortium of colleges led by Los Medanos College from the Contra Costa Community College District, were awarded a \$14.9 million grant today from the Department of Labor as part of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Initiative, Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis announced.

Secretary Solis announced more than \$500 million in grants for community colleges and universities nationwide today. Colleges from around the U.S. will receive funds to expand job training through local employer partnerships.

The Peralta Colleges - Berkeley City College, College of Alameda and Laney College and Merritt College in Oakland - are part of an East Bay Consortium that also includes Contra Costa College, Diablo Valley College, Los Medanos College, Ohlone College, Chabot College, Solano College, CSU East Bay and University of California, Berkeley. Peralta will receive \$5.4 million of the \$14.9 awarded to the consortium, with College of Alameda and Laney College each receiving \$1.8 million (\$600,000 each per year over the three year grant period) and Merritt College and Berkeley City College each receiving \$900,000 (\$300,000 each per year for three years).

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“I am very pleased that the Department of Labor has recognized the unique role that community colleges play in workforce development and job training,” said José M. Ortiz, Ed.D., Chancellor of the Peralta Community College District. “I want to also thank Congresswoman Barbara Lee for her support during this grant process.”

“These awards to the Peralta Colleges pay tribute to the hard work our faculty and staff put into our award-winning programs, programs that create exciting employer partnerships and provide some of the best training that students anywhere can receive,” the Chancellor added.

The Department of Labor noted that this workforce initiative, which includes The Peralta Colleges, will create a regional workforce system driven by multiple areas of service articulation. This will include a regional "career path" educational system with stackable certificates across the ten community colleges, providing stronger, as well as linked, training referral and placement systems that integrate the work of the colleges with the Workforce Investment Act-funded One-Stop Career Centers. This initiative will also include the development of "career transfer pathways" that navigate from the community colleges into the California State University and the University of California systems.

Today's grant recipients represent the second installment of a four-year, Obama Administration initiative that totals \$2 billion, and is intended to help American businesses by supporting education and strengthening ties between employers and colleges.

The grants are designated to be utilized to provide training in such fields as manufacturing, transportation, health care, science, technology and engineering. The program was created in 2009 under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and funded within the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. Funds will be used for community colleges around the country for targeted training and workforce development to help economically dislocated workers who are changing careers. The grants support partnerships between community colleges and employers to develop programs that provide pathways to good jobs, including building instructional programs that meet specific industry needs.

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According to the Department of Labor, these grants complement President Obama's "broader goals to help ensure that every American has at least one year of postsecondary education and the U.S. has the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020." The complete news release can be found at <http://www.dol.gov/opa/media/press/eta/ETA20121885.htm>

Since 1964, the Peralta Community College District - Berkeley City College, College of Alameda and Laney and Merritt Colleges - has served Alameda, Albany, Berkeley, Emeryville, Oakland and Piedmont by providing East Bay students of all ages with a range of educational programs and life-long learning opportunities. To learn more, visit www.peralta.edu.

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