

Consortiums and Partnerships Have Paid Off

The last two weeks have been a whirl wind of notifications and planning meetings regarding the awarding of three grants of which we partnered with various community colleges in our application. These grants will bring funding to support programs and services that we already were in various stages of either planning for or already implementing. The following is an overview of them.

Trade Adjustment Assistance act –Department of Labor Grant

The Trade Adjustment Assistance act C3T is for approximately \$20,000,000 over three years. The Consortium emerged out of the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium, now refers to themselves as the Central California Community Colleges Committed to Change, “C6” for short! West Hills Community College is the lead and the consortium makes up 11 colleges. The purpose of the grant is to develop innovative approaches to reducing remediation time, time to completion of certificates or degrees, and an increase in completion. The funds will provide credit classes in basic skills at each college and various Allied Health programs at our three KCCCD colleges. Cerro Coso Community College will receive approximately \$1,500,000 over the three year period to serve students succeeding through basic skills and allied health programs. This grant also focuses on student success through innovative delivery of programs developed as a result of systemic change within our college.

Thank you to Cheryl Gates, Laura Vasquez, and Dean Valerie Karnes for the collaborative and innovative efforts in participating in the development of this program. This will certainly assist in acquiring the tools to educate our students at our various campuses, but also in developing innovative curriculum so students can achieve their educational goals and be placed into the workplace.

California Education Policy Grant

The “C6” Consortium also applied for and was awarded a California Educational Policy Fund, grant. West Hills will be the lead and it includes a total of 6 college districts in the Central Valley. The purpose is to improve the college readiness of students leaving the K-12 system and focuses on two areas: 1. Alignment of curriculum in English and math between the K-12 and the community college. 2) Common placement assessment among K-12, community college, and CSU system. The project focuses and is expected to reap results in policy changes within our system that result in increases in college readiness/student success. The project strongly urges us to follow the 8 guiding principles of Complete College America. The \$600,000 grant funds are to be used to facilitate these goals over three years.

A big thank you goes out to Heather Ostash for keeping this effort alive.

Co-op STEM Grant between Antelope Valley, Cerro Coso, and CSULB

This STEM collaborative Project is focused on services to improve outreach and pre-college preparation, increase services while the students are in college, increase student learning support

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services and advising as it relates to STEM programs. Antelope Valley College is the lead with partnerships between Cerro Coso and CSU Long Beach. The grant is funded over five years and will provide funding for educational equipment in support of the curriculum, provide funding for increased coordination of our STEM efforts, and infuse funding for increased student learning support for students in these programs. A big thank you goes out to Shannon Bliss, John Stenger-Smith, Heather Ostash, and Valerie Karnes for their assistance in developing the relationship with the other two institutions on behalf of our students and community's efforts to grow our own engineers!

November 8th, Veterans' Day Recognition Event with Assemblywoman Grove

Please join us in the lecture center at the IWV Campus as we honor our students and employees who have served in our military. This day is monumental for various reasons. First, because YOU who are our veterans will be honored by those in our valley; Second, because during the celebration Assemblywoman Shannon Grove will be visiting our campus specifically to address each and every one of you; and lastly, because we will end the day with the first college wide event having cake and punch in the **brand new student center!** I cannot think of a better way to honor each of our veterans, students and staff alike, than to open the Student Center on your behalf. Sign-in and morning refreshments begin at 10:00am in the Cerro Coso Lecture Center.

The Desert Empire Fair was a SUCCESS!!

I know this is not news to those of you who have read your emails lately, but thanks to Natalie Dorrell for her organization and to those of you who manned our college's booth this year at the Desert Empire Fair. Your hours of volunteering to connect with our community go a long way.

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