



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

MEDIA STATEMENT

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California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott Welcomes President Obama's Jobs Council to California to Discuss Health Workforce Initiative

Community colleges-led program is helping to meet training needs in allied health professions

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott today issued a statement welcoming representatives of President Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness to California to learn how a community colleges partnership can serve as a model for other states as they address their health care workforce needs:

"President Obama's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness recognizes that the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Health Workforce Initiative is working effectively with industry partners to prepare the health care workforce of tomorrow," Chancellor Scott said. "We are establishing critical links between colleges and employers to ensure that we can get these well-qualified students trained and into positions in the growing health care sector as quickly as possible."

Executive Director of the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness Don Graves and the Western Region Director for the Department of Labor Alicia Villarreal visited Saddleback College in Mission Viejo today to meet with community colleges representatives in a panel discussion. The forum is part of a series of regional council listening and action sessions held across the country.

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Health Workforce Initiative provides education and training programs for health care industry workers. The initiative has five centers throughout the state that focus services on the critical needs of the health care industry by developing partnerships between health care employers and community colleges. Staffs at the centers also help health care industry employers decide what they need in terms of a training program to fit a particular jobs skill set, and then help set up that program at a nearby community college.

Among those meeting Executive Director Graves and Western Region Director Villarreal are Saddleback College President Dr. Tod A. Burnett, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Health Workforce Initiative Statewide Director Linda Zorn, and California Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Tim Rainey.

The California Community Colleges is the nation's largest workforce training provider with 2.6 million students studying in more than 175 degree and career technical certificate programs. One quarter of all community college students nationwide are enrolled at one of California's 112 community colleges. California's community colleges are well positioned to be key players in working with the federal government to continue the economic recovery by preparing a skilled workforce that meets the needs of a changing job market.

The [California Community Colleges](#) is the largest system of higher education in the nation. It is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.6 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills courses in English and math, and prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

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