



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

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California Community Colleges Board of Governors Announces Winners of Annual Energy and Sustainability Awards

Victor Valley, Santa Monica and West Valley colleges to be honored at May 7 board meeting in Sacramento

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California Community Colleges Board of Governors has selected Victor Valley College District, Santa Monica College and West Valley College as its three winners of the annual Energy and Sustainability Awards competition. Victor Valley Community College District, a one-campus district comprised of Victor Valley College in Victorville, won the district leadership award. Santa Monica College won for facilities and operations and West Valley College took top prize in the faculty/student initiatives category.

“It’s great to see the advances that our colleges are making in sustainability and saving energy, which ultimately saves money,” California Community Colleges Board of Governors President Manuel Baca said. “When I see the winning entries I can’t help but be proud of how our colleges are leading the way in this field. We started these awards to highlight and reward exemplary energy and sustainability efforts on our campuses and to help motivate others. When we take steps and to save energy and create sustainability there are no losers.”

Fifty nominations were received in the three categories, up from 46 entries from last year, the first year the award was given. Representatives from the three winning colleges will be given the awards at the May 7 board of governors meeting in Sacramento.

“We are proud of the award winners and nominees who continue to show us the way in saving energy and applying sustainable practices,” said California Community Colleges Board of Governors member Henry A.J. Ramos, who was instrumental in establishing the award program. “What our colleges are doing locally can and should be replicated throughout the state, the nation and the world. These awards confirm that the California Community Colleges continue to be leaders in sustainable practices, efforts and ideas.”

The winners are:

District Leadership: Victor Valley Community College District – The district leadership made a resource and financial commitment in 2010 to create a comprehensive sustainability program to reduce its dependency on utilities and reduce future expenditures.

Sustainability projects included a one-megawatt solar array on the main campus, a 250 kilowatt (kW) solar parking lot system at the new Public Safety Training Center, and two new 200 kW systems at the main campus. The district also completed a campus sustainable landscaping project in December 2011 by removing 21,000 square feet of turf and replacing it with drought-tolerant landscaping that will save an estimated 865,634 gallons of water per year.

Also in 2011, the district entered into an agreement with Compass Energy Solutions to complete a series of energy efficiency upgrades to the main campus. These upgrades were completed under Government Code 4217, allowing the district to use an energy service provider to complete the work. These projects consist of replacing old, inefficient outdoor lighting fixtures with new energy-efficient lighting throughout the main campus. This portion of the project was an Associated Student Body 2010 goal. The students were involved in the lighting project to help identify areas on campus that needed better lighting for increased safety and energy savings. This work was completed in 2012.

The district also participated in the California Community Colleges and Investor Owned Utility Energy Efficiency Partnership by working with Southern California Edison to install plug-load controls and install power management software on 2,100 computers throughout campus. The district is requiring the design and construction of its New Science Health facility to participate in the Southern California Edison “Savings by Design” program, which can possibly earn the college \$200,000 in incentives.

Honorable mention: Mira Costa Community College District

Facilities and Operations: Santa Monica College – The Santa Monica College Energy Project was developed and approved by the Santa Monica College Board of Trustees in 2012 and included three main projects: replacing nine old and inefficient boilers; replacing 11,000 of the approximately 16,000 light fixtures on the campus and a comprehensive renovation of the Santa Monica College Center for Environmental and Urban Studies.

On the main campus, a total of nine boilers were replaced with new, energy efficient boilers. The light fixtures were replaced with a combination of fluorescent and LED (light emitting diode) lights. The renovation of the Center for Environmental and Urban Studies featured the installation of a three-stage heating system. The first stage consolidated all computer equipment into an existing server closet. Waste heat is captured from the computers and pumped through the building. The second stage was a solar thermal heating system and the third stage was an electrical heating element housed in the solar thermal tank and powered by the center’s existing solar photovoltaic system. The energy project also included sealing the envelope of the building by installing new windows, blown-in cellulose insulation, weather stripping, and insulation in the ceiling and crawl space.

Honorable mention: Sonoma County Junior College District

Faculty/Student Initiatives: West Valley College - The West Valley College Leadership in Energy and

Environmental Design (LEED) Internship was created to fulfill the hands-on requirement for the West Valley College Sustainability Certificate Program using the campus as a living laboratory. The interns are involved with all aspects of sustainability on campus. Apart from work with the built environment, focus includes sustainable development, social justice and issues pertaining to a holistic approach of environmental stewardship. The result has been a growing group of highly motivated and visible sustainability advocates on campus.

In 2011, the college's LEED Internship pilot program was initiated with five interns working on a feasibility study for the LEED Existing Building Operations and Maintenance certification of the Fox Technology Center on campus and expanded in 2012 to 20 students who launched a Facebook group and blog. Three of the interns from the pilot continued on and became mentors for new interns. Four teams were created, each with an area of concentration - energy management master plan, district standards, new construction and the Fox Existing Building Operations and Maintenance certification. For the spring 2013 semester, focus is on writing the sustainability plan in partnership with the West Valley College Sustainability Committee; implementation of the creek restoration project and long-term planning for the future of the internship.

Honorable mention: Skyline College

The [California Community Colleges](#) is the largest system of higher education in the nation. It is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.4 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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