



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

PRESS RELEASE

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California Community Colleges rewards Cuyamaca College with pair of grants for green and sustainability workforce training programs

Awards totaling more than \$700,000 given to El Cajon campus to train electricians, other vocations

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office has awarded Cuyamaca College with two Workforce and Economic Development Industry Driven Regional Collaborative grants of more than \$700,000 combined to help train workers to install advanced lighting and electric vehicle charging stations on the El Cajon campus and to learn how to audit a business' supply chain to maximize efficiency and sustainability.

The first two-year project grant of \$323,856 is for a sustainable infrastructure project to train at least 65 electricians on two educational tracks - to either learn how to install and maintain advanced lighting controls or install and maintain on-campus electric vehicle charging stations. Each training track is between 50 and 70 hours and prepares workers for industry certification exams that qualify them for good paying jobs in the green energy sector.

The second two-year project grant in the amount of \$410,000 is for training students in sustainable supply chain management. Up to 60 students will participate in a 150-hour certificate program and learn how to audit the supply chains of businesses to determine their efficiency and sustainability.

"Community colleges excel at green energy training and sustainability initiatives and will continue to lead the way in these areas of the economy," said acting California Community Colleges Chancellor [Erik Skinner](#). "It's an exciting time for community colleges as businesses continue to look to us to provide the trained workforce they need."

Cuyamaca continues to be an education leader in green and sustainable sectors. The college recently received two Green Futures grants from San Diego Gas & Electric totaling nearly \$46,000. The grants will fund Cuyamaca College's Green Campus Project, which involves student leaders submitting proposals for energy-efficiency projects on campus as part of a "Students for Change" initiative. The funds will be used for materials and other project needs.

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The second Green Futures grant will provide a green career exploration program and internship opportunities for local California Conservation Corps members, which initially approached Cuyamaca College for the joint venture. Both initiatives will be launched this month, Cuyamaca College officials said.

“Cuyamaca College has really been a quiet leader in the sustainability movement,” said Dr. Cindy Miles, chancellor of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. “They were doing sustainability before it had a name. Sustainability is deeply ingrained in the culture of the campus. It’s really part of the fiber of Cuyamaca.”

Recently, the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office participated in a Green California Community College Summit, began an award program to recognize colleges that reduce energy consumption and promote sustainable practices, and it continues to award grants to deserving colleges that develop programs to help train the workforce for the burgeoning green energy and sustainability fields.

“In this difficult budget climate, becoming more energy-efficient just makes sense for our colleges,” said board of governors member [Henry A.J. Ramos](#), who delivered an opening address at the community college summit on Sept. 27. “And if we can train our students to compete and win those jobs in the green energy sector while we also save taxpayers money, then that’s a win-win for everyone.”

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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