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College of Marin Career and Tech Ed. Gets \$550K Piece of \$15M California Career Pathways Trust Grant

Novato, CA—June 12, 2014—Students in College of Marin Career and Technical Education programs will benefit from a \$550,000 three-year grant to advance workforce development programs in multiple career pathways.

The grant, announced this week, is part of a \$15 million California Career Pathways Trust grant to the Sonoma County Office of Education, which is the lead partner in a six-county alliance designed to help students stay in school and move toward college and employment in high-demand fields.

The three-year grant will create career pathway programs that connect K-12 schools, community colleges and businesses throughout Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma counties.

"Thanks to the visionary collaboration of educators and industry, College of Marin has a wonderful opportunity to ensure students are prepared to meet the demands of high wage jobs in the North Bay," said David Wain Coon, College of Marin superintendent/president.

The Northern California Career Pathway Alliance includes 37 high schools, six county offices of education, five community colleges, five county workforce investment boards, and leading employers throughout the region.

The grant will create 67 career pathways in high school that will smoothly transition to 38 community college career pathways. Much of the work will be done at the high school level, incorporating workbased learning programs such as summer internships.

"There has been a lot of great work by all of the partners involved," said Nanda Schorske, executive dean of the Indian Valley Campus and Workforce & Economic Development for College of Marin.

For College of Marin, the plan is to advance workforce development programs and skills building in demand by employers, such as better integration of its Computer Information Systems and Business

Management programs. The College also plans to build out its 3D skill development Autodesk program and integrate it with Engineering Design, Schorske said. Students in the BioScience and AgriBusiness fields can look forward to new career pathways as well.

"All of these are high-wage and high-demand opportunities for North Bay students," Schorske said.

Implementation of the grant will begin immediately and start serving students in the 2014-15 school vear.

"This grant is an opportunity to ensure that young people are well prepared for their future and that the economic and workforce needs of our region are addressed," said Stephen Jackson, director of Career Technical Education for Sonoma County Office of Education and one of organizers of the grant project.

The grant is one of just 12 awarded at the "up to \$15 million" level. An additional 27 grant recipients were announced earlier this month at lower funding levels as part of this one-time competitive grant program administered by the California Department of Education.

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College of Marin is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, 10 Commercial Blvd., Suite 204, Novato, CA 94949, (415) 506-0234, an institutional accrediting body recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation and the U.S. Department of Education. Additional information about accreditation, including the filing of complaints against member institutions, can be found at: www.accjc.org. College of Marin is one of 113 public community colleges in California and approximately 13,000 credit, noncredit, and community education students enroll annually.

College of Marin students seeking instruction-related disability accommodations should contact the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) Office, (415) 485-9406. Individuals seeking special assistance to accommodate a disability may call the Student Activities & Advocacy Office, (415) 485-9376.

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