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Division of Workforce and Economic Development

PRESS RELEASE

January 25, 2013

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Employment Training Panel Approves \$13.9M Over \$3M in contracts for Community Colleges to Assist Workforce Needs of Employers

SACRAMENTO, Calif. -- The State of California's Employment Training Panel approved 38 contracts worth over \$13.9M in job training funds at its regularly held public meeting this past Friday. Additionally, since the last Panel meeting on November 16, Panel Chair, Barry Broad and Acting Executive Director, Jill McAloon have approved more than \$2.1M to help fund training for 39 small business and small-scope projects under \$100,000 each.

Community colleges were heavily represented at today's meeting, with six separate projects, accounting for over \$3M of total funding approved. Uniquely positioned to assist businesses in developing a highly-skilled, high-performance workforce, community colleges are helping to fill the skills gap and prepare the labor force for high paying, 21st century jobs. Through public-private partnerships, California's community colleges are providing cutting edge resources and training critical for today's rapidly changing workplace.

"Community colleges play a vital role in training California's workforce and keeping our state economically competitive," said Chancellor Brice W. Harris. "Our colleges are well positioned to respond to local job training needs with high quality instruction. This partnership with the Employment Training Panel will help employers meet their workforce requirements and help students succeed in the labor market."

Community College programs such as Riverside Community College District's Office of Economic Development, Kern Community College District's Workplace Learning Resource Center, Glendale Community College's Professional Development Center, and Butte-Glen Community College District's Contract Education Department are partnering with the business community to create programs specifically designed to meet the needs of local-area employers, regional industry, and the surrounding population.

By maintaining a high level of training that is both advanced and relevant, industry-linked programs and services enable individuals to reach their career goals and achieve economic self-sufficiency necessary to compete in the global marketplace. Whether training is focused on emerging technologies or streamlined production methods, community colleges are helping industry stay competitive and allowing businesses and individuals to contribute to California's economic prosperity."

ETP is a business and labor supported state agency that assists employers in strengthening their competitive edge in the economy by providing funds to partially off-set the costs of necessary job skills training. California's ETP is a performance-based program, providing funds for trainees who successfully complete training and are retained in good-paying jobs at a required minimum wage, for at least 90 days.

The program, funded by the Employment Training Tax paid by California employers, helps businesses

threatened by out-of-state and international competition. The Panel also serves employers under its Special Employment Training Program, funding projects designed to improve skills and employment security of frontline workers in projects that do not meet standard employer/trainee eligibility requirements. Since its inception in 1983, the ETP program has provided approximately \$1.25 billion to train over 800,000 workers for more than 78,000 California companies. Employers match training funds awarded by ETP, making these projects true public-private partnerships. For more information about the program, please visit www.etp.ca.gov, or call 916-327-5368.

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Regards,

Van Ton-Quinlivan, Vice Chancellor

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