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Regards,
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CCCCO Division of Workforce and Economic Development

California in-step with national AACC agenda to close skills gap

AACC’s recently issued Reclaiming the American Dream: Community Colleges and the Nation’s Future report called for institutional transformation. I have been asked to join leaders across the country on Recommendation 3: Closing the Skills Gap Implementation Team:

- Ensure student opportunities for career advancement and upward mobility through design of coherent career pathways leading to “stackable credentials”
- Building community colleges capacity for accurately identifying unfilled labor market needs and for ensuring that career education and training programs are streamlined to address those high-need areas. Develop technology-based tools that will help local college access available labor market data to identify and monitor skill gaps in their regions
- Mobilize powerful local, regional, and national partnerships to accomplish a collaborative agenda

As we focus on Doing What MATTERS for Jobs and the Economy, our learnings and results have the potential to inform the national agenda in the proud tradition of California.

Stay tuned by following me on Twitter @WorkforceVan. Give me feedback at vtquinalivan@cccco.edu. Write me comments via the “feedback” left bar of the doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu website. Or, let’s talk live at any of the 12 Critical Conversations.

Grant Funds Available

Advanced Manufacturing Sector
The Employment Training Panel (ETP) is a business and labor supported state agency that assists employers in strengthening their competitive edge by providing funds to offset the costs of job skills training necessary to maintain high-performance workplaces.
ETP is working closely with community college districts, university foundations, industry and trade associations, and state and local workforce investment boards to provide training funds in support of advanced manufacturing in California. Currently, ETP can provide up to $700,000 for manufacturers training both existing and newly hired California workers. If you would like more information regarding ETP funding or the application process, please contact Robert Meyer at (916) 327-4391 or robert.meyer@etp.ca.gov.

**Raising College Completion Rate**
Enhancing student success and raising completion rates are important to administrators and staff of community colleges. A new AACC grant is focused on helping colleges support students age 50 and over as they complete certificates or degrees in the high demand fields of healthcare, education, and social services. One hundred member colleges will be part of this premiere program and get grant funding, coaching from experienced colleges, and program support resources. Grant funding applications are available now through October 26, 2012, at www.aacc.nche.edu/plus50rfp. Applicants can apply directly. Those interested in partnering with the system’s Basic Skills Initiative, please contact Deborah Harrington at harrindl@email.laccd.edu.

**Veteran Skills to Jobs Act**
The Veteran Skills to Jobs Act, enacted on July 23rd of this year, states that federal agencies must treat military training as sufficient to qualify troops for federal licenses or certification, and gives federal agencies until January 19, 2013 to draft regulations on exactly how they will credit military training for federally issued licenses, ranging from aircraft mechanics to radio operators.