

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2007-08 ECONOMIC  
AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT TO THE  
LEGISLATURE**

**5.4**

***INFORMATION***

***Presentation:*** José Millan, Vice Chancellor  
*Economic Development and Workforce Preparation*

**Issue**

This item presents highlights from the *Economic and Workforce Development Program (Program) Annual Report to the Legislature* for the 2007-08 fiscal year. The Program supports curriculum development and instruction; provides valuable services to students, incumbent workers and employers; develops partnerships that create external investment; and demonstrates an excellent overall economic impact for the state. In 2007-08, 517 new courses were developed, more than 91,694 people received training, nearly 5,900 jobs were created and more than 14,000 jobs were retained. Two areas where the Program has strived to expand efforts are the continued integration of Program activity with regular college programs and creating quality career pathways for students while maintaining agile services for employers and employees.

The table on page 3 of this item displays preliminary information about the accomplishments of the Program with regard to jobs and training.

**Background**

The Program provides an economic strategy for the state, targeting high impact initiative areas and fostering emerging growth areas. The Program provides in-depth training and technical assistance services through a long-term network of delivery centers. The Program has been recognized for documenting outputs, outcomes and impacts which result from the strategic services provided. The EWD Program is currently authorized until January 1, 2013. The Education Code sections governing the Program now include authorization for the Governor's Initiative on Career Technical Education/Economic and Workforce Development Pathways program as well.

The Economic and Workforce Development Program, administrated through the System Office, was established in 1991 by Assembly Bill 1497. In 1996, the Legislature made economic development and continuous workforce improvement a primary mission of the California Community Colleges. The purpose of the Program is to advance the state's economic growth and global competitiveness through education, training, and services that contribute to continuous workforce improvement, business development and technology deployment. (Ed. Code §§ 66010.4(a)(3) and 88500.) With assistance from the Program, the California Community Colleges System has become more labor market responsive; and the Program has become more integrated into the System, so that one is indispensable to the other. The Program has a good track record in bringing in outside investment, providing hands-on assistance and training in flexible, innovative modes. Through the mission, career technical education is improved, business development is enhanced, entrepreneurship fostered, and workplace literacy improves.

The community colleges work with employers, advisory committees, and agency partners to identify workforce education and training needs, including the needs of small business, on a regional basis. Through this process, colleges have created a network of service providers that meet these needs in a cost-effective and timely manner. All Program projects are competitively bid and administered and implemented by community colleges. The Program funds about 228 projects statewide, including Regional Initiative Centers, specialized short-term grants, and Leadership/Capacity Building grants.

The Program has grown steadily since its inception, primarily because it is responsive to current workforce and business instructional needs and yields positive results. The Program has also been successful in targeting resources that result in improved productivity and expanded business development, creating additional jobs for California residents and job opportunities for welfare recipients.

The Program has also been the springboard for other programs. Two initiatives previously under the umbrella of the EWD Program have now become stand-alone efforts: Nursing Program Enrollment Growth and the Governor's Initiative for Career Technical Education Pathways (originally known as Senate Bill 70).

The Program continues to evolve, fostering sub sectors such as nanotechnology, renewable energy and green technology, logistics, geographic information systems, and hydrogen fuel. In addition, the Centers of Excellence (funded through the Program) have conducted a number of environmental scans from state, regional and local levels that focus on areas of demonstrated labor market needs.

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**Economic and Workforce Development Program  
Outcome Data Regarding Jobs and Training  
FY 2006-07 and 2007-08**

<b>Table 1—Job Creation and Career Enhancements</b>	<b>2006-07</b>	<b>2007-08*</b>
Reported job placements/jobs created – reported total by all grants	3,450	5,896
Reported jobs retained – reported total by all grants	13,307	14,378
<b>Other Advancements and Skills Upgrades (<i>not included above</i>)</b>		
Career advancement, promotion, or upgrade	930	1,070
Apprenticeships	95	204
Internships	1,244	1,660
Basic Skills training	13,399	8,009
Customized training	15,643	21,790
Completed industry certification program	4,962	4,480
Completed college certification program	1,249	2,406
Students/employees placed in entry-level positions	2,761	4,188
Student/employee job interviews	913	2,208
Persons receiving technical assistance	33,837	34,506
Persons receiving training	101,389	91,694
Welfare to Work/Working Poor	253	191

**Note:** Data for FY 2007-08 is preliminary and is subject to change.