



**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Ron Owens  
916-327-5356 Office  
916-804-4238 Mobile  
[rowens@cccco.edu](mailto:rowens@cccco.edu)

August 1, 2008

## **California Community Colleges Excel in Delivering Career Technical Education**

**SACRAMENTO** – California’s community colleges and K-12 schools are creating and expanding educational opportunities for Californians by re-building, improving, and aligning career technical education curriculum, according to a report just completed by Community Colleges Chancellor Diane Woodruff and State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell.

“Career Technical Education is a critical element of our mission,” said Chancellor Woodruff. “This report confirms what we have been saying all along; the development of innovative work-related career technical education programs that include California’s community colleges meets the work force needs of our state’s economy.” Superintendent O’Connell added that it is his goal that all California schools help students prepare for success in their careers and in their lives, including continuing their education at community colleges and other institutions of higher education.

Chancellor Woodruff noted that the California community college system, which is the largest provider of work force training in the United States, offers more than 175 degree and certificate programs in hundreds of vocational fields. “This report describes our responsiveness and ability to work in partnership with our K-12 schools and ROPs through the California Career Technical Education Initiative, which is developing engaging instruction with a connection to real world employment demand.”

The comprehensive 103-page report, titled “*The Governor’s Career Technical Education Initiative, Report to the Legislature, the Governor, and the Director of Finance,*” includes the following examples:

- One county focused on an Animation Project that embedded professional and academic standards to enhance skills crucial to animation work and to create a model for real world collaboration with experts outside the classroom.

- Another project created a Public Safety Careers Partnership utilizing law enforcement, fire protection, and related agencies in partnership with a broad coalition of education and workforce development entities.
- Another set of activities – Career Exploration Programs for Middle Schools—has helped students develop detailed education plans that include career as well as college-related goals.

The funding, provided through the California’s Community Colleges leadership in Economic Development and Career Technical Education and in collaboration with the California Department of Education, has created new resources for California. To mention a few of the highlights provided in the report:

- Nearly 100,000 students were served by the first year grants.
- Some 212 new courses were developed; another 220 courses were revised/expanded.
- More than 2,000 students participated in worksite learning opportunities such as internships and job shadowing.

The initiative was established by Senate Bill 70 by Senator Scott in 2006, and subsequently expanded and sustained by SB 1133 (Torlakson) in 2007 and SB 77 (Ducheny), the 2007-08 Budget Act.

This report provides information on how these funds were spent and also provides recommendations for improving and aligning career technical education pathways. The initial author of the report was the independent evaluator of the initiative, WestEd. Click on [The Governor's Career Technical Education Initiative, Report to the Legislature, the Governor, and the Director of Finance](#) to read.

*The California Community Colleges is the largest higher educational system in the nation comprised of 72 districts and 110 colleges with more than 2.6 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training and basic skills education, prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions and offer opportunities for personal enrichment and lifelong learning. The System Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges system, please visit <http://www.cccco.edu/>*

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