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Strong WorkForce

An amazing start to 2017 for College of Marin's Career Technical Education programs!

Just this month, the Chancellor's Office approved College of Marin's (COM) local Strong Workforce application, giving the Workforce Department \$579,000 annually to expand enrollment, create new programs, and increase student success in career technical education (CTE).

Over the next 20 months, the CTE division will expand existing programs and develop new programming in areas of high demand for employment in Marin, as reported by the Marin Economic Forum and other data sources.

Existing CTE programs will receive funding for a variety of projects:

- **Dental Assisting** will develop a hybrid online course in dental office skills;
- **Medical Assisting** and **Registered Nursing** will expand the Simulation Center; and
- **Environmental Landscaping** and **Sustainable Agriculture** will revitalize their programs and link to the newly emerging **Hospitality** program.

These projects funded were vetted through the Strong Workforce Action Group- a committee of faculty, staff and administrators- and reviewed by program Advisory Board members (which include local business owners). Project applications had to show evidence of both high labor market demand in the region, as well as the ability to pay a living ("middle skilled") wage.



In addition to existing programs, funding will also be used to develop three *new* certificate programs:

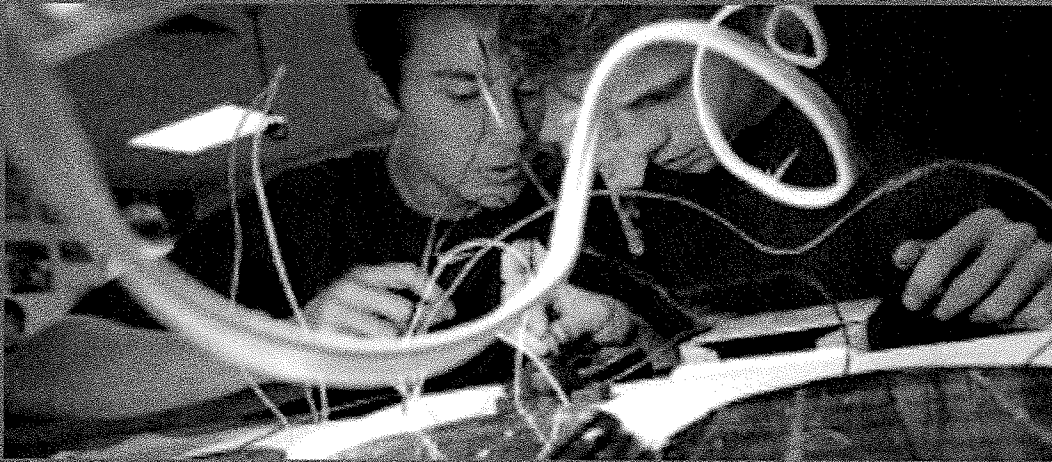
- Cisco Networking
- Business Information Worker
- Webmaster

An additional portion of the funding will be dedicated to marketing these programs to attract new and returning students, as well as streamlining the reporting and outreach to College of Marin graduates.

Community colleges receiving Strong Workforce funds must increase CTE enrollment and completions by 17 percent annually. "I have no doubt we will achieve the goals of increased enrollment, increased completion and certificates," said Dean of Career and Technical Education **Dr. Elizabeth Pratt**. "Our students will ultimately be more successful obtaining competitive occupations."

While the above projects are focused on employment needs specific to Marin, CTE staff is also working with industry, workforce, and educational entities on regional projects. COM received an additional \$251,000 for regional programming in three areas:

- Advanced Transportation and Industrial Mechanics (such as skills related to the operation of the new SMART train)
- Sustainable Agriculture
- Hospitality



Summer Career Academies for High School Students

In partnership with the Marin County Office of Education, COM is hosting four career-readiness academies for high school students this summer. All academies are at the Indian Valley Campus and are free (a small fee may be required for credit-bearing academies). Students can register at www.marincareers.org.

Introduction to Game Development - June 12-16

Students will learn hands-on what it takes to enter the dynamic field of game development. This week-long academy is run like a studio, where students work together on a design and build project. After this class, students can participate in an internship at the Marin Makerspace for six weeks and earn college credit.

Career Exploration – June 12-16

This academy introduces students to a myriad of careers, delves into job readiness, and gives a glimpse of what's hot in industry, salaries, and where the demand is. Students receive 1.5 college units for completing this week-long course.

Introduction to Health Occupations – June 19-23 and 26-30

This two-week academy introduces students to opportunities in health care -- career choices and the application of health concepts relative to becoming a healthcare professional. Students learn about healthcare systems roles, leadership, employability, and personal skills. Concepts include health maintenance practices, safety, infection control, teamwork, and legal and ethical responsibilities.

Solar Energy Academy – June 27 and 28-30

The SunPower Horizons™ Summer Solar Energy Academy is an intensive, six-day learning experience that provides high school students with hands-on experience in design and marketing. It not only inspires and informs students about solar energy, but helps them acquire and hone in on a range of work-ready technical and soft skills, and prepare for careers in the renewable energy sector.

New Internship Program for CTE Students!

COM's internship program was officially launched this month! Leading the effort is **Lissette Flores**, career internships and service learning coordinator, who is creating internship opportunities for all COM students interested in gaining hands-on experience in their chosen career path.

For CTE, Flores is focusing on students who are pursuing careers in health/biotech, engineering/ICT, agricultural business/hospitality, and digital media.

Currently she is focusing on reaching out to and meeting with new and existing business partners to develop student opportunities, and working with students to apply for and secure these internships for the spring semester. To date, students have received placements with the Golden Gate Parks National Conservancy, Congressman Jared Huffman's Office, and Indigo Films.

Flores is looking forward to collaborating closely with COM's Career and Technical Education/Workforce Development Department to expand work-based learning opportunities. For questions or interest in partnering with COM, contact Lissette at: lmflores@marin.edu.



Automotive Students Succeed in ASE Certification



Several College of Marin students in the Automotive Technology programs have the distinction of receiving third-party certification for their automotive expertise through the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

Among these successful students are Michael Wylie and Chris Almquist.

Wylie, a recent graduate of COM's auto program, noted that the combination of lecture and hands-on shop experience at COM has been the most beneficial aspect of his education. Almquist says he appreciates how accessible and approachable COM faculty are.

The ASE Certification reflects a level of skill in automotive service that is highly desirable in the labor market across the nation, and offers a higher wage in the field. ASE is an independent non-profit organization that has been certifying the skills of automotive repair and service professionals since 1972.

High Honor for Court Reporting Program

College of Marin's Court Reporting program recently passed the state approval review, which means this program will maintain its high distinction as a California Court Reporters Board-Approved program. Looking back on 2016, the small but mighty Court Reporting program had a productive and successful year:

- Four graduates passed all three legs of the very demanding state licensing exam and received their licenses as Certified Shorthand Reporters.
- Five additional students recently qualified to sit for the state exam.



COM's Court Reporting certificate program trains students in careers in court reporting, broadcast captioning, proofreading, and providing services in Communication Access Real-time Translation (CART). The program typically takes two to three years to complete and the requirement for enrollment is college-level English.

[Learn more about COM's Court Reporting program.](#)

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For more information about our graduation rates, the median debt of students who have completed the program, and other important information, please visit our website at <http://www1.marin.edu/gainful-employment>