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L.A. PIERCE COLLEGE RECEIVES GRANT TO ENHANCE ONLINE PATHWAYS FOR CAREER SEEKERS

Woodland Hills, CA – As a part of an effort to enhance and expand online pathways for Career and Technical Education (CTE), Los Angeles Pierce College has been awarded a \$250,000 grant from the State Chancellor’s Office.

Pierce will use the grant to help implement a program focused on improving access to and quality of existing online programs as well as developing new online CTE certificates in the areas of business, computer applications, computer science, public relations and social media.

“In order to achieve the objectives of the grant, we have evaluated our current CTE offerings to determine which short-term, industry-valued certificates can be enhanced through distance education,” said Joleen Voss-Rodriguez, director of Programs for Accelerated College Education (PACE).

The grant will also enable Pierce College to offer more online education classes and lower textbook costs by expanding the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) – free learning materials.

“We will implement innovative technologies and culturally responsive pedagogy to advance CTE online course development, enhance online teaching and increase access to industry-driven certificates,” Voss-Rodriguez said.

Pierce was one of 70 community colleges to share in the \$27.5 million grant from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office designed to build training capacity in the state for much-needed jobs.



Wendy Bass, director of Distance Education, said, "Pierce College welcomes the opportunity to continue to improve our online programs and serve as both an example and mentor to the other colleges in our District and across the state.

"Based on our history of successful grant management, interdisciplinary program collaboration, quality online programs and faculty, Pierce is well positioned to develop and implement quality, industry-driven, online CTE programs that will attract new and diverse student populations," Bass added.

One of the nine colleges of the Los Angeles Community College District (LACCD), Pierce offers a comprehensive curriculum and support services that enable its 22,000 students to earn associate degrees and certificates, prepare for university transfer, and gain career education proficiency.

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