Programs of Study—Where the Rubber Meets the Road

Mission College Tech Prep is participating in the Distribution Points Project to develop Programs of Study. The California Department of Education has organized career technical education into 15 Industry Sectors:
- Agriculture & Natural Resources
- Arts, Media, & Entertainment
- Building Trades & Construction
- Education, Child Development, & Family Services
- Energy & Utilities
- Engineering & Design Industry
- Fashion & Interior Design
- Finance & Business
- Health Science & Medical Technology
- Hospitality, Tourism & Recreation
- Information Technology
- Manufacturing and Development
- Marketing, Sales, & Service
- Public Services
- Transportation

Each of the 15 Industry Sectors has from three to six Career Pathways that show students in high school and college how to prepare for occupations in that Industry Sector.

Each Career Pathway has several possible Programs of Study in which students can earn a high school diploma, or a certificate or Associate Degree, both of which can be earned at a community college.

Mission College has been working with high school and community colleges to develop Programs of Study for the following Career Pathways:
- Arts, Media & Entertainment
- Fashion & Interior Design
- Hospitality, Tourism & Recreation

Mission College will present its findings at the upcoming Educating for Careers conference in February.

Focus on Careers

Mission College Tech Prep hosted its annual Focus on Careers event at Mission College on Friday, November 6, 2009 from 9 am to 12 noon. Over 400 students from eight area middle and high schools attended.

Activities included a welcome from school leaders and department representatives, a campus tour, career fair and presentations on Financial Aid.

Highlights included a demonstration on how to prepare fresh fruit (with samples) by the Culinary Arts department as well as a colorful display of student projects at the Art department display.

Middle school students were invited this year as a part of the Community Collaborative grant which supports career exploration for students in 7th and 8th grades.

Students weren’t the only ones to benefit from the day, however, as the teachers and counselors attended presentations on Professional Studies degree/certificate options led by Eloise Cantrell, Chairperson of the Professional Studies Department, and Transfer, led by Adriana Martinez, Transfer Center Director.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:
- Over 400 students attended Focus on Careers
- Mission College selected by state to lead Distribution Point grant
- 1500 middle school students will explore their careers with the help of the it’s up 2 u curriculum
- The Health, Fitness and Athletics Complex, one of three new buildings on campus, is open for the spring 2010 semester.

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Externships: an Opportunity for Professional Growth

How would you like to shadow a travel agent who specializes in African American travel? Well, that’s what one instructor is doing as an externship in the Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation Industry Sector funded by the Community Collaborative Grant. She and eight other professionals just completed their externship, and made presentations on how participating in the Externship program will enhance their teaching.

Externships, a term first used in 1945, involve “experiential, practical, hands-on learning.” They are “shorter and less extensive than internships and do not provide academic credit.” The benefit for teachers is that they “transfer to another working world.” The benefit for businesses is that they can “build relationships, help shape curriculum and recruit.” For more information contact Richie Aribuabo at Tech Prep. (Faculty/Counselor Externships: A Model that “Works”, presented at Educating For Careers, 2009)

New Buildings on Campus

The 8,500 foot Health, Fitness and Athletics Complex was dedicated on February 20, 2010. Spring semester classes are now in full swing. Facilities include a three lane indoor running track, three exercise studios, and five smart classrooms. The HFAC building is located southeast of the campus opposite El Cariso golf course from the campus, at the intersection of Harding and Eldridge.

The 74,000 square-foot Family and Consumer Studies building is scheduled to open in June 2010. It will house the Food Management and Culinary Arts department as well as the Bookstore.

Groundbreaking for the new

Mission College and three area middle schools (Maclay, Olive Vista, Sepulveda) are collaborating to enable almost 1500 local students to engage in career exploration. Funded by the State of California, one of the missions of the Community Collaborative grant is to help extend existing career pathways to the middle school level. Students will be using the new it’s up 2 u career exploration material developed by Orange Coast Community College District. Written with the 7th and 8th grade student in mind, the material includes a 32-page student booklet and 10 teacher directed lessons. The material targets high-risk students and gives them the information they will need to successfully navigate the crucial transition to high school.

Middle School Outreach

New Health Fitness & Athletics Complex
Staff members of Mission College Tech Prep and the Community Collaborative Project

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Industry Perspective

Long-time Advisory Committee member Ms. Aleea Le Blanc, Director of Human Resources, has represented the Warner Center Marriott for almost 10 years. In this capacity she has reviewed College curriculum, attended career fairs, made classroom presentations, and given tours of the Warner Center property to students and faculty alike. She is such a big supporter of Mission that she even displayed Food Service Management degree information when recruiting at industry career fairs. Thank you, Aleea, for all your years of service!

We’re on the Web at:

www.lamission.edu/techprep/

Spring Events

Educating for Careers—Sunday through Tuesday, February 28-March 2, 2010. Statewide conference for Career and Technical Education. Mission College will be presenting Programs of Study developed at a round table discussion on Sunday from 9:00-2:00.

Counselors Day—Friday, March 5, 2010. Annual gathering of local area high school and middle school counselors. Activities include continental breakfast, networking, presentations on Interesting Issues at Mission and What’s Exciting at Mission, followed by a Campus tour.

Professional Development—Friday, April 30, 2010. Come and learn about Green Careers and the skills students will need to be successful in them. Patterned on the NexTrend LA event sponsored by the LA Community College District, presenters will include employers from Green industries as well as LA County labor market experts.

Career Pathways Symposium—Friday, May 14, 2010. Instructors from high and middle school as well as community colleges, and business leaders will gather to discuss Career Pathways and how to develope them. Meet your partners in the job of preparing students for the 21st century work force.