Cerritos College Receives $2.3 Million Grant for Retail Management

Program Opens Doors for Rewarding Careers in Grocery Retail Management

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 18, 2012

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NORWALK, Calif. – December 18, 2012 – Cerritos College received $2.3 million in a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to increase the number of people trained in retail management and seek careers in the supermarket industry.

Cerritos College is part of the Alaska California Texas-Oregon National Retail Management Careers Consortium (ACT-ON Consortium) which aims to ensure retail management careers provide a solid opportunity for workers seeking meaningful careers.

Partners of the Consortium include Cerritos College, Tyler Junior College (TX), Clackamas Community College (OR) and the University of Alaska, Anchorage. The total grant is worth $12 million over four years and Cerritos College’s share is $2.3 million.

Funded by the Department of Labor’s Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grants program (TAA) the project will provide training for underemployed and unemployed people in retail management. The training applies to most retail sectors in the job market, particularly for those seeking employment in the grocery industry.

Cerritos College began offering a Supermarket Management A.A. degree in 1970. In 1999, the program was expanded to include a certificate aligned with and endorsed by the Western Association of Food Chains (WAFC). The Cerritos College Retail Management Certificate Program has become one of the largest retail management certificate programs on the West Coast.

The certificate curriculum consists of 10 core classes, 30 units. Course work is transferable leading to an A.A. degree and allowing the student to apply to various bachelor’s degree programs including the Business Management bachelor’s degree offered by Northwood University on the Cerritos College campus.
Seventeen new certificate classes will be offered in spring 2013 and will be available in nine week blocks. Many sections will be available online making it easy for students to access the course work on their own time.

Those who have been laid off due to the relocation of their jobs to another country should visit their local workforce investment office or EDD office for additional assistance in attending college.

Students interested in the program should send an email to BLivingston@cerritos.edu.

About Cerritos College: Cerritos College serves as a comprehensive community college for southeastern Los Angeles County. Communities within the college’s district include Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Downey, Hawaiian Gardens, La Mirada, Norwalk, and portions of Bell Gardens, Lakewood, Long Beach, Santa Fe Springs and South Gate. Cerritos College offers degrees and certificates in more than 180 areas of study in nine divisions. Annually, more than 1,200 students successfully complete their course of studies, and enrollment currently averages 23,000 students. Visit Cerritos College online at http://www.cerritos.edu/.

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