Cerritos College Receives $2.8 Million to Strengthen the Link Between Education and Careers in Engineering and Manufacturing

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NORWALK, Calif. – June 10, 2014 – Cerritos College received a $2.8 million grant from the California Department of Education for expanding career pathways in engineering technology and advanced manufacturing.

The award is part of the California Career Pathways Trust grant, which was established in 2013 to connect employers, K-12 schools, and community colleges and provide students with knowledge, skills and pathways in high-demand fields.

According to Dr. Yannick Real, instructional dean of Technology at Cerritos College, there is a severe shortage of technicians in Southern California. “This grant will allow high school students to discover great careers in these areas,” said Real.

“Cerritos College is excited to be the recipient of this highly competitive grant. The funding will allow the College to build on our successful outreach initiatives with our district high schools and expand support for training opportunities that create a clear pathway for students interested in high-demand, high-earning technology careers.” said Dr. JoAnna Schilling, vice president of Academic Affairs, Cerritos College.

Cerritos College will be partnering with Compton College, El Camino College, Long Beach City College, Los Angeles Harbor College, and Pasadena City College to better prepare students for fast-growing fields.

At Cerritos College, the grant will fund the successful Project Lead the Way program which provides classes in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics to middle and high school students in the college’s service area. The grant will also be used to expand opportunities for students in engineering technology and advanced manufacturing programs.

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/.