

PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Agenda Report
For the Trustee Meeting Date of March 27, 2012

ITEM # 20

ITEM TITLE:

Serving Young Adult Ex-Offenders through Training and Service-Learning Grant

SPECIFIC BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Consider approval for Merritt College's Intent to Apply for the Serving Young Adult Ex-Offenders through Training and Service-Learning Grant

ITEM SUMMARY:

The Employment and Training Administration (ETA), and the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), announce the availability of approximately \$30 million in grant funds authorized by the Workforce Investment Act for Reintegration of Ex-Offenders (RExO) Training and Service-Learning grants to serve young adult offenders ages 18 through 21 who have been involved in the juvenile justice system from the age of 14 or above and have never been convicted as an adult under Federal or State law. Training provided through these grants is expected to lead to credentials recognized by in demand industries in the grantee's geographic area to be served. Service-learning projects conducted through these grants must integrate meaningful community service with instruction and reflection that enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and encourage lifelong civic engagement. Such projects can help rebuild severed relationships between the returning offender and members of the community while developing the participant's workplace skills, such as leadership and time management. Through service-learning, returning offenders are offered the opportunity to reestablish community-based trust while enhancing their work-based skills and status in their communities.

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

Department of Labor (DOL) and the Employment and Training Administration (ETA). Requesting up to \$1.5 million to cover a 30-month period of performance. The Department expects to award a minimum of 20 grants of various amounts.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

Each year, juvenile courts in the United States handle roughly 1.6 million delinquency cases, and an estimated 144,000 youth are placed in juvenile correctional facilities. Youth in the juvenile justice system have a high probability of returning to crime after their release. A contributing factor to this high recidivism rate is the disproportionately high unemployment rate among ex-prisoners, estimated to range from 25 to 40 percent. This grant seeks to improve the employability of participants by providing skills training. The training and service-learning grants to be awarded through this announcement hold promise for reducing the recidivism rate of young adult offenders. Job training that leads to employer-recognized credentials helps to ensure the value of the training in the labor market, which benefits the individuals served through the grants. The attainment of industry-recognized credentials is a strategy for both improving employment and earnings prospects for participants and addressing employers' needs for more skilled workers.

DELIVERABLES AND SCOPE OF WORK:

Programs funded must include each of the following components:

- 1) Meaningful service-learning opportunities;
- 2) Educational interventions that leads to placement opportunities in post-secondary education and vocational training that lead to industry-recognized credentials in demand industries in the geographic area to be served;
- 3) Community awareness of the participants' service projects that rebuilds the community's trust in them and enables the community to view them as assets rather than liabilities;

- 4) High staff-to- participant ratios, including close adult supervision on service-learning projects;
- 5) A career development;
- 6) Post-program support and follow-up.

ANTICIPATED COMPLETION DATE:

30-month period of performance

ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS:

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDED ACTION:

OTHER DEPARTMENTS IMPACTED BY THIS ACTION (E.G. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY):

YES _____ NO _____

COMMENTS:

WHO WILL BE PRESENTING THIS ITEM AT THE BOARD MEETING?

Dr. Debbie Budd, Vice Chancellor of Educational Services

(*****Board contract approval is subject to negotiation and execution by the Chancellor.)

DOCUMENT PREPARED BY:

Prepared by: George Herring
George Herring, President of Merritt College

Date: 3-22-12

DOCUMENT PRESENTED AND APPROVED BY:

Presented and approved by: Debbie Budd
Debbie Budd, Vice Chancellor Educational Services

Date: 3-20-12

FINANCE DEPARTMENT REVIEW

Finance review required Finance review *not* required

If Finance review is required, determination is: Approved Not Approved

If not approved, please give reason: _____

Signature: Ron Gerhard Date: 3-22-12
Ron Gerhard, Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration

GENERAL COUNSEL (Legality and Format/adherence to Education Codes):

Legal review required Legal review *not* required

If Legal review is required, determination is: Approved Not Approved

Signature: _____ Date: _____
Thuy Thi Nguyen, General Counsel

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE APPROVAL

Approved, and Place on Agenda Not Approved, but Place on Agenda

Signature: Wise E. Allen Date: 3-20-12
Wise E. Allen, Chancellor