



CAREER LADDERS PROJECT

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Dr. Norma Ambriz-Galaviz
President, Merritt College
12500 Campus Drive,
Oakland, California 94619

Subject: Invitation to Participate in the California Community College Linked Learning Initiative (CCCLI)

Dear Dr. Ambriz-Galaviz:

It is our pleasure to invite Merritt College to participate in the California Community College Linked Learning Initiative (CCCLI), a solicited RFP process to improve college and career outcomes for students from Linked Learning Academies. Based on your commitment to making data-informed decisions, your desire to deepen partnerships with local Linked Learning High School Academies and your willingness to further develop sector pathways connected to an industry, we are inviting you to respond to this funding partnership opportunity. Funding up to the amount of \$75,000 is available to cover grant activities from January 20, 2012 through June 30, 2014.

Please respond with a Letter of Intent outlining your interest in pursuing a full application process. The Letter of Intent is due by January 25, 2012.

California Community College Linked Learning Initiative (CCCLI)

The James Irvine Foundation has funded the Career Ladders Project (CLP) to create the California Community College Linked Learning initiative (CCCLI). In 2011-12, CLP was provided the opportunity to plan and propose the elements of this initiative and to identify prospective partner colleges for the initial implementation years, 2012-14.

The goal of this initiative is to increase student success in community college among California youth, especially low-income youth, who have completed a Linked Learning Academy by extending the benefits of the Linked Learning approach into California community colleges. Through participation in this grant, colleges will have the opportunity to:

- Engage in an exchange of effective practices with selected community colleges across the state;
- Share strategies and approaches that will help develop partnerships inside and outside of the college, and with high schools and four year colleges, to support Linked Learning graduates with needed resources;
- Develop integrated CTE and academic structures that align with Linked Learning approaches at the postsecondary level; and
- Participate in the Industry Sector Community of Practice.

The CCCLI grant officially launched in June 2012 whereby three pre-selected colleges (Contra Costa College, Pasadena City College and Sacramento City College) received funding to develop student support and transitional services and instructional interventions for students from Linked Learning Academies in their community college. These colleges will serve as "hub colleges" whereby they will serve as sector leads in a statewide "community of practice," which will serve as a learning

community among colleges, high schools, employers and Linked Learning advocates to deepen the work around CTE and basic skill integration; career pathway mapping; contextualized teaching and learning; acceleration strategies; stackable certificates and early exposure to students supports that can enhance student success in college. CCCLLI is at the phase where we are inviting Partner Colleges to join the initiative. We hope you will consider this opportunity and submit a Letter of Intent.

Your role as a Partner College

As a Partner College of the CCCLLI, you will have an opportunity to:

- Engage in data collection and analysis collaboration with your Linked Learning High School Academy, CLP and the evaluator to inform practice and policy-making decisions
- Develop and pursue one or more interventions based on student level transcript review from 2009 and 2013
- Develop, deepen and share your experience with Linked Learning High School Academy Leadership and support staff to remove transitional barriers from high school to community college
- Refine a pathway in the selected industry sector that is connected to high school academy partners and articulated to industry standards and regional demand
- Participate in communities of practice framed around sector-based work and removing transitional barriers, among others
- Disseminate information about the Linked Learning initiative at your college and in your district and region
- Participate in evaluation of the initiative as well as receive ongoing technical assistance
- Participate in conferences and/or special CCCLLI meetings

The Career Ladders Project

The Career Ladders Project mission is to assist California community colleges and the communities they serve in making strategic systemic changes to better prepare disadvantaged youth and adults for success in postsecondary education leading to careers with family sustaining wages and ongoing opportunities for career advancement.

CLP is ideally positioned to work with the community colleges in the state, as well as with state systems, policy makers, industry sector representatives, and other partners on this initiative. Founded by the CCC Board of Governors, the CLP was established in 2002 under the auspices of the Foundation for California Community Colleges. CLP provides research-based policy and practice recommendations to the system regarding career pathway programs. CLP works with colleges, providing strategic advice and technical assistance, to demonstrate practices that show promise for accelerating progress and completion for youth and adults with multiple barriers to higher education. As initiatives mature, CLP works with local districts, state systems and state policy makers to promote expansion and replication of successful projects and to identify systemic policy changes that can better support effective practices.

Through the CCCLLI initiative, CLP together with the participating Partner Colleges, aims to accomplish the following:

- Examine and improve student outcomes in community colleges (enrollment, persistence, and completion of goal: certificate/transfer/graduation);
- Create opportunities for more comprehensive local partnerships among Linked Learning Academies and the community colleges which serve their graduates; and
- Influence policy as effective practices are identified, documented, and shared with stakeholders throughout California.

Next Steps

At this time, we are asking each college to submit a brief description of focus of how you would improve college and career outcomes for students from Linked Learning Academies. Upon submission of the Letter of Intent, CLP will collaborate with you on a more detailed proposal.

If you need further information, please contact:

Laurie Scolari

Initiative Director of the California Community College Linked Learning Initiative

Career Ladders Project

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Thank you,

Linda Collins

Executive Director