

## **Alameda One Stop Career Center College of Alameda**

The 'one-stop career center' concept was introduced by the Department of Labor in 1993 as the organizing vehicle for transforming the fragmented array of employment and training programs into a coordinated information and service delivery system for individuals seeking jobs and for employers seeking to hire new workers. During fall 1996, the Alameda County, Oakland, Richmond, and Contra Costa County Private Industry Councils became partners and received a \$3 million grant to develop a one-stop career center system for the East Bay (*EastBay Works*).

College of Alameda hosts the Alameda One Stop Career Center, which started operating in March 1997 in cooperation with the City of Alameda and the Alameda Private Industry Council (now Workforce Investment Board) in order to meet the employment needs of residents and employers in the city of Alameda. The Alameda One Stop Career Center is part of *EastBay Works*, a network of five employment services throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties.

The Alameda One Stop is only one of two One Stop Career Centers in the *EastBay Works* network which is located on a community college campus. In addition to the resources provided to all visitors to the one-stop, the Alameda One Stop Career Center offers unique services because of its location on the College of Alameda campus. Proximity to the college's educational offerings is an advantage to those job seekers who find that additional training is necessary, as well as providing career services and placement services for students.

As a certified One Stop Career Center, core services that are provided for job seeker are:

- directory of services,
- resource referral,
- job services,
- access to unemployment insurance resources.
- employment services,
- labor market information,
- intake/eligibility,

A first-time visitor to the One Stop, after completing an intake/orientation, is issued an *EastBay Works* membership card that allows him or her to access any of the seventeen one-stop centers in the two county area. Intensive services are provided to dislocated workers and low-income adults.

Currently, the **One Stop Career Center is entirely grant funded through a contract with the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board**. Program goals are negotiated yearly. The Alameda One Stop Career Center agrees to implement the Performance (Enrollment Goal, Enter Employment and Retention Rates) and Expenditure Goals detailed in the annual contract with the Alameda County Workforce Investment Board.

In addition to its physical location on the College of Alameda campus, the One Stop Career Center works closely with various college departments in order to provide college faculty, staff, and students with employment and job-related services. Staff from the Alameda One Stop Career Center work with college faculty to make classroom presentations and throughout the year the One-Stop brings prospective employers to campus to do recruitment related activities. The One Stop coordinates an annual Job Fair every spring semester which brings in approximately 35 employers from throughout the area and attracts approximately 600 students and community members searching for both full-time and part-time employment opportunities. The annual job fair takes place in the college's student center.

As a standing member on the college's Student Services Council, the One Stop's site manager plays an active role in ensuring a collaborative relationship with other student services areas at the college. Currently, the college is working to develop a process in which on-campus student employment postings (to include Federal Work Study opportunities) can be centrally housed through the One Stop. This would provide COA students who are looking for employment with one centralized location to view both on-campus and off-campus employment opportunities.