

PERALTA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Board of Trustees Agenda Report
For the Trustee Meeting Date of July 16, 2013

ITEM TITLE:

NSF-ATE/Biotech Integration

SPECIFIC BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Consider approval for Peralta Community College District to apply for an NSF-ATE/Biotech Integration (National Science Foundation) grant.

ITEM SUMMARY:

The NSF-ATE program focuses on education of technicians for high-technology fields that drive the nation's economy. Grant goals include curriculum development, professional development, articulation with local high school feeder programs, and teacher training for K-12. The proposal is entitled "Biotech Integration." We will expand and strengthen Merritt Bioscience programs, including Genomics, Microscopy, and Histotech, in collaboration with local and national Industry Partners, Universities and Community Colleges with similar goals (biotechnology emphasis). The funds will be used to develop intensive workshops, student training exchanges with other biotech programs, and national and international "train the trainer" programs, with an emphasis on integrating biotechnology with existing biology courses.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

Merritt College has a state of the art Biotech and Genomics program entailing high tech equipment, labs and curriculum that prepare students for high earning positions in Genomics' fields. This grant fits the student learning outcomes and objectives of the program. The Bay area is a global leader in Biotech and Alameda County leads the Bay area in Biotech employment opportunities.

ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS:

EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDED ACTION:

SOURCE OF FUNDS (AND FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT): Consider approval for Merritt College's Intent to Apply to the NSF-ATE grant. **Funding Source: National Science Foundation.** The amount requested is up to a maximum of \$2.4 million over a 3 year period.

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

YES _____ No X

COMMENTS:

We are currently in a high tech economy, and as a result, high paying jobs are in the biotech and genomics' field. All areas of today's society have some relationship to these fields such as criminology, agriculture, food science, health sciences, etc.; any field that handles living organisms needs a skilled worker who is trained in biotech or genomics.

WHO WILL BE PRESENTING THIS ITEM AT THE BOARD MEETING?

President Norma Ambriz-Galaviz

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