

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

ITEM TITLE:

NSF-ATE/CXO-Link – Merritt College

SPECIFIC BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Consider approval for Peralta Community College District to apply for an NSF-ATE (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. The proposal is entitled "CXO-Link." Bio-link is a national NSF center that works to develop and support biotech programs at Community Colleges throughout the United States. Bio-link proposes that we use the genomics labs at 860 Atlantic in order to act as an incubator for CXOs, including Profile Genomics and CXOs for other Bay Area Community Colleges. CXOs are contract research/manufacturing/science/service organizations that allow students to obtain work experience during their training and generate revenue for biotech programs.

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.

This particular grant will help develop new partnership with local Biotech and Genomics companies to establish internship opportunities for students to develop "real life" work experience. Additionally, students will have access to a broad range of equipment being used out in the work place to obtain an increased knowledge base and skill sets.

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.)