

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

ITEM TITLE:

NSF-REU/ De Novo Genomics – Merritt College

SPECIFIC BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Consider approval for Peralta Community College District to apply for an NSF-REU (National Science Foundation) grant.

ITEM SUMMARY:

The NSF-REU grant provides funds for opportunities for novel research by undergraduate students in STEM fields as well as opportunities for international collaborations. The proposal is entitled, "De Novo Genomics." Students will have valuable opportunities to explore the genomes of unique herpetological specimens from the Middle East, including Kurdistan. This affords students the opportunity for research training, travel, and exchanges with partner Universities in the Middle East.

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-REU grant. **Funding Source: National Science Foundation.** The amount requested is \$450,000 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.)