

Chancellor's Office California Community Colleges	District: <u>State Center Community College District</u>
	College: _____
RFA Specification Number: <u>06-0091</u>	

ABSTRACT PAGE

Need and Objective

The State Center Community College District (SCCCD) proposes to develop a Career Advancement Academy encompassing six community colleges (West Hills Lemoore, West Hills Coalinga, Reedley, Fresno City, SCCC North Centers and Merced) that serve five contiguous Central Valley counties (Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings and Tulare). The Central Valley Partnership found that the education gap between students in the San Joaquin Valley and the rest of the state is significant, and that Valley students are less likely to be prepared for or attend college than students statewide. The Central Valley Career Advancement Academy (CVCAA) partnership will create pipelines for 18 to 30 year olds who have dropped out or lack basic skills to obtain the skills and technical training needed to access high skill, high wage employment.

Procedures

The State Center Community College District is submitting a CAA Planning Grant from which to build its partnership and begin the foundation of the project. Leveraging partnerships already forged at the college level between WIBs, social service agencies, and adult schools, the CVCAA will leverage linkages already formed. This project furthermore streamlines the partnership process between industry and colleges by engaging the Regional Jobs Initiative Workgroups as well as the California Partnership for the San Joaquin Higher Education and Workforce Development Workgroup. While the partners have worked closely in the past, this project will formalize and intensify these relationships. As the project builds, the model developed will be readily replicable within each college to other vocational programs, within the partnership, and beyond the region. The collaborative model is sustainable because industry will support a partnership that produces workers required to remain competitive.

Outcomes

SCCCD and its partners propose to link vocational and basic skills coursework using the successful learning community model. Contextualized basic skills classes in math, English and critical thinking will be developed using industry vocabulary to teach basic concepts.

Career Advancement Academy curriculum will deliver instruction that reflects students' differing interests and learning styles in ways students can understand. This curriculum will have students taking an active part in the learning process through their participation in work based learning experiences. Students will establish connections between academic concepts of critical thinking, math and English through project based learning.

The ultimate outcomes of the continuing model are to increase student completion rates in vocational programs, improve student employment in higher wage jobs, meet the needs of industry for skilled and educated workers, and sustain and replicate the project.