



# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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## CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

### PRESS RELEASE

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### **California Community Colleges Can Receive Free Membership To United States Green Building Council Under New Partnership Agreement**

***Student access to online courses, staff development are major benefits of new green building initiative***

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California Community Colleges Chancellor Jack Scott today announced the California Community Colleges have partnered with the United States Green Building Council and its Community Green (USGBC) program to offer faculty and staff free access to online Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) green building curriculum. This new statewide partnership will serve as a template for use in other states throughout the country.

Students at participating campuses also will receive support in studying for and taking LEED credential exams, which can lead to jobs in the burgeoning alternative energy and sustainability fields.

“These collaborations are excellent opportunities for our students to become more employable and it’s also a staff development opportunity,” Chancellor Scott said. “These are the types of jobs that will power our economic recovery and gives the students a skill that will lead to higher wages and a brighter future. Our faculty and staff can continue building their educational careers, too, and help train today those green energy and sustainability leaders of tomorrow.”

By joining the USGBC’s Community Green program, community colleges will receive an institutional membership for one year. That membership allows faculty to have support in integrating green building coursework and training opportunities into the curriculum. They also get access to instructor trainings on facilitating green building courses and activities. Students gain access to online courses and study materials for passing the LEED Green Associate exam, which leads to a credential that is recognized nationally and internationally by the green energy and sustainability industries. The LEED Green Associate represents fundamental knowledge of LEED and green building with a commitment to sustainability.

The initial rollout of the program to faculty and staff has already begun with invitations to sign up with the USGBC. Students will be encouraged to sign up in the fall when the academic year begins.

“California’s community colleges are essential to building sustainable local economies and educating the next generation of green building professionals” said Rachel Gutter, director of the Center for Green Schools at the USGBC. “We’re thrilled to partner with the state of California in this initiative, and look forward to using our collaboration as a nationwide model to emphasize the critical role that community colleges play in the green economy.”

The agreement between community colleges and USGBC was facilitated by Southern California Edison, which has been working with the state Chancellor’s Office on a statewide partnership to achieve cost-effective immediate and persistent peak energy and demand savings at all campuses. A component of that partnership is a program to promote energy efficiency awareness through education, and to provide green workforce exposure and career opportunities to students. That program, called Developing Energy Efficiency Professionals, pays students to acquire and spread knowledge about sustainability practices at their campuses.

The program is currently at Citrus College in Glendora, El Camino College in Torrance and Mt. San Antonio College in Walnut. The aim is to double the number of campuses by the 2013-2014 academic year.

“We are extremely proud of our program for not only meeting its objectives, but for exceeding its objectives by facilitating the launch of the very first USGBC student chapter at a California community college, El Camino College, and for helping expand the USGBC student program to all community colleges,” said Carlos Hernandez, education programs manager for Southern California Edison.

For more information about DEEP, go to <http://bit.ly/N8SusJ>

*The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.6 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor’s Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>.*

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