



# CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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## CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

### PRESS RELEASE

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### **California Community Colleges Board of Governors Member Henry A.J. Ramos Says Community Colleges Can Help Build Green Workforce *Green California Community College Summit kicks off today in Pasadena***

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – California's 112 community colleges will continue leading the greening of the state's workforce, said California Community Colleges Board of Governors member Henry A.J. Ramos in a featured speech today that helped kick off the 5<sup>th</sup> annual [Green California Community College Summit](#) held through tomorrow at the Pasadena Convention Center.

The Summit is the largest annual event in the nation that's focused exclusively on green curriculum, training programs and sustainability on the California Community College's 112 campuses – the largest system of higher education in the United States. A recent report from the Solar Foundation showed that 25 percent of the nation's solar energy jobs are in California and, as the state's largest workforce provider, the California Community Colleges is uniquely positioned to provide the green energy sustainability sectors with the highly trained employees needed to fuel further growth. This was the major theme of Ramos' featured speech Thursday morning in front of approximately 1,000 attendees.

"As we continue to focus more on alternative energy and sustainability issues, innovative businesses looking to capitalize on these growing markets need educated employees and that's where our higher education system is uniquely positioned to produce those educated and qualified employees," Ramos said. "We are nimble enough to provide a small training class for a business owner looking for instruction on one specific manufacturing machine and large enough to provide degree and certificate programs for student looking to enter this exciting sector."

Ramos has served as a member of the Board of Governors since 2009. During his tenure on the board, he has taken a leadership role on system sustainability issues, leading new efforts by the Chancellor's Office in partnership with state-based, investor-owned utility executives to incentivize enhanced campus conservation, green building, environmental education programming, and leadership recognition. Through Ramos's focus on the issues, the Chancellor's Office has started a competitive awards program intended to highlight exemplary sustainability initiatives by California community college districts, leaders, faculty and students. The first set of awards was announced in May. Ramos is an independent consultant to leading U.S. foundations and

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nonprofit organizations, and also an artist and author/editor affiliated with a number of cultural and higher educational institutions in California, Texas and New York.

*The [California Community Colleges](#) is the largest system of higher education in the nation. It is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.4 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills courses in English and math, and prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.*

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