

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **California Employment Training Panel Provides \$1,675,124 to Train 594 Unemployed Workers**

**Sacramento, Calif.** – The holiday seasons will be brighter for several hundred unemployed Californians, due to action by the State’s Employment Training Panel (ETP) providing \$1,675,124 for customized job training ensuring job placement for almost 600 unemployed workers. The funding is targeted to help unemployed workers in San Diego and Sacramento counties, as well as several rural counties in northern and central portions of the state with high unemployment levels.

“This training will ensure these job seekers get secure good paying jobs in their communities,” said Peter McNamee, executive director of ETP.

Foundation College in San Diego received the largest training award.

“Everyday we see adults whose careers advance because of the opportunities ETP funding provides,” said Rand Stallings, Program Manager at Foundation College. “Today’s businesses, especially small businesses, need a higher skill level in their employees in order to survive increased competition and decreased resources. ETP provides the opportunity for unemployed workers in California to gain the skills that employers are seeking.”

One recipient of ETP training assistance, Virginia Lawrence, commented. “Without this special funding, I could not have even considered going back to school.”

Foundation College of San Diego was awarded \$890,550 to train and place into employment 330 previously unemployed workers.

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## **Unemployed Workers Fund – 2**

Trainees will receive high-tech training in Information Systems, Network Security, Network Administration, and other Information Technology occupations.

In addition to helping relieve unemployment in San Diego, ETP training funds will also help unemployed workers in a number of northern California counties.

Career Academy, with a campus in Redding, received approval for a \$419,549 contract to train 69 unemployed workers in Shasta county. Trainees will receive up to 455 hours of training in occupations that include clinical medical assistance, medical front office billing, bookkeeping, information management technology, telecommunication assembly and repair, and other fields.

“This ETP contract will provide the rural counties of Northern California with a rare opportunity to train individuals into occupations that are extremely important to the community and in high demand,” said Mike Reynolds, CEO of Career Academy.

The Elk Grove Unified School District in Sacramento County will retrain 150 unemployed workers in customer service skills. This \$191,400 contract will help recently displaced employees of the district find new jobs in the area of customer service in call center operations. Other trainees will include district staff who have received layoff notices, as well as other government employees who have been laid-off.

Goodwill Industries of Stockton received \$173,625 to train 45 unemployed workers in business skills and office technologies. Most of these unemployed workers also have multiple barriers to full-time employment, including disabilities. This contract will serve Amador, Calaveras, Fresno, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Tulare and Tuolumne counties.

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### **Unemployed Workers Fund – 3**

The State's ETP program only provides funds if trainees successfully complete their training and are retained in employment for a minimum of 90 days following the end of training. The Panel also requires a demonstration that employers will make substantial investments into the training programs before the Panel will approve a project.

The ETP program provides an incentive for businesses to hire unemployed workers by reimbursing them for part of the cost of training these new employees. The program is funded by an employment training tax paid only by employers, not the general public, and targets firms threatened by competition from out-of-state and international companies.

Performance assessments of ETP funded training shows the program ensured unemployed trainees got secure jobs with good wages. Their average annual earnings increased by more than \$6,000 in the first year after training and their claims for unemployment insurance were substantially reduced. Incentives are built into ETP funded projects to encourage workers and employers to share in the profits that improved work skills bring companies. Since its inception, ETP has approved training for more than 600,000 workers in approximately 65,000 businesses, most of which are small firms.

For more information about ETP training funds, contact Charles Lundberg at 916-327-5261, [clundberg@etp.ca.gov](mailto:clundberg@etp.ca.gov), or visit ETP's website at [www.etp.ca.gov](http://www.etp.ca.gov).