2011-2012 Investment Plan

Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program

Pierce College: Hybrid Technician Training & Job Placement Program

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Dear Committee,

Pierce College and its automotive service technician program are interested in participating with the California Energy Commission's Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology Program. With the support of the CEC, we would like to conduct a "Hybrid Technician Training and Job Placement Program. " The automotive service department was established in 1968 and have been effectively training individuals to succeed in as automotive technicians ever since. Since 1974 the automotive service program has prepared nearly 5,000 technicians for the workforce and 362 have been awarded certificates and associate degrees since 1998. Many of these individuals have gone on to work for local dealerships, independent mechanic shops, became mechanic shop owners, smog test center owners and high school automotive teachers.

The Pierce College Automotive Service Technology Program is a NATEF (National Automotive Technicians Educational Foundation) certified training institution and was recertified by NATEF during to summer of 2010 for another five years. The AST program offers California State Certified Smog training to prepare students to become licensed Smog Technicians. The automotive faculty are members of the local chapter of the ASC (Automotive Service Council) and regularly attend their meetings. All of the automotive faculty are ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) Certified Master Technicians and regularly meet with the faculty from our district sister colleges in district discipline committee meetings. The AST program is now one of only three colleges in the greater LA area to become an official Snap-On Certified Training Institution. The automotive program is part of a LACCD grant that will bring an additional $250,000.00 to aid the AST discipline to expand into alternative fuels and hybrid vehicle technologies. In the past the Pierce College AST program received several grants from the Nissan Foundation with the purpose of those grants to recruit and place students in jobs at local Nissan/Infinity dealerships. As a result of these efforts the enrolment in the AST program has increased steadily over the past few semesters.

The Pierce College Automotive Service Technology program offers courses both day and evening during the week. Friday and Saturday classes are also offered. It is the goal of the automotive program to schedule the classes so it is possible for a student to complete a course of study with in one year's time. We attempt to offer classes during the fall, winter, spring, and summer semesters whenever possible so that a student may finish the program within a reasonable timeframe. The automotive program received the District Excellence in Workforce Development Award in 2004, 2007 and 2008 for the outstanding programs offered.

With the passage of the LACCD Bond J, the Pierce College Automotive program was able to expand into Alternative Fuel and Hybrid training area. Visioning for the expanded automotive facility and renovation of the existing faculty was completed during the Fall 2009 semester with programming currently underway. The AST program was included as part of a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) grant and the Title 5 grant the college received. With the STEM grant the college was able to purchase new CNG and Hybrid vehicles as well as new in ground lifts for the main auto shop.

Gaps in funding

The program has the capacity to train 120 individuals annually to keep up with industry demands in Hybrid technologies. With this current economy and its slow rebound, it is difficult to pay for training to keep competitive with other advanced skilled workers in the industry. Also, training institutions such as Pierce College are finding themselves cutting classes due to economy. This hardship can prevent individuals from obtaining affordable training in a reasonable length of time. To ensure that the hybrid-training program continues to train technicians for the purposes of maintaining vehicles that reduce the dependency of petroleum and foreign oil, public funds are needed.

Gaps in Current Educational and Career Training Programs:
The colleges face severe state funding cuts, limiting the amount of training they can provide to meet industry needs.
Current college data gathering and analysis systems do not allow for job placement, retention or salary information.
Most courses needed by the industry in these occupations are not available in accessible, online and modulized formats
Job development and placement services are understaffed and underfunded
Industry relations at several of the colleges have not matured to the extent that internships, apprenticeships and other pre-employment opportunities are frequently offered to graduates of training programs.
Basic skills development, including conceptualized courses, is not incorporated into the automotive curricula at most colleges.

Industry Employment Demand

In addition to openings from growth, many job openings will be created by the need to replace retiring technicians. Job opportunities are expected to be very good for those who complete postsecondary automotive training programs and who earn ASE certification. Some employers report difficulty in finding workers with the right skills. People with good diagnostic and problem-solving abilities, training in electronics, and computer skills are expected to have the best opportunities. Those without formal automotive training are likely to face competition for entry-level jobs.

Most new job openings will be in automobile dealerships and independent repair shops where most automobile service technicians currently work.

The Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, recently issued its 2011-12 "Economic Forecast and Industry Outlook" predicts job growth this year and next, but expects that the jobless rate will still be 11.7 percent through 2012. For the first time since the Great Recession began in 2007, the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation says more jobs will be added than lost. "We project that the U.S. economy will grow slightly in 2011 and 2012," LAEDC Chief Economist Nancy D. Sidhu said, "but the recession was so deep, 2011 won't feel especially good despite improvements in most industries." Sidhu projected a drop to the "low eights" in the U.S. unemployment rate by 2012, but said Los Angeles will continue to lag well behind both national and state rates. Still, the Los Angeles economy "appears to be past the bottom of the recession and is starting up the recovery path during 2011 and 2012," Sidhu said. Also working against recovery will be expected continued layoffs and service cuts in the public sector, as the state and local governments struggle to cope with huge deficits.
In the automotive service technician and mechanics occupation, employment projections show an increase in job openings through 2018.

	Employment	Employment		
California	2008	2018	Percent Change	Job Openings
Automotive service technicians-mechanics	75,700	81,000	+7%	1,970

Hybrid Program Work Plan

Pierce College Automotive Service Technician program and Galpin Ford plan to conduct an effective hybrid technician-training program. The program will provide training for unemployed industry workers as well as retraining current Galpin Ford mechanics in hybrid technology. Galpin Ford expecting to service

more than 850 hybrids annually between 2011-2014. This demand makes it imperative to maintain skilled and competent staff to service each hybrid customer. Galpin Ford and Pierce automotive technician program are prepared to train and employ a minimum of 20 technicians annually through 2018. At the completion of training, technicians with have experience working with hybrids including the Ford Fusion, Escape, and the 2013 C-Max hybrid.

<table>
<tr><th colspan="3">Year 1 Priority : Train individuals in hybrid technology</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Strategy year 1:</td><td>Begin: 7/1/11</td><td>End: 6/1/12</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">• Recruit and select individuals for hybrid training program</td></tr>
<tr><td>Implementers:</td><td colspan="2">• Galpin Ford Staff
• Project Director
• Automotive Staff
• Build WorkSource Center</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Match:</td><td colspan="2">• Skills assessments
• Career & academic counseling
• Personal Development Training
• Guest speakers</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total Cost: $ 115,072</td><td>Cost per Student: $0.00</td></tr>
<tr><td>Deliverables:</td><td colspan="2">Program operation</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Strategy year 1:</td><td>Begin: 8/1/11</td><td>End: 6/30/11</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">• Enroll individuals in hybrid program
• Conduct classroom training
• Conduct on the job training at Galpin Ford
• Job placement for program technicians
• Job readiness training</td></tr>
<tr><td>Implementers:</td><td colspan="2">• Project Director
• Automotive Instructors
• Job placement center staff
• Economic & Workfoce Development staff
• Campus services staff
• Galpin Ford staff</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Match:</td><td colspan="2">• Career & academic counseling
• Guest speakers</td></tr>
<tr><td>Total Cost: $135,972</td><td>Cost per Student: $1,412</td></tr>
<tr><td>Deliverables:</td><td colspan="2">• Trained hybrid technicians
• Employment
• Industry participating in training
• Employable skills</td></tr>
</table>

What We Train

We train individuals to become or retrain as hybrid technicians. The objective is to equip workers in less than eight months with new technology skills that can effectively maintain the proper functioning of the hybrid vehicle. Below are four training courses recognized by industry. Upon completion, individuals receive certificates of achievement and are recognized as certified hybrid technicians.

Advanced Level Hybrid Diagnostic Technician Certificate:

AST 3	Engine Diagnosis and Tune-Up	5-units
AST 4	Starting and Charging Systems/Automotive Electrical Circuits	5-units
AST 20	Advanced Engine Diagnostics and Performance	4-units
AST 55	Hybrid Service and Safety	3-units
Total		17-units

Sources: bls.gov, careeronestop.org, EDD.

Pierce College and the Automotive Service Technician Program would like to thank you for taking the time to read our program ideas. We look forward to working with the CEC to fulfill its goals and objectives.

Sincerely

Pierce College
AST Program