

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact info:
Dina Gentry
Communications Director
530-295-2411; dgentry@edcoe.org

El Dorado County Receives \$1.9 Million for Career Technical Education

The El Dorado County Office of Education (EDCOE) and 15 school districts combined resources to successfully apply for a grant which will funnel almost two million dollars into county and school programs. The primary focus of the grant is to expand and enhance technical education at all grade levels. Throughout El Dorado County, Career Technical Education (CTE) offers options to students that integrate core academic standards with technical and occupational knowledge in high-demand fields such as robotics, information technology, food services and hospitality, manufacturing, transportation and sports medicine.

David Vujovich, Director of School to College and Career Pathways at EDCOE, worked with each of the school districts to design and execute the CTE Incentive Grant (CTEIG) application. The goal for the grant funding is to create a continuous school to career pathway that benefits all students and local communities. "To our knowledge, El Dorado County was the only county in California with 100 percent school district participation, and that says a lot about how our educators work together to deliver for students," he noted. "I'd like to thank everyone involved in this collaborative effort."

Along with exploring new program ideas, grant funds will enhance existing programs similar to those offered through the El Dorado Union High School District (EDUHSD). Its comprehensive CTE Pathways Program includes building trades and construction, agriculture and natural resources, engineering and design, culinary arts and more. "The EDUHSD continues to develop career-relevant, sequenced curriculum following industry-themed pathways that are aligned to high-need, high-growth or emerging regional economic sectors," Christopher Moore, EDUHSD Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services, explained. "The CTEIG funds further our mission to develop college and career ready graduates. The students are the big winners because they will be provided with upgraded facilities, equipment and curriculum."

At Ponderosa High School, the Central Sierra Regional Occupation Program's (CSROP) state-of-the-art compact diesel class gives high school junior, senior and adult students mechanical knowledge and hands-on engine training. Teacher Archie Taylor has been with the EDUHSD for 12 years and looks forward to the additional equipment and resources that will enhance instructional time. "Through the grant application, we proposed a biodiesel generator for in a cross-curriculum program. Students would learn the chemical makeup in science class and come to the shop to actually create the fuel."

Visions like Mr. Taylor's can be realized through the CTEIG program - the largest of its kind in the nation. Established in the 2015-16 California state budget, the program will provide \$900 million over the next three years to support and develop 21st century career and college readiness programs. Grant recipients included school districts, county offices of education, charter schools and regional occupational programs. In addition to providing a high quality CTE program, grant recipients are required to provide dollar-for-dollar matching funds.

"California's Career Technical Education leads the way in providing our students with a rigorous academic education in addition to the practical job skills that are in the greatest demand," State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson said. "At the same time, we're providing businesses and our communities with a next-generation workforce needed to keep our economy thriving."

For more information about EDCOE Career Technical Education and Regional Occupation Programs, visit www.edcoe.org

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Teacher Archie Taylor works with Andre Cortez (adult student) on a Kubota compact engine.



Ponderosa High School junior and senior students practice maintenance on actual diesel engines.