



## Early and Middle College High Schools Create New Opportunities

Hundreds of high school students get a head start on their college degrees through special partnerships with the Moreno Valley Campus of Riverside Community College District.

The Campus is home to three Early and Middle College High Schools where students can take college classes that count toward their high school graduation requirements and an associate's degree simultaneously.

The programs are designed for students who are capable of doing college-level work. Enrollment guidelines vary by program and enrollment in each program is limited.

The District's flagship Middle College High School is located entirely on the Moreno Valley Campus. The school, created in 1999, is a partnership between the Moreno Valley Campus and the Moreno Valley and Val Verde unified school districts.

Juniors and seniors are enrolled in college courses on the Campus where they complete all high school graduation requirements. About half the students graduate with an associate's degree as well. Enrollment is limited to 65 entering juniors each fall.

Students at Vista del Lago Middle College High School attend classes on the Moreno Valley Campus and at their high school. The school, for juniors and seniors, is a joint program with the Moreno Valley Unified School District. Vista del Lago emphasizes four career pathways: health science, pre-engineering, performing arts (orchestra), and telecommunications/multimedia.

Nuview Bridge Early College High School is located in the community of Nuview, south of the Moreno Valley Campus. It was the seventh school in California to receive Early College High School funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and opened in September 2005.

The grant includes the cost of daily transportation between the two campuses. The goal of the grant is for students to earn their high school diploma and an associate's degree, then transfer to a four-year university or earn a certificate in a field where they can make a living wage. Students can choose from four career pathways: health science, early childhood studies, arts and computer technologies.

## EMS Program Director Tapped for National Role

Dr. Christopher Nollette, director of the Emergency Medical Service (EMS) program located at Ben Clark Training Center (BCTC) in Riverside, has been elected president of the National Association of EMS Educators. Nollette is the first EMS educator from California to sit as national president. The association is the largest organization representing EMS instructors, with more than 3,500 members in the United States and several countries.



"My agenda for the next two years is to promote increased mentoring and research to help educators meet the challenges," Nollette said.

Nollette's rise in national prominence is not unexpected. When he came to the Moreno Valley Campus six years ago from Texas, the District did not offer an EMS degree nor did it have a nationally accredited program. Under Nollette's leadership, an EMS degree program was established and is now accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. An accreditation team recently rated the program as the top EMS program in California and among the top five percent in the nation.

The RCCD Moreno Valley Campus's EMS program accepts 225 EMTs every semester and 30 paramedics, who attend a full-time academy program.

Nollette said the retention rate is 92 percent for paramedic and 88 percent for EMT students compared to 50 to 60 percent elsewhere in California. And the employment rate is 100 percent for paramedic students and very close to the same for EMT students who want a job in emergency medicine.

"The RCCD EMS Academy is a rigorous and academically challenging environment that does not forget to work on the social and emotional intelligence of the future leaders of EMS," Nollette said.

## Student Success Center Opens at Campus

The STEM Student Success Center opened this month on the Moreno Valley Campus of Riverside Community College District to provide students interested in careers in science, engineering, and math with the resources they need to succeed.

The Center is part of Project Success designed to encourage more Hispanic and low-income students to pursue studies in the STEM fields. The campus received a two-year, \$2.3 million grant under the federal College Cost Recovery and Access Act to develop Project Success.

One of the reasons the Moreno Valley Campus qualified for the grant is because it is designated by the federal government as a Hispanic Serving Institution. It is the most diverse campus in the district with a student population that is 42 percent Hispanic and 18 percent African American.

"We have to invest money to attract students to fields where there is a disproportionate absence of minorities," said Wolde-ab Isaac, dean of the Health Sciences Program. "Basically, we are trying to demystify the science and technology fields."

The 2,000-square-foot center is designed to serve a group of 30 students who were chosen last summer to attend an intensive, week-long residential program at the University of California, Riverside. However, services are available to any student studying in those fields.

Maureen Chavez, Title V director, said even though the center just opened, students have already formed a STEM club and are developing a website. Students in the program receive computer software, textbooks, mentoring, counseling, tutoring, and supplemental lectures.

Biology instructor Felipe Galicia, who is the campus liaison with UCR, said a counselor comes to the center once a week to talk to students and visit classes. If the students opt to transfer to UCR, the services and support will follow them there.

## Student Success Rates

Two of the Campus's primary focuses are increasing student success and retention rates. In fall 2008 the Moreno Valley Campus recorded an average student success rate (a passing grade in a class) of 71.8%, up from 64.9% in 2007/08. Retention rates (those students who completed a class) averaged 88.7%.

## \$2.9 Million Title V Grant Directed Toward Public Safety Education and Training

Future Inland area police officers and firefighters will benefit from a \$2.9 million, five-year grant awarded to the Moreno Valley Campus to improve and expand its Public Safety Education and Training program.

"This grant is an incredible recognition of the high quality programs we offer," said Moreno Valley President Monte Perez. "We take great pride in educating and training public safety professionals."

The program operates out of the nearby Ben Clark Training Center and prepares students for careers in law enforcement, corrections, and firefighting as well as those who want to earn their associate's degrees or transfer to four-year colleges and universities.



Dr. Cordell Briggs, dean of Public Safety Education and Training

## New Grants Support Dental Programs Expansion

An aggressive pursuit of grants to replace and upgrade equipment used by the popular dental education programs on the Moreno Valley Campus of Riverside Community College District has paid off.

Donna Lesser, director of the Dental Hygiene program, said the Campus has received grants to purchase 16 dental chair units for the program:

- \$200,000 from the Riverside Community Health Foundation
- \$156,000 from the Health Resources and Services Administration

The college district leases a building on March Air Reserve Base to operate the March Dental Education Center. Equipment at the Center needs to be upgraded on a regular basis to maintain the quality of the instructional environment and patient care standards.

"We are very pleased that organizations and agencies recognize the quality of our programs, the opportunities we create for students, and the benefits of the preventive care we provide to the community," Lesser said. "These grants will allow us to increase our efforts and successes."

The Moreno Valley Campus program trains dental assistants, dental hygienists and dental technicians, who make crowns, partials and dentures. The District is discussing a new dental education center with March Healthcare Development as part of that company's proposed medical complex in the area.

Lesser said there is a huge demand for licensed dental hygienists to meet the oral health needs of residents in the Inland Empire. The program routinely gets 150 to 170 applicants a year for 20 slots. A new building would allow the Campus to expand the two-year, full-time program to 30 students.

Currently, the Campus offers a one-year, full-time dental assistant program. RCCD is the only institution in California to also offer a two-year option to accommodate non-traditional students. The dental assistant program expanded from 11 students last year to 20 students this year. The dental technology program is a two-year, part-time program.

The grant will help the Campus address the academic needs of students who are seeking careers in those fields, and expand the number of graduates to meet the growing demand. It is particularly designed to help low-income and Hispanic students.

The Riverside County Sheriff's Department has projected the hiring of 1,500 uniformed deputies. That would require a 42 percent increase in the Public Safety program. And, Riverside and San Bernardino counties are expected to need at least 1,610 more fire service personnel.

Maureen Chavez, Title V director, said the grant addresses an issue that has never been addressed before, namely helping job applicants who are not qualified because they lack basic skills in reading, writing, and math. "We can work with those students and get them into the training academy," Chavez said.

In addition, the grant will pay for:

- State-of-the-art technology and hands-on simulation training
- Establishment of a student services center at Ben Clark Training Center
- Creation of evening and weekend courses so working students can attend the training part time
- Expansion of each academy by another 40 students.



## Low Cost Services for Community

The March Dental Education Center offers a wide array of low-cost dental services to the community including cleaning, x-rays, fluoride treatment, teeth whitening, and smoking cessation programs. Since opening in spring 2004, the clinic has served nearly 3,700 patients, many of whom have no other source for preventive dental care. More than 700 adults and children are expected to visit the clinic this year.

For information about RCCD Dental Hygiene Clinic hours and services, call 951-571-6435.

## RCCD Dental Hygiene Students Score on Licensing Exams

Dental Hygiene students go through two different testing mechanisms to earn their Registered Dental Hygiene license. RCCD students' pass rate for the National Dental Hygiene Board is 100 percent on first attempt. For the California State Licensing exam, 77 percent of RCC graduates pass the first time and 100 percent pass on the second attempt.



## Campus Seeks College Status

Dr. Willard Lewallen, president of West Hills College, led a team from Western Association Schools and Colleges on a visit to the Moreno Valley Campus the week of October 19. The visit was part of the process of assessing the Campus's readiness to become a fully accredited independent college. The Moreno Valley Campus became a candidate for accreditation after the first WASC visit in 2007. College accreditation carries the ability to grant degrees and certificates independent of Riverside City College, additional state funding that can be used to develop and operate programs that respond directly to the communities served by the Campus, and greater flexibility in seeking grants from government agencies.



## Halloween Fun at Campus

Thousands of costumed children from are expected to spend a frightful and fun-filled evening when the Moreno Valley Campus sponsors its annual Halloween Valley event. Candy, games, a haunted house and even a mad scientist will be featured from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 30, on the Campus, 16130 Lasselle Street.

This year's theme is Tim Burton movies. Children will go trick or treating at doors decorated by campus clubs with characters from movies like "Corpse Bride" and "The Nightmare Before Christmas."

Halloween Valley is open to children up to age 10 and their parents. Events are free but student clubs will be selling pizza, hot dogs, and sno-cones to raise funds for their activities. The event also kicks off the Campus's Thanksgiving food drive so parents are asked to bring non-perishable items to donate to the cause.

