



News Release

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For Immediate Release
Date: July 28, 2015

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\$200,000 Grant to Train Youth In the Renewable Fuel Production Sector

Funds to develop career pathway curriculum to better prepare youth for employment

FRESNO: Demonstrating a need for education in the renewable fuel production sector, evidenced by the increasing air pollution levels and unemployment rate in Fresno County, the California Workforce Investment Board announced the award of \$200,000 to the Fresno Regional Workforce Investment Board (FRWIB) to provide jobseekers with training required by employers.

The FRWIB along with community partners will utilize these funds to close the gap between the skills taught to students and the specific needs of the industry and employers. A career pathway curriculum will be developed through the grant that will begin in K-12 then continue through the community college and university levels.

“Aligning across K-12 school districts, community colleges, universities, trade schools and industry employers to create a career pathway for employment in Fresno County will be a great benefit to employers. It will prepare youth in the development of “stackable credentials” that will give them a greater chance of employment opportunities within this growing industry,” said FRWIB Executive Director Blake Konczal.

The “Renewable Fuel Production Career Pathway” will train at least 30 students through pilot Automotive Programs at Clovis High School, Fresno City College, and California State University Fresno . Employers will be involved in curriculum development to ensure that the “stackable credentials” developed meet their needs. The FRWIB will work with local partners to assess the employment needs of employers to ensure that job seekers are competitive candidates for employment opportunities – not just trained in a skill – within Fresno County,” Konczal added.

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