

# NEWS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **LOS RIOS COLLEGES LAUNCH GREENFORCE INITIATIVE**

*Sacramento*—In response to the growth in the Sacramento area of the clean/green technology sector, Los Rios Community College District is launching an initiative to create new programs of study that prepare students to work in such growing fields as solar technology, energy efficient building design and construction, biofuels, and alternative energy. The initiative is called GreenForce.

“Our business and industry partners are telling us that there is a need that will grow exponentially for people trained in a variety of clean technology fields,” said Los Rios chancellor Brice Harris. “Not only is our region attracting more clean/green technology industries but existing job sectors such as construction, manufacturing, energy supply and distribution, and architecture are all developing clean/green options and specialties.”

According to the Sacramento Area Commerce and Trade Organization (SACTO), more than 70 clean/green technology businesses already operate in the greater Sacramento region and the number is growing. “Nearly 20% of our prospect activity - companies considering a location in the Sacramento Region - is represented by clean energy/green technology companies,” said SACTO's chief executive, Barbara Hayes. “The strength of the region's workforce is one of the key components that will allow us to grow this industry sector and help ensure its success in the Greater Sacramento Area.”

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To meet these new workforce needs, the colleges of the Los Rios Community College District are creating new program options including: A solar technology technician certificate program at American River College; a green building design and construction certificate program at Cosumnes River College; and an energy management systems in HVAC building commissioning certificate at Sacramento City College. It is expected that these programs will be offered during the coming 2008-09 academic year.

The colleges of the Los Rios District serve residents of Sacramento and El Dorado counties and parts of Yolo, Solano, and Placer counties. More than 84,000 students are enrolled in Los Rios colleges this fall.

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