



# NEWS

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For Immediate Release

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## El Camino College Compton Center Receives Grant for HVAC Program

El Camino College Compton Center's Career Technical Education (CTE) program has received a Perkins IV grant to enhance its Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) program. The grant money will be used to acquire high efficiency equipment used in the field by HVAC contractors. The new equipment will give ECC Compton Center students hands-on experience in its use and capabilities, and increase their chances of being employed in the HVAC field.

The HVAC program is in its third semester of being offered at ECC Compton Center and is growing in popularity. "Once the word got out that we are one of the few schools in the area offering an HVAC program, we have a lot of students enrolling in the classes," said Dale Ueda, HVAC adjunct instructor at Compton Center. "We started the program in fall 2009 with 10 students and now we have 30 students working towards certification in HVAC."

According to the California Employment Development Department, there are over 600 annual job openings in Los Angeles for HVAC occupations. Employers and recruiters of HVAC occupations have indicated workforce challenges in finding and recruiting workers who are properly trained in this industry. Additionally, the renewed focus on energy efficiency is changing the training and retraining requirements necessary for new HVAC workers.

"In the last six months, we have placed at least six students in jobs with local contractors, and the students haven't yet finished the program," said Ueda. "Our HVAC program has garnered the respect of these contractors, and they know we will send them qualified candidates who have learned the skills required to get the job done."

To keep the students' skill level current, the grant will also fund the acquisition of "green technology" such as solar thermal and photovoltaic (PV) equipment, as well as trainers, for students to use in a lab environment. Learning about solar thermal and PV equipment and applications will give students more avenues for employment as demand for green technology continues to grow. Instructor Ueda says the solar thermal and PV classes will begin this summer.

In addition, grant funding was already used to purchase non-ozone depleting and non-global warming refrigerants to use in the lab in tandem with the new high efficiency equipment. All existing refrigerants will start to be phased out beginning in 2013 and replaced by the newer Hydro Carbon refrigerants (HC12a and HC22a). ECC Compton Center has an opportunity to become an industry leader in the training and instruction of HC refrigerants use since we have faculty who have been using HC refrigerants for nearly 10 years.

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## ECC Compton Center HVAC Program Grant 2-2-2-2

The HVAC program was introduced a little over a year ago and ECC Compton Center is one of the few community college programs in southern California offering hands-on training in the HVAC field. The goal is to expand Compton Center's program to stay current with the emerging trends in the industry and provide top-notch training so students may obtain jobs in the HVAC field.

Students may register and enroll in HVAC classes online by going to <http://www.compton.edu/> and clicking on *MyECC*. Winter/Spring 2011 registration begins November 23 for continuing students and December 15 for new/returning students. For more information about the HVAC program and other CTE course offerings, please contact the CTE Department at 310-900-1600, Ext. 2787.

### **About El Camino College Compton Center**

El Camino College Compton Center is the community's education solution offering a full complement of transfer and degree courses, as well as career and technical education. Students may earn an associate degree or certificate, transfer to a four-year university or train for a career. Many classes are available and offered at an affordable price—fees are only \$26 per unit. The catalog and class schedule for day, evening, weekend and online courses is available on the website at [www.compton.edu](http://www.compton.edu) or may be picked up at ECC Compton Center located at 1111 E. Artesia Boulevard, Compton, CA. For more information, call 310-900-1600.

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