

East Bay Career Advancement Academy

Documentary Video – “A Bridge to the Future”

Short Feature on Innovative Workforce Development Program

The East Bay Career Advancement Academy is pleased to announce a documentary video, *“A Bridge to the Future.”* The 15-minute short feature tells the story of the academy, a regional workforce development program designed to improve basic, foundation skills for a chronically underserved student population.

Through the voice of student DeRon Middleton, along with faculty and program administrators, the video illustrates the academy’s guiding principles, emphasizing registration assistance, personal and career counseling, financial aid, and peer support. The video focuses on a key component of student success, the development of small learning communities, or cohorts, in which student support for one another is crucial.

Video segments include a program overview by Linda Collins, Executive Director of the Career Ladders Project. Bill Elliott, General Manager of Bay Ship and Yacht, speaks of his on-going need for trained workers and reliance on the academy for qualified machinists. Stacy Vann, of the Contra Costa Workforce Development Board, speaks to the high standards demanded of academy students.

The East Bay Career Advancement Academy is a partnership among the Peralta and Contra Costa Community College Districts and numerous East Bay community organizations, funded by the Chancellor’s Office of the California Community Colleges, through the Governor’s Technical Education Initiative (SB 70, Scott).

William Hanson, Dean of Community Partnerships and Workforce Development at Laney College, is the program director. Classes are offered at seven East Bay community colleges: College of Alameda, Berkeley City College, Contra Costa College (San Pablo), Diablo Valley College (Pleasant Hill), Laney College (Oakland), Los Medanos College (Pittsburg) and Merritt College (Oakland).

Copies of *"A Bridge to the Future"* are available by calling the Career Advancement Academy at (510) 464-3203, or via email through the Academy's website at www.ebcareeracademy.org. The complete video, along with selected short excerpts, is also available for viewing on the website.

April, 2009