

# Doing What Matters for Jobs in Solano County newsletter

Volume 1 / Issue 1

## BIOTECHNOLOGY BACCALAUREATE DEGREE AT SOLANO COLLEGE!



### BIG NEWS!

The Bachelor of Science in Biomanufacturing program at Solano Community College has been formally approved by the state's accrediting agency.

The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) notified the college Nov. 21 that the Baccalaureate program was approved and that the college can now proceed with its plans to offer the four-year program. The program is one of a handful approved in 2015 by the state to provide education in high-tech fields.

The SCC program is an extension of its current Industrial Biotechnology program, from which students can receive a Certificate of Achievement. Students with four-year degrees in Biomanufacturing are prepared to work in cutting-edge fields within the biotechnology industry. The upper division courses will begin to be offered in Fall 2017, with registration beginning in Spring 2017. Applications will begin to be accepted now.

"We are delighted about this program," said Superintendent-President Dr. Celia Esposito-Noy. "This will give our students the opportunity to learn state-of-the-art skills and prepare for exciting careers in Biomanufacturing."

### MORE NEWS

Drafting Instructor Karen Cook has been granted a sabbatical for fall 2017 to write new curriculum for 3D printing (Additive Manufacturing) courses, additional coursework in 3D design software programs such as REVIT, a certificate program in 3D Printing/Design, and to develop plans for a Maker Space at Solano Community College.

---

"If we teach today as we taught yesterday, we rob our children of tomorrow."

John Dewey

---

### HOW THIS ALL STARTED

Last Spring the Solano College Faculty Association formed a steering committee comprised of the Napa-Solano Central Labor Council, the Workforce Development Board of Solano County, Industrial Areas Foundation, the Solano Community College District and the California Teachers Association to organize a public forum focused on Career Technical Education (CTE) programs at Solano Community College.

The forum took place on August 12th and quickly became known as the *'Doing What Matters for Jobs in Solano County'* initiative. The event brought together business leaders, elected officials, college and K-12 educators, organized labor unions, and students. The discussions began with the question, "What makes for a strong workforce and how can the Solano Community College assist in meeting that goal?"

A second meeting followed the forum in early September which consisted of Solano Community College managers who then took the ideas and skills gaps identified at the August 12<sup>th</sup> forum and targeted areas in which they felt the college could address in a timely manner.

The October 21st convening was the third meeting of the *'Doing What Matters for Jobs in Solano County'* initiative. This meeting was held to bring to the table organizations in Solano County that also have programs aimed at building a stronger workforce and creating a more robust regional economy. These organizations included the Solano County Office of Education, Solano County Health & Human Services Department, Solano Economic Development Corporation, California Department of Rehabilitation, the Fairfield-Suisun and Vallejo Adult Schools, and several local Chambers of Commerce and city Economic Development Departments.

All of these organizations are currently engaging businesses to either address their industry needs, or to seek guidance and assistance with job placement programs, Career Pathways, or Career Technical Education (CTE) curriculum. Therefore it was essential that these organizations join in the conversation around the *'Doing What Matters for Jobs in Solano County'* initiative.

This last meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup> moved the initiative forward by bringing together these agencies and organizations that have already been working toward economic prosperity, job development and career growth. Each organization provided a quick update on a specific project or program they're working on that relates to the *'Doing What Matters for Jobs in Solano County'* initiative. The attendees reviewed the results of the two prior meetings, and then broke out into groups to discuss the identified skills gaps, and possible ways in which these organizations may be able to collaborate with one another to address the workforce needs of Solano County employers. Attendees then developed goals they believe Solano Community College can achieve in a relatively short period of time, but that would also still have an immediate impact on the development of a strong workforce. These goals are:

- 1. Work towards adjusting graduation requirements to include soft skills classes** as part of the general education selections for graduation following the lead of Cosumnes River College, American River College, and Sacramento City College.
- 2. Increase marketing for CTE programs.**
- 3. Identify a single point of contact at SCC** for programs and departments such as the Career Center, Workforce Development, and Internships.

Also discussed was the establishment of a robust Advanced Manufacturing/Robotics/Mechatronics program at Solano College in response to the needs of local industry leaders.

Thank you to lead facilitators Mark DeWeerd from the Workforce Development Board and Solano Community College Superintendent President Celia Esposito-Noy, and to all of our guests for taking the time to engage in these important discussions.

## DOING WHAT MATTERS FOR SOLANO COUNTY STEERING COMMITTEE

Debbie Berrett – Solano College Faculty Assoc.

Karen Cook - Solano College Faculty Assoc.

Mark DeWeerd – Workforce Development Board

Anna Eng - Bay Area Industrial Areas Foundation

Brian Hooker - Workforce Development Board of Solano County

Diana Lisi - California Teachers Association

Maire Morinec - Solano Community College District

Jon Riley - Napa/Solano Labor Council

Steve Savage – California Teachers Association

Michael Wyly – Solano Collage Faculty Senate

