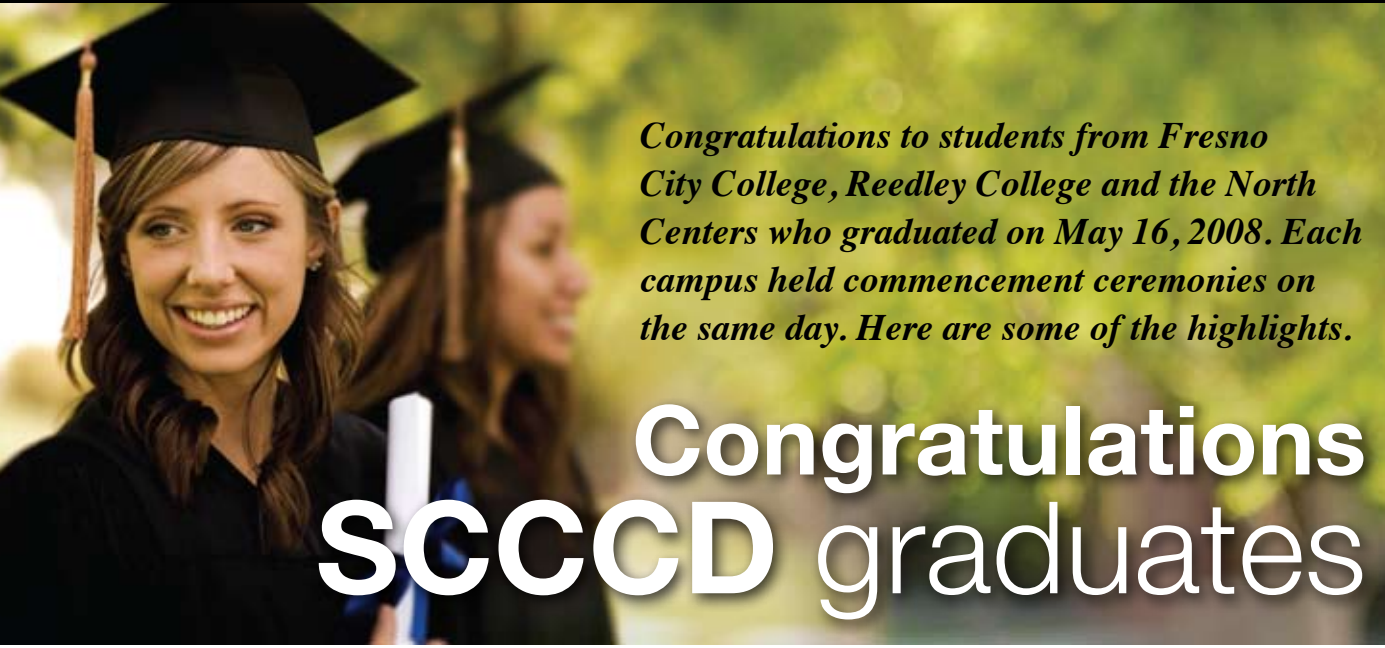




# INSIDE: MEASURE E

Special Report to the Community page 3

Summer 2008



*Congratulations to students from Fresno City College, Reedley College and the North Centers who graduated on May 16, 2008. Each campus held commencement ceremonies on the same day. Here are some of the highlights.*

## Congratulations SCCCD graduates

### Fresno City College Commencement

Fresno City College held its annual Commencement Ceremony at Selland Arena with more than 1,500 graduates invited to participate. Every student who earned an associate's degree was acknowledged. The commencement speaker was Dr. Bill F. Stewart, chancellor emeritus, State Center Community College District.

This year's distinguished alumna was Gurdeep Sihota. Gurdeep, a 1990 graduate of Fresno City College, is the director of college activities at FCC. She earned a bachelor of arts in liberal arts from California State University, Fresno, in 1992 and a master's degree in organizational behavior from California School of Professional Psychology in 2000.

#### Fresno City College recognized students at two special recognition ceremonies:

The **Certificate Recognition Ceremony** held at the Tower Theatre celebrated students who earned a certificate of completion or a certificate of achievement. This year, 508 students earned certificates of completion and 128 students earned certificates of achievement. The keynote speaker was Janie Rodriguez-Roe, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves and an investigator for the Department of Fair Employment and Housing.



The **Honors Recognition Ceremony**, also held at the Tower Theatre, recognized students graduating with honors. The Dean's Medallion recipients also received their awards.

#### 2008 Dean's Medallion recipients (pictured above from left to right)

- Maria Woodcock, *Math, Science and Engineering Division*
- Blanca Soto, *Social Sciences Division*
- David Horwitz, *Student Services Division*
- Melissa Freeman, *Business Division*
- Kristi Runkle, *Fine, Performing and Communication Arts Division*
- Diane Dorais, *Health Sciences Division*
- Trisha Houston, *Humanities Division*

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#### PUBLISHER & EDITOR

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Office of Public and Legislative Relations

#### GRAPHIC DESIGN

Neu Design

Thank you to the Public Information Offices at Fresno City College, Reedley College and the North Centers. Please send comments to [teresa.patterson@sccd.edu](mailto:teresa.patterson@sccd.edu).

### New and improved websites at SCCCD

This summer marks the launch of several new websites at SCCCD. Several of the District websites have been redesigned to improve site navigation and user interface. Check out the new websites for: State Center Community College District ([www.sccd.edu](http://www.sccd.edu)), Fresno City College ([www.fresnocitycollege.edu](http://www.fresnocitycollege.edu)), Reedley College ([www.reedleycollege.edu](http://www.reedleycollege.edu)), Willow International Center ([www.cloviscenter.com](http://www.cloviscenter.com)), Madera Center ([www.maderacenter.com](http://www.maderacenter.com)), and Oakhurst Center ([www.oakhurstcenter.com](http://www.oakhurstcenter.com)).



### Reedley College Commencement

Reedley College held its 81<sup>st</sup> Commencement Ceremony on Friday, May 16, 2008. Reedley College graduated 425 students, with roughly 50 percent of the graduates in attendance at the graduation ceremony.

Judge Efren N. Iglesia, the 2008 Commencement

distinguished alumnus, first came to the Reedley area as an exchange student. Iglesia graduated as the Salutatorian from Albay High School in the Philippines in 1967, and during his senior year he attended Reedley High School in an exchange program. He later went on to graduate from Reedley College. Today, Iglesia is a justice for the

Monterey County Superior Court, but he has never forgotten his time in Reedley. Iglesia stressed in his speech that he "will forever be grateful for the opportunities that the Reedley community gave him."

Reedley College continued on page 2



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## The North Centers Commencement

On Friday, May 16, 2008, the Madera Center held its 12<sup>th</sup> annual commencement ceremony with Ambassador Phillip Sanchez, a former U.S. ambassador, as the keynote speaker. Three students of note, one each from the Madera Center, Oakhurst Center and Willow International Center, were recognized during the ceremony. Approximately 150 students participated in the Commencement Ceremony.



Madera Center student of note  
**Gabriela G. Gomez**

Gabriela was raised in a home where domestic violence was a big issue. Even though her parents did not get along, they always encouraged Gabriela and her brothers to get an education. She learned how to deal with very difficult situations in her life while attending school, such as the death of her father, a pregnancy and birth, and dealing with domestic violence within her own relationship. Despite many obstacles and being a single mother, Gabriela was very conscientious of her studies.

Gabriela now works with victims of domestic violence and rape/sexual assault. Because of her own family background, Gabriela is well equipped to provide insight to women in abusive relationships. She received an associate in arts degree in general studies in May 2007, then returned to the Madera Center in 2007–08 to complete requirements for the Criminology/Criminal Justice transfer program. She will transfer to California State University, Fresno, in fall 2008.



Willow International Center student of note  
**Julie Woodworth**

Julie, a re-entry student, attended college in 1994–95 and returned in fall 2004 to continue her education. She has endured physical and heart-related conditions and has managed to end not one, but two, abusive relationships. She has had 11 strokes caused by a hereditary condition and lives with a variety of other medical challenges: osteoarthritis, hemiplegic migraines, fibromyalgia, muscle weakness in the left arm and more. But Julie's health has not held her back.

Julie is the first person in her family to get a college degree. She received financial aid and support from the Disabled Students Program & Services. She earned an associate in arts degree in General Studies in May 2008. This fall Julie will attend California State University, Fresno, where she plans to complete a master's degree and help abused women. She will continue to drive in from Oakhurst, but she won't be alone. She will be accompanied by her daughter, who graduated from high school this year and will also attend California State University, Fresno, in the fall.



Oakhurst Center student of note  
**Peggy Knowles**

When Peggy decided to leave college and pursue a career as a wife and mother, she never dreamed that it would be eight children and 30 years later before she would return. Peggy enrolled in classes at the Oakhurst Center in spring 2006. She has raised eight children, including twins who have special needs and require constant attention and supervision. It has been a juggling act between cooperative family and friends to keep the twins cared for so Peggy could continue in school. Peggy works part-time and had to increase her work hours due to financial hardship because her husband was out of work for an extended period of time. While in school, Peggy traveled out of state to assist her elderly parents and help her children during the births of her four grandchildren. She credits some of her success to the flexibility of instructors who worked with her during these times of family need.

Peggy completed an associate in science degree in biology with a 3.8 GPA and will go on to focus on earning a bachelor's degree in nursing at California State University, Fresno. Her future plan is to continue her education and go on to pursue a master's degree in nursing.

Reedley College *continued from page 1*

### Sanger resident graduates with honors from Reedley College



Former Sanger High School student, Musa Mohamed, graduated from Reedley College on Friday, May 16 with honors. Musa immigrated to the United States from Yemen in June 2003 at the age of 14. "Language was the biggest obstacle I faced," said Musa. "When I first came here I could barely say a complete sentence." Struggling with the language barrier, Musa worked hard to do well in school. He spent lunches with teachers and a great deal of his free time learning English. After graduating from Sanger High School in 2006 he was accepted into the Pete P. Peters Honors Program at Reedley College.

A talent in mathematics and a passion for service drove Musa to pursue a career in engineering. In the coming year, Musa plans to transfer to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, or the University of California, Berkeley, to work toward a degree in industrial engineering.

While at Reedley College, Musa joined Alpha Gamma Sigma (AGS), an honors society that focuses on community outreach. Over the past two years Musa has held various positions in the club, including vice president and historian. This year in AGS, Musa performed more than 25 hours of community service including work with the Poverello House, Noah's Friends Animal Sanctuary, and Kids Day. Involvement in AGS, the Honors Program, and his academic success have set the foundation for Musa's future academic and life goals.

"Musa is exceptionally thoughtful and kind. As an engineer, he'll be not only successful, but ethical," said Deborah Lapp, Reedley College English instructor and honors advisor. At the 2008 Reedley College graduation ceremony, Musa received honors for his academic excellence in the Honors Program and recognition for his service in AGS.

"Musa is exceptionally thoughtful and kind. As an engineer, he'll be not only successful, but ethical..."



# MEASURE E—Special Report to the Community

## An investment in education

In November 2002, voters passed Measure E, a local community college bond initiative of \$161 million. The bond provides capital funds for the District to build new facilities and modernize existing ones. Measure E is an investment in education and an investment in our local community. Educating and training the future workforce of the Valley is priceless.

SCCCD reports on how Measure E dollars are being spent.



## Reedley Facelift:

### Reedley College gains new residence hall and student center



Students at Reedley College will move into a brand new residential hall in fall 2009. Construction has begun to replace the 35-year-old housing facility that currently houses Reedley College students. The new ADA compliant residence hall will hold up to 140 students in 70 double occupancy rooms. After moving all of the students, the old residence hall will be torn down.

Other exciting changes on the Reedley College campus include several modernization projects.

The existing student center, which

is currently an outdoor covered area, will be renovated and enclosed as a fully functioning student center building. Plans include a large open seating area for students to socialize and study, enclosed game rooms, meeting rooms for students, a common entrance from the bookstore, and access to the cafeteria.

In addition, there will be major upgrades to existing buildings. The art rooms will be renovated and new electrical connections will be added to support the kilns and other equipment. The physical sciences building, which houses the chemistry lab, will also be upgraded.

## Classroom space added at the Oakhurst Center

As part of Measure E expenditures, Oakhurst Center will receive two new portable classroom units, adding much needed classroom space for the foothill communities. Each unit is 24 feet by 40 feet and will provide additional classroom space and an additional restroom. These upgrades are expected to be complete by fall 2008.

Our community colleges ... putting the Valley to work.

# MEASURE E

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FCC athletes get in shape at the new Physical Performance Center

# Willow International Center breaks ground for Phase II



## Summer 2008 kicks off Phase II of the new Willow International Community College Center.

The new 80,000-square-foot building will house the student services office, a 7,700-square-foot library, data processing, science labs, nursing labs, physical education, distance learning classrooms, lecture hall, classrooms, faculty and administrative offices, and meeting rooms.

Students will find ample parking when they pull up to campus to an additional four parking lots. Phase II includes the addition of 745 parking stalls on four paved lots on the west and south sides of campus.

Phase II is funded with 50 percent state dollars and 50 percent Measure E dollars. The total budget for this project is \$38,523,000. With the passage of state Proposition 1D, also known as the Higher Education Bond, SCCCDC was able to secure half of the funding for this project from the state of California. When the local voters passed Measure E, it not only secured local tax dollars for the District, but it also gave SCCCDC priority points when applying for state funding. When a community college applies for state funding it competes with 110 California community colleges. If a college has the support of its local community, the state is more likely to assist in funding its projects.

The full-scale campus serves more than 4,500 students from the Fresno, Clovis and foothill communities.

Phase I of the Willow International Center is complete and its doors opened for classes in fall 2007. The new full-scale Willow International Center campus serves more than 4,500 students from the Fresno, Clovis and foothill communities. The 80,000-square-foot academic center has a state-of-the-art computer lab and classroom facilities, as well as an art studio, bookstore, multimedia studio, physics and science laboratories, assembly hall, distance learning classrooms, library, and Internet café.

In partnership with Clovis Unified School District, the Willow International Center is home to the new Child Development Center for high school and college students taking child development and pre-teaching courses.

## New Willow International Center sets stage for success



**Mark Samoulian, 22, is one of the first students to attend the new Willow International Center in Clovis.** With Phase I of the main campus completed, Willow International has seen its first year of students pass through its doors. Programs and services are in place to help each and every student succeed.

Since the campus opened in fall 2007, Mark has completed 20 units at the center. His time at Willow International will prepare him for transfer to California State University, Fresno. After completing his associate in arts degree at Willow International, he plans to major in film production and minor in Armenian studies at California State University, Fresno.

Mark juggles his classes with a full-time job and said, "The most important lesson I have learned at community college is to manage my time wisely. I had to find a way to equally balance my studies with my job. I came up with a strategy so I could continue to work full-time and also get all of my studying and homework completed on time." Mark was born and raised in Sanger and has lived there all of his life. He said, "I love my family and friends very much. They mean the world to me. I thank and praise God for blessing me with them."



# Construction begins at the Old Administration Building



**The renovation of the 100,000-square-foot historic Old Administration Building (OAB) at Fresno City College is now underway.** Renovation of the OAB is a significant feature of Measure E, with nearly 20 percent of the bond monies committed to this historical treasure. Selective demolition and hazardous materials removal was completed in the spring of 2008. Construction is now in progress on the building renovations, including: seismic retrofit; structural, mechanical and electrical upgrades; fire/life safety; and access code compliance. This includes new roofing, wiring, windows, and a heating/cooling system with new central plant.

Renovation of the OAB is a significant feature of Measure E with nearly 20 percent of the bond monies committed to this historical treasure.

As part of the Environmental Impact Report, the District made changes to the original plans in order to reduce noise levels for neighbors of Fresno City College and the OAB. The large campus trash compactor has been moved away from the OAB, closer to the interior of the campus. A smaller trash compactor will be installed near the OAB and a block wall has been

built to shield it from view. These changes will greatly reduce noise to the surrounding neighborhood. In addition, the central plant that houses the heating and cooling system for the OAB will be built behind the cafeteria, further removed from the surrounding neighborhood to lessen the noise levels for neighbors.

The next phase of the project will be the interior improvements to the entire west and south wings of the building. By fall 2010, the structural upgrades and the interior improvements will be complete, opening the doors to classrooms, administrative offices, faculty and campus organization offices, music/choral rooms, library, staff workrooms, and restrooms in the west and south wings.

For the final stage of renovation, SCCCD needs an additional seven million dollars to complete the north and east wings for classrooms, offices, music, and dance studios. The District has applied to the state for seven million in future bonds.

## Help Renew the Legacy

Currently, a four million dollar capital campaign is underway to secure funding for the final renovation and finishing touches of the auditorium. Help return the OAB auditorium to its original beauty so it can once again be a center of community involvement and pride. Learn more at [www.oabalegacyrenewed.com](http://www.oabalegacyrenewed.com).

## Measure E Project Status

### Completed Projects

- Fresno City College LAN/WAN
- Fresno City College Applied Technology Modernization
- Southeast Site Selection and Acquisition
- Reedley College New Classroom Building
- Madera Center Aerobics/Exercise Room
- Fresno City College Student Services Modernization
- Willow International Center Phase I
- Fresno City College Gym and Practice Courts

### Projects Under Construction

- Fresno City College Old Administration Building
- Willow International Center Phase II
- Reedley College Modernization
- Oakhurst Center Classrooms

### Planning

- CTC Relocation (Southeast Center)
- Center for Advanced Manufacturing, Madera Center

## Oversight Committee Members

Under the provisions of California Proposition 39, the Measure E Oversight Committee is charged with informing the public concerning the District's expenditure of bond proceeds, reviewing bond expenditures, and providing an annual report to the State Center Community College Board of Trustees.

**Rajanae Allen**

**Carrie Bowen**

**Tom Burk**

**Donald G. Larson (Chair)**

**Carol Martens**

**Audrey Redmond**

**Jeffrey Reid (Vice Chair)**



## New Center for Advanced Manufacturing at the Madera Center

**Opening in fall 2009, the students of the Madera Center will pursue their vocations in a brand new 8,000-square-foot lab.** The Center for Advanced Manufacturing will have four occupational laboratories: a machine and hydraulics shop, electric shop, mechanics shop, and a welding shop. In addition, there will be two smaller labs for student projects, ample storage space for equipment and materials, one general purpose classroom, toilet and shower facilities, and office space for instructors. These additions allow for advanced technology and improved vocational programs, leading to highly skilled graduates.

## FCC athletes get in shape at the new Physical Performance Center

As part of Measure E, Fresno City College students are enjoying the new Physical Performance Center next to Ratcliffe Stadium. The weight training facility and fitness center provides space for athletic programs such as football, baseball, and track to have regular work-outs and training. In addition to the weight room, the building has a classroom for team meetings and physical education classes.



# At Fresno City College, the word *philosophy* means “love of wisdom”

In Greek, the word *philosophy* means “love of wisdom”. It’s evident that there are many students at Fresno City College who agree with the meaning. Each of the three philosophy instructors at FCC teaches about 200 students per semester. Their students ponder the same questions that have been asked since Plato taught Aristotle: Who am I? Do I exist? What is real? What’s truth? Does God exist?

In 2005, the associate in arts degree in philosophy was approved and FCC graduated its first two students the following year. “Philosophy is a great foundational degree, whether or not you go on to get your bachelor’s degree. You learn how to think, you learn how to write, you learn how to think for yourself. In business, those are skills that are transferable. It’s a very practical degree,” noted FCC Instructor Bob Boyd.

Boyd, who has been at FCC since 1996, has been instrumental in organizing a lecture series that brings a philosophy expert to campus each year. He says it’s important for students to be exposed to points of view from people outside the Valley. Students also get the opportunity to meet philosophy instructors from four-year colleges to which they might consider

transferring. The lectures are open to the students and staff of FCC and to the general public. Each year attendance has grown with a number of people from nearby colleges also attending.

Instructor Kerry Ybarra, who is in her first year of teaching full-time at FCC, says, “If you take a class from me it’s going to be really different from the other instructors in the department. It’s important for people to get different perspectives. I’m always telling my students to take as many classes from as many different people as they can and to forge their own path,” said Ybarra. Ybarra is also the faculty advisor for the Philosophy Club. She says the club gives students an opportunity to dialogue about different issues that are not discussed in the classroom.

Instructor Wendell Stephenson has been at FCC for eight years and says the department has seen tremendous growth the past couple of years. “We desperately needed a third instructor to handle the teaching load. We were turning students away. Now, with Kerry Ybarra, we can offer more sections and courses to service our students,” said Stephenson.



## About the Philosophy Instructors

(pictured above from left to right)

**Kerry Ybarra’s** favorite philosopher is Greek philosopher, Aristotle. Plato comes in second.

**Bob Boyd** goes more for the modern-era English philosopher, Peter Strawson.

**Wendell Stephenson** likes Scotsman, David Hume and American philosophers, Willard Quine and Richard Rorty.

It’s this broad spectrum of favorites that makes this team of three full-time Fresno City College philosophy instructors so valuable to the department and students.

## Instructor helps educate young entrepreneurs



Reedley College instructor, Eric Nasalroad, sees the Central Valley as the perfect place for locally owned businesses to thrive.

As a member of a new entrepreneurial project, Entrepreneurial Pathways, Nasalroad hopes to educate up-and-coming business owners on how to succeed in the Valley.

Entrepreneurial Pathways is a collaboration between Central California high schools, community colleges, and California State University, Fresno. Community college members include Reedley College, Fresno City College, College of the Sequoias, Columbia College and Porterville College. The project is funded by the Chicago-based Coleman Foundation.

The purpose of the three-year project is to get entrepreneur educators to teach future business owners the same set of skills. The project is being coordinated through California State University, Fresno, and involves the university’s entrepreneurship center, the Lyles Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship. “The whole idea behind the project is to develop the economy of the Central Valley through entrepreneurship,” said Nasalroad. “The Central Valley is perfect for

entrepreneurship because of its diversity, both cultural and economic. This diversity results in a wide variety of consumer needs for business owners to tap into.”

Another goal of the project is to align school curriculum and articulation throughout the Valley. Eventually, high school students will get credit for entrepreneurship classes taken in high school at Reedley College or another community college in the project, and then go on to receive credit at California State University, Fresno, for classes taken at community college.

Nasalroad, who earned a master’s degree in entrepreneurship from the Craig School of Business at California State University, Fresno in 2005, said, “young entrepreneurs need basic skills to create their own businesses, the tools to manage those businesses, and knowledge about the resources available to them.”

Each community college in the project is required to establish an entrepreneurship club that will be affiliated with the College Entrepreneurship Organization (CEO), a national entrepreneurship club. Nasalroad said Reedley College’s club will begin taking members as soon as fall 2008.

## Reedley College handles food safety in one-day class

Line supervisors, facility managers and other food safety personnel from local packinghouses updated their food safety knowledge during a one-day course offered by Reedley College.

On Saturday, April 19, 2008, Reedley College held its first Food Safety 1 class with approximately 50 people, from more than 10 different packinghouses. The class covered the latest information and regulations dealing with food safety and included three speakers: David Botkin from Sun Valley Packing; Juan Muñiz, director of operations at PrimusLabs.com; and Christopher Valadez, director of environmental and regulatory affairs from the California Grape and Tree Fruit League. In his address to the class, Muñiz said the best way to protect food and workers’ health is through “training, training, training.” Training like this Reedley College course may become even more important, and perhaps mandatory, as legislation about food safety is being considered.

Ballantine Produce with locations in Reedley and Sanger had 10 employees attending the event. “We’re here to help implement and maintain our food safety,” said Tina McAndrews, cold storage manager at Ballantine Produce. David Archuleta, the food safety manager from Mountain View Cold Storage in Reedley, said it was important for him “to learn about the growing needs of food safety, the regulations, and recent changes.”

Participants received a certificate of participation for themselves and one for their employer. With the recent breakouts of E. coli in spinach, local fruit packinghouses have to make sure their employees are trained in the latest food safety.

Reedley College plans to offer the class again in spring 2009.



## SCCC Foundation begins innovative new scholarship with Employer to Employee Scholarships

Many businesses treat their employees like family—a new scholarship opportunity at SCCC District allows employers to give the gift of education to their employees, an employees' child, spouse, or other family member.

With the Employer to Employee Scholarship, the SCCC Foundation opens the door for flexibility and creativity in corporate giving. Foundations are typically responsible for determining the criteria, amount, and recipient of the scholarships they manage, but with this innovative new model the employer company defines it, funds it, and invests it in its own people. Interested companies work in partnership with SCCC Foundation to establish the scholarship.

## Local auto association gives big

Fresno Clovis New Car Dealers Association gave \$50,000 to Fresno City College, creating a partnership with the FCC Automotive Technician Training Program. The Fresno Clovis New Car Dealers Association chose to provide scholarships for future automotive technicians by helping students receive the skills needed for employment in the industry. The FCC Automotive Technician

Training Program is the proven method for learning the skills needed for long-term employment in the industry. The curriculum was created by FCC and local automotive service facilities. Scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors from Fresno, Clovis and Central Unified School Districts entering the FCC Automotive Technician Training Program.



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### A Message from the Board of Trustees

At State Center Community College District we are proud to invest in education. We are now seeing the benefits of Measure E and the results are impressive. The largest project, the Old Administration Building, is now underway. We look forward to celebrating with the community in the grand auditorium upon its completion. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, thank you for all the support you give to our community colleges and centers.

H. Ronald Feaver, President  
SCCCD Board of Trustees

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## Chancellor's Corner



In this special edition of *Front & Center*, State Center Community College District is proud to bring you the latest report from our colleges and centers and a very special report on Measure E.

Measure E, the \$161 million bond approved by voters in 2002, is improving each of the community college campuses in the District. From new classroom portables in Oakhurst to a grand renovation of the historic Old Administration Building on the Fresno City College campus, your tax dollars are an investment in education, in the community, and in the future of our region.

We bring you news of our commencement ceremonies, the new Willow International Center, innovative programs and departments, student highlights, and more. I hope you enjoy this issue, and as always, send us your thoughts and feedback.

Dr. Thomas A. Crow, Chancellor  
State Center Community College District

SCCCD operates two community colleges, Fresno City College and Reedley College, and several educational centers including Madera Center, Clovis Center, Oakhurst Center, Willow International Community College Center, The Training Institute, and the Career & Technology Center. Classes are also offered at satellite campuses in Dinuba, Easton, Fowler, Kerman, Kingsburg, Orange Cove, Parlier, Sanger, and Selma. SCCC's enhanced network of educational centers serve a population of more than one million people.

For more information, call toll free (866) 24-LEARN or visit the website at [www.scccd.edu](http://www.scccd.edu).