PIPELINE

NEWS ABOUT CONTRA COSTA COUNTY'S REFINERY INDUSTRY

WINTERSPRINGSUMMERFALL 2014

"I JUST WANT TO GET BACK TO WORK"

After years working in retail, Patricia Coad is changing course.

Coad is a second-year student at Los Medanos College in Pittsburg, where she will soon be graduating from the school's Electrical & Instrumentation Technology Program (ETEC) — a vocational training program developed in partnership with the county's refineries and other local industries.

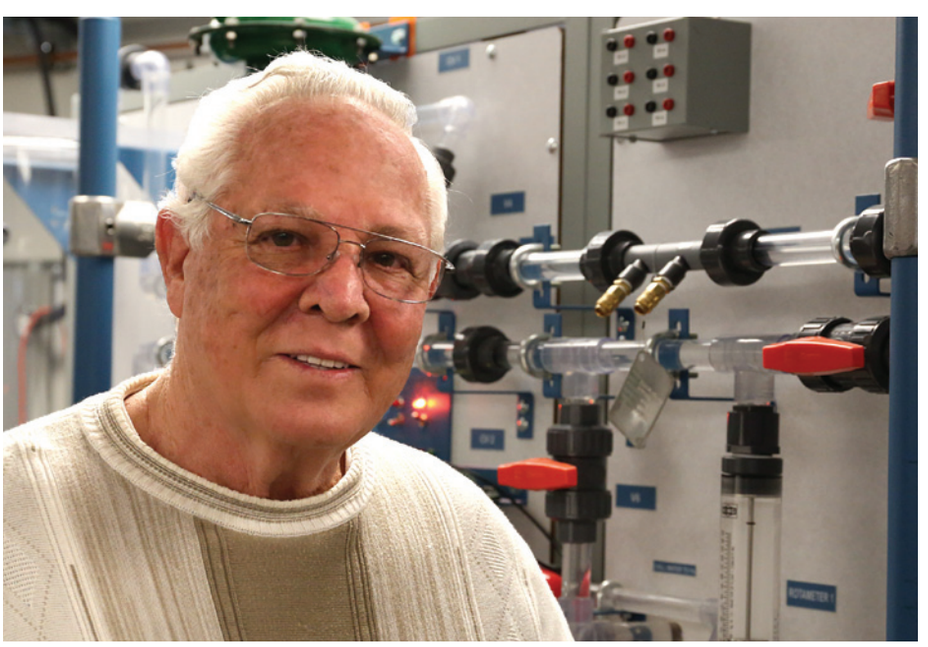
"I just want to get back to work," she says.

Coad's husband, Chris, graduated from the ETEC program two years ago, and now works at USS Posco, a steel manufacturing company in Pittsburg. "It's my turn now," she says, believing her new career offers more security and opportunity than she found in the retail industry.

"These jobs are open to older and younger workers alike, at companies offering good salaries, benefits and retirement programs," she says.

"Not every person is meant for a four-year college," says ETEC student Patricia Coad. Graduates of the ETEC and PTEC programs at Los Medanos College can earn as much as graduates from four-year colleges.

In addition to the ETEC program, the college offers a Process Technology Program (PTEC), also developed in partnership with the county's refineries, utilities and other local industries, including Dow, USS Posco, PG&E and the East Bay Municipal Utility District. No other college in the area offers the same training.



"About 75 percent of our students get jobs in their fields shortly after graduation," says ETEC instructor Cecil Nasworthy.

"The refineries and other local manufacturers were having trouble finding enough local workers with the skills needed to operate today's high-tech processing systems," says ETEC Director Cecil Nasworthy. "So they worked with us to develop the PTEC and ETEC programs. They've been tremendously supportive, providing funding for materials and equipment — even purchasing and donating the building for our hands-on lab."

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Nasworthy says the programs have been "successful from the start." Both have waiting lists of students wanting to enroll.

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BACK TO WORK

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graduation, and the employers are happy with the quality of their training — they keep coming back for more," he says with a smile. According to Nasworthy, his average student is 25 to 30 years old.

"Eighty percent of today's jobs don't require a four-year degree, but an increasing number require a high level of skill," says Nasworthy. "That's what we provide."

After two years of instruction, ETEC and PTEC graduates can make as much or more than graduates of four-year colleges. With experience, operators can earn $100,000 a year, including overtime.

"These programs were designed by local industry for local industry," says Dave Parker, the Learning and Development Manager at the Shell refinery in Martinez, who also is a member of the Contra Costa County Workforce Development Board. "We're working to develop a more technologically advanced and qualified work force so we can hire locally, which is always our first priority," says Parker.

"We sponsor job fairs and internships, and bring high school counselors into the refineries to show what we do here," says Parker, "so when they work with their students, they can explain what we have to offer and what students need to do to prepare for these jobs.

ETEC and PTEC students benefit from hands-on learning to prepare for good-paying jobs.

"If you're looking for something that's going to be a lifetime job, this is the place to be," says Gregory Lewis, who will graduate from the ETEC program this year.

"We're looking for mechanically inclined workers with strong math and science skills — good problem solvers who work well with others, good communicators who can speak and write clearly," says Parker.

> "THE PEOPLE COMING OUT OF THESE PROGRAMS ARE GREAT WORKERS — WELL TRAINED, SKILLED, MOTIVATED"

In addition to specialized training in electrical, instrumentation and process technology, students in the ETEC and PTEC programs are required to complete courses in algebra, physics and chemistry. They also benefit from site visits and hands-on learning.

Parker has been working in the refinery business for 30 years, starting as an operator and rising to a management position. "It's been great. I've never had a bad day," he says. "Shell is a great company to work for, and I've heard the same from people working at the other refineries. What you find here is a family and a career."

Shell's Senior Maintenance Supervisor, Robert Payn, who has been working at the refinery for 23 years, agrees. "Best decision I ever made."

Payn has helped create several industrial training programs for local workers. "We started with an internship program to train machinists, which was very successful," says Payn. "Based on that success, we've started expanding into other areas."

For example, because of a critical need for qualified welders, Payn and his industry colleagues are working with Los Medanos to develop a welding program.

"The people coming out of these programs are great workers — well trained, skilled, motivated," says Payn. "They're ecstatic to be hired right out of school. And we're happy to be getting local workers who want to build a career."

Gregory Lewis is a good example. A second-year ETEC student studying instrumentation, he's retraining for a new career after working five years as a project manager for a construction company, which was hard hit during the recession. He's now preparing for a job with either the East Bay Municipal Utility District or the wine industry. Both need workers with his newly acquired skills.

"If you're looking for something that's going to be a lifetime job," says Lewis, "something that's going to be interesting, something that's going to provide you with an income that's going to help you raise your family, this is the place to be." ■

More information at www.losmedanos.edu/ptec and www.losmedanos.edu/etec

"I love this program," says Kyle Terry, who wants to work at a local refinery after graduating from Los Medanos with his ETEC certificate.

PROUD OF WHAT WE DO

☐ The cleanest fuels in America are made by the cleanest refineries in the world — right here in Contra Costa County.

Together, Chevron, Phillips 66, Shell and Tesoro are helping develop and refine the fuels of the future, while undertaking projects at their refineries to further reduce emissions, conserve energy and increase efficiency.

In addition to its ongoing recycling and wetlands protection programs, Tesoro's Golden Eagle refinery supplies its commercial customers with environmentally friendly "B5" fuel every day. "B5" is diesel fuel blended with five percent biodiesel, which is made from a diverse mix of recycled cooking oil, soybean oil, animal fat and other feedstocks. Biodiesel is renewable, clean-burning and the nation's only EPA-designated advanced biofuel in commercial production.

Thanks to better steam management and other operational improvements, the Shell refinery in Martinez has dramatically reduced its greenhouse gas emissions by more than the levels generated powering about 15,000 homes — a city the size of Martinez. The refinery's co-generation facility provides enough power to run the facility, while its recently completed "carbon neutral" crude tank replacement project is the industry's first. A portion of the refinery's water treatment system is solar powered.

The Phillips 66 refinery in Rodeo is upgrading its facility control system to improve energy efficiency and reduce waste, while its new LPG recovery project will cut sulfur dioxide emissions by at least 50 percent, removing about 180 tons from the air annually. The refinery is also conserving energy by using a variable speed pump for its Concord pipeline, and by installing new heat exchangers that save energy by recycling waste heat.

The Chevron refinery in Richmond is proposing to modernize its facility to reduce emissions, conserve energy and improve its operation. The project will replace the refinery's 1960s-era hydrogen plant with a new plant that is cleaner and more energy efficient, and use new cutting-edge technology to improve the efficiency of the refinery's sulfur recovery units. Nearly 70 percent of Richmond residents support the modernization project, according to a recent poll. ■

MAKING PROGRESS

"Overall, California has seen a big improvement in air quality in the last decade, according to a state evaluation of smog and soot levels … Of the state's five biggest urban areas, only the San Francisco Bay Area meets all federal standards for ozone — the worst component of smog — and fine particulate matter, or soot …"

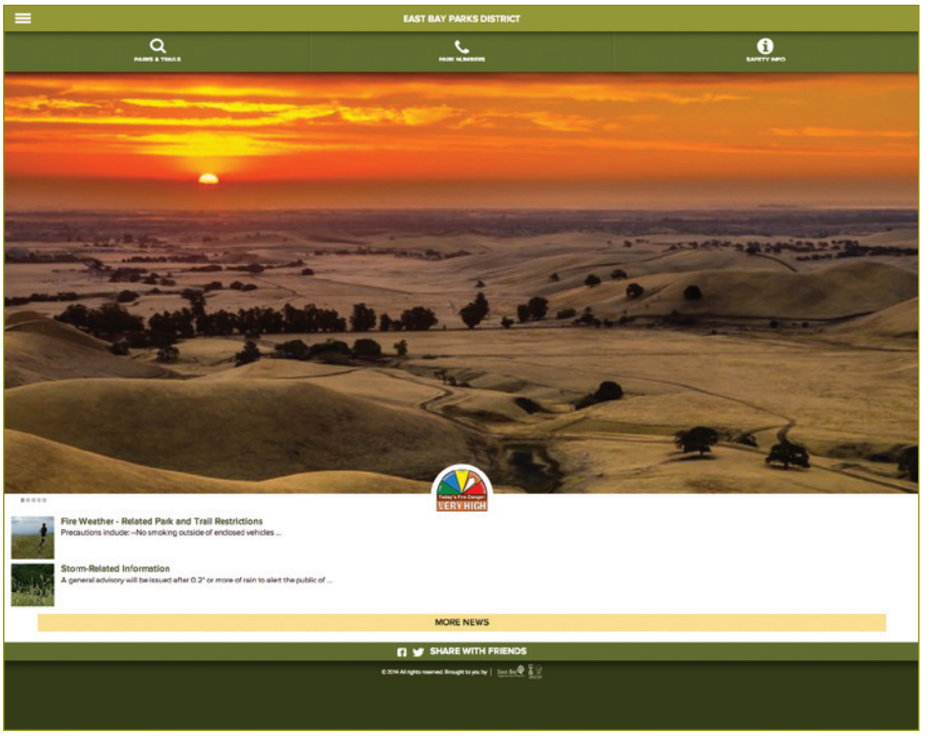
LOS ANGELES TIMES
January 23, 2014

NEW APP TAKES ANOTHER STEP FOR SAFETY

A smart new mobile app will soon let you explore all that the East Bay Regional Park District has to offer, providing information to help you plan a safe and enjoyable visit — including trail maps, weather reports, emergency phone numbers and safety information.

Developed by the Committee for Industrial Safety as part of its support for the park district's volunteer trail safety program, the app will be free.

"We appreciate everything the Committee for Industrial Safety is doing to help us ensure that our visitors enjoy our parks to the fullest," said Robert E. Doyle, General Manager of the East Bay Regional Park District.



You'll find trail safety, weather and other information on this handy new app developed by the Committee for Industrial Safety for the East Bay Regional Park District.

The Committee for Industrial Safety is comprised of representatives from Contra Costa County's four refineries — Chevron, Phillips 66, Shell and Tesoro. In addition to the mobile app, the committee has donated a trailer for transporting trail safety equipment, and has a trail safety video in production.