

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Los Medanos College Links With Local Industry to Provide Electrical/Electronics Technician Program**

PITTSBURG, CA: Los Medanos College (LMC) and local industry have joined forces to build new classroom/lab facilities, and recruit and train skilled technicians in the areas of electrical, electronic and instrumentation maintenance. The Electrical and Electronic Technician (EETEC) program will prepare individuals for high-paying, high-demand careers and provide industry with a reliable supply of skilled workers.

The Electrical and Electronic Technology program was developed by Los Medanos College in collaboration with local industry many years ago. The curriculum recently was completely redesigned in response to the changing needs of industry and to address the needs of a greater variety of industry partners. Today's industry needs employees with high levels of technical knowledge and skills, and communication skills from the get-go in order to succeed in the globally competitive environment. Industry also faces a growing shortage of a skilled workforce given the large number of retirements of the baby-boomers as well as increased demand, creating an ideal opportunity for a new, highly skilled and trained workforce to obtain these lucrative jobs. Surveys conducted by members of the EETEC industry advisory board at LMC indicate that employers in our region will need to recruit and hire 150 electrical technicians and instrumentation technicians each year for the next 10 years.

Founding sponsors, USS POSCO Industries and Shell Martinez Refinery, have contributed \$170,000 each in support of lab construction. Other sponsors include Dow Chemical (\$15,000), GWF Power (\$15,000) and Mirant (\$5,000).

"Nothing would suit me more than filling our jobs from the local communities, and having a local training facility will allow us to build those skills", said Shawn Costner, Maintenance Manager for Shell

Martinez Refinery. "There are a number of our experienced technicians who will be retiring in the next few years. When you combine the hiring needs at Shell with those of other local industries, we have a good case for moving forward with this training strategy. We are very excited about the prospects and anxious to support the effort."

Los Medanos College officials anticipate breaking ground on the new EETEC classroom/lab in late spring. The 2,200 square foot lab will begin housing classes in fall 2008.

The EETEC program will be available during the daytime in an intensive, full-time, two-year (four semester) schedule of courses. A part-time evening program is currently offered and will continue to be available. Students may select from two areas of specialization: Electrical/Electronic Technician or Instrumentation Technician. The electrical specialization is designed to train electricians to maintain complex electrical automation systems used in the manufacturing and power generation industries. The instrumentation specialization is designed to train instrument technicians to maintain the process measurement and control systems used in the refineries, chemical plants, biotech plants, pharmaceuticals, water and waste treatment plants.

For more information about the EETEC program, visit [www.losmedanos.edu/eetec](http://www.losmedanos.edu/eetec) or contact Margaret Hertstein at 925-439-2181 ext. 3105 or [mhertstein@losmedanos.edu](mailto:mhertstein@losmedanos.edu).

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