

# EXPANDING MINDS UNLEASHING CAREERS

*The Campaign for  
Career Technical Education  
at American River College*





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The global pandemic has redefined essential work and accelerated a workforce transformation that will continue post-pandemic. While we still have so much to learn about the future of work, it is clear that among tomorrow's essential workers will be those in skilled trades who are innovative and collaborative. The demand is already massive—an estimated three million skilled trade jobs in the United States remain vacant. Nearly one-third of current skilled tradespeople are expected to retire by 2030; therefore, preparing workers who can fill the empty pipeline is critical for our nation's economic growth and future prosperity.

In late 2017, Valley Vision led a partnership with The Greater Sacramento Economic Council, Sacramento Metro Chamber, Sacramento Region Business Association, and Sacramento Area Council of Governments to collaborate with the Brookings Institution on producing an “economic stress test” of the Sacramento region. A key finding was that in order for the Sacramento region to take advantage of changing market, technology and demographic trends, it must focus on core drivers and enablers of regional competitiveness and prosperity — one of which is skilled labor. The report noted that employers need and will reward workers with higher education and technology-relevant skills but added that as the region's workforce supply is becoming more diverse, closing educational and employment disparities by race is extremely urgent.

Fortunately for our region, American River College is uniquely situated to help train many of these essential workers of the future, offering an educational escalator to high-wage jobs for thousands of diverse students who might otherwise be left with a job at minimum wage, or no job at all.



LEADING THE WAY IN

# WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Founded in 1955, American River College (ARC) educates about 30,000 students each spring and fall, making it one of the largest public education institutions in the region. Part of the Los Rios Community College District that includes Cosumnes River College, Folsom Lake College, and Sacramento City College, ARC serves students at its main campus as well as at its Natomas, McClellan and Mather Centers. ARC prepares students from all ethnic and economic backgrounds for the workforce as well as for transfer to four-year institutions. Consider these facts:

- ARC offers more than 180 degree and certificate programs.
- 27% of ARC students are the first in their families to attend college.
- Most ARC students (54%) are over 25 years of age — demonstrating the college’s vital role in career development, continuing education, and job training.
- At only \$46 per unit, California Community Colleges offer the best educational value for students whether they transfer to a four-year college or focus on career training to secure a high-paying job.
- Between Fall 2015 and Fall 2019, an average of 266 students, each semester, earn academic credit for their hand-on experience which includes internships, work experience and volunteer positions, and on average 80% of those students enrolled in

a Work Experience course each semester are successful in their internship, work experience or volunteer positions.

- California taxpayers receive \$4.50 for every \$1 invested in students who graduate from a California Community College, yet community colleges get less funding per student than any other state education system.
- The average lifetime earnings of a graduate with an associate degree are \$400,000 more than for a high school graduate.
- Community colleges enroll nearly two-thirds of California’s undergraduates, but community college students are eligible for fewer financial aid programs than students who attend college at a UC or CSU campus. In particular, only 5% of California community college students receive a Cal Grant, whereas almost 40% of UC’s and 36% of CSU’s undergraduate students receive a Cal Grant.

### Funds for Full-Time Equivalent Students

Includes General Funds, local property tax, student fees, and lottery revenues

	2018-19	2019-20
University of California	\$32,593	\$33,569
California State University	\$17,784	\$18,445
K-12 Education	\$11,574	\$12,018
CA Community Colleges	\$8,099	\$8,306



ARC has a proud history of preparing today's students for tomorrow's jobs. As part of the Los Rios Community College district, ARC embraces its role in fulfilling the district's mission to empower the underrepresented in our community and to ensure that all populations have access to higher education as well as the support and opportunities that allow our students to succeed. The majority of the college's students come from diverse ethnic backgrounds (62%) and ARC strives to keep the campus a welcoming place for its incredibly diverse student body, faculty and staff who call ARC home.

## **ARC demonstrates its leadership in the region's workforce development by these recent accomplishments.**

In 2020, the new Diane Bryant STEM Innovation Center opened with state-of-the-art classroom and laboratory spaces needed to prepare students studying science, technology, engineering, and math for transfer to four-year institutions and 21st-century employment. More than \$2 million was raised to provide students with the equipment and cutting-edge technology usually found only in four-year institutions.

ARC served as the lead applicant for a four-year \$5 million Department of Labor grant that will allow the colleges in the Los Rios Community College District to work with several regional workforce development partners including SETA, ILG, CAERC and Valley Vision to create new pathways to training for entry and middle-skill jobs in the public sector. The project is notable not just for its collaborative design, but also because it was one of only 11 of these grants awarded nationwide.



## A NEW CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION BUILDING:

# EXPANDING MINDS, UNLEASHING CAREERS

### BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

ARC's culture of innovation and leadership in workforce development are reflected in our plans to build a new, two-story, 61,000 square-foot, LEED Silver certification equivalent Career Technical Education (CTE) building to house the following degree and certificate programs: Automotive, Electronics, Electrician Trainee, Energy (Solar), Design and Engineering Technology, Funeral Services and Welding. It will also house the Design Hub, Maker Space, and Maker Space/Prototyping areas. These departments and programs are currently housed in disjointed rooms and labs in a building original to the 1955 campus, as well as scattered portable units. By bringing everyone together under one roof, our faculty and students can finally work in proximity, and in a state-of-the-art facility that encourages and fosters collaboration and innovation.

### FUELING COLLABORATIVE LEARNING

While similar in overall size to the existing program spaces, the new building has been designed to accommodate the latest educational practices. The new facility will support learning in collaborative environments that foster interaction and critical thinking with modern and flexible workspaces that mirror what students will find in the workplace. Hands-on experience with industry-standard equipment will cement the information students learn in lectures and textbooks. Open spaces and glass walls within the building will illuminate the work and activities underway, piquing the curiosity of students in other programs and encouraging cross-disciplinary engagement and collaboration. "Sticky" spaces outside the classroom will encourage students to congregate after class and to huddle with others for classwork or projects.

*Due to the evolving nature of education, the building is designed to support three teaching modalities: In person on campus, live online and recorded online.*



## TRANSFORMING LIVES

Combining the properties of student unions, traditional academic buildings, and incubators, the new Career Technical Education building will be where students go to class, gather between classes, interact with peers, and find that special kind of inspiration that only a great educational experience can provide.

The student-centered focus of the building ensures that each Career Technical Education student has the support they need to complete their degrees and certificates. A new initiative, known as HomeBase, provides a dedicated and welcoming space where students pursuing related majors/programs have access to a Success Team of counselors, peer mentors, coaches, and faculty liaisons. The Success Teams are committed to ensuring students get the support needed to complete their academic program while also enjoying a sense of community and belonging. One of six specialized HomeBase centers on campus, the Manufacturing, Construction and Transportation HomeBase will be housed in the Career Technical Education building.

Optimization of student achievement and learning is part of the building's design — and that optimization comes with deep knowledge of industry needs. ARC faculty have advanced degrees in their fields, but it is their decades of industry experience that help them bring the curriculum to life. ARC CTE programs regularly convene advisory groups made up of local employers and industry leaders, who share information about trends and best practices with ARC leadership and advise on curriculum.

The partnerships between faculty and industry, evident in all programs housed in the building, will literally be on display in the spacious courtyard entrance, which has been designed to accommodate

trade shows, exhibitions, presentations, and demonstrations from local industry providers and manufacturers, as well as student projects.

Hands-on learning demonstrates to students, especially those who have struggled in a traditional classroom, that they have talent and that they have the capability to learn. The new Career Technical Education building will provide the instructional and collaborative space to ensure students gain practical skills and experience as well as the academic underpinnings required to master a subject.



“I’ve had the great fortune to be involved as a partner with American River College’s Technical Education Division for these past 20 years. In that time, I’ve seen interns and students from ARC turn their educational opportunities into livelihoods in our shop and in my peers’ shops. One of our first interns completed his education at ARC, completed his continuing education with Toyota Motor Sales and achieved Toyota Master Diagnostic Technician status to become one of our Production Team Leaders. The grounding that he received is prevalent in all of the “ready to work” grads that come from ARC. We consider ourselves fortunate and ahead of the training curve when we hire on a grad from ARC.”

—Mike Latham, Service Director, Maita Toyota

*An Invitation to*

# INVEST IN INNOVATION

Funding for construction of the \$58 million 61,000 square foot building has been secured through bond financing and state monies earmarked for career technical education modernization projects. However, these dollars cover only construction related expenses and not the enhanced equipment to make the facility state-of-the-art.

To bridge this gap, ARC and the Los Rios Colleges Foundation are embarking on a fundraising campaign to raise \$2.5 million for the equipment, technology and program support that will truly make the building an advanced facility where students can get real-world work education and experience.

And, just as education has evolved since ARC opened in 1955, we know it will continue to progress in the future. The Career Technical Education building, state-of-the-art today, can remain so for generations because it was designed for adaptation to meet future needs.

**You are invited to partner with ARC to create this bold investment in our community's future that will bring significant dividends. Together we will change the life trajectory for generations of students, provide a skilled workforce for the local businesses who hire them, and lift our local economy.**



The Los Rios Colleges Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that partners with generous individuals and businesses to raise private philanthropic support to remove financial barriers for Los Rios students and to provide resources to ARC and the other colleges in the Los Rios Community College District.

Gifts can be pledged up to five years. Naming opportunities will be available for larger gifts. Legacy gifts, such as charitable gift annuities, bequests and other planned gifts are also welcome. All donors will be recognized and acknowledged for their support.



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LOS RIOS COLLEGES  
**FOUNDATION**



For more information, including naming opportunities, contact:

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