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### **MSCC to Participate in \$4.3 Million Grant for Diesel, Hybrid Vehicle Fuel Technology Training**

Mid-South Community College will receive nearly \$740,000 of a \$4.3 million Department of Labor grant to enhance diesel technology training, and an additional \$200,000 will help create a four-year degree opportunity on the West Memphis campus.

MSCC's portion of the grant will fund faculty, equipment and supplies to support a career pathway in Diesel Technology with employable "stop-out" points at high school graduation, community college credentials (certificates and degree), and a baccalaureate degree.

The Bachelor of Science degree will be provided in partnership with Montana State University Northern (MSUN), recognized by industry leaders as one of the nation's top diesel programs.

"This grant gives us the resources to dramatically expand our existing diesel technology program and double the number of workers we can train," said Dr. Glen Fenter, MSCC President. "With our proximity to the largest transportation and distribution center in the region, we will be able to create some phenomenal training and career opportunities for our students."

"The awarding of this grant can only be described as another instance of divine intervention in a region which desperately needs further investment in quality workforce development programs."

Students who enroll in and successfully complete the bachelor's degree program will have skills to support large-bore diesel engines such as those on river barges, ultra-large construction/earth moving equipment, locomotives, and ocean-going tankers and cruise ships.

“With Montana State University Northern on our campus, students will have the opportunity to train for some really exciting, high-paying careers,” said Dr. Robert Gunter, Associate Vice President for Workforce Technology.

MSUN places 100 percent of its graduates, with many already committed to a major employer by their junior year. Companies that have hired MSUN grads include (among others) General Electric, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad, Peter Kiewit, Case/New Holland Tractor & Equipment, John Deere, Fairbanks Gold Mining Inc., Detroit Diesel-Interstate Diesel, Cummins Engine Company, and IVECO Engines North America.

In support of the expanded program, MSCC will break ground soon on the \$6 million ADTEC BioDiesel Technology Center on the North Campus. The 31,000-square foot facility will include a biofuel engine testing facility and fuel and oil analysis laboratories which will support adoption of biofuels by the transportation industry.

The facility will also support research by regional universities on the impact of biofuels and biolubricants on engine performance and durability.

As part of its fifth and final round of the Community-Based Job Training Grant process, the Department of Labor awarded \$125 million in grants to 41 community colleges and organizations. MSCC and ADTEC have participated in three of the five grant cycles with a total federal investment of more than \$8 million. Previous grants addressed Renewable Energy Technology (\$1.98 million) and Allied Health training (\$2 million).

U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis, who visited the MSCC campus in June 2009, said the latest awards “will create opportunities for working Americans to train for high-demand occupations with the help of our nationwide community college system.”

“Our goal is to help workers across the country prepare for and secure good jobs, and with support from these colleges and other critical stakeholders, we'll ensure we reach a broad base of individuals in need.”

U.S. Senators Blanche Lincoln and Mark Pryor and U.S. Representative Marion Berry announced the DOL Community-Based Job Training award on Tuesday, June 29. “This funding will prepare young Arkansans for jobs in the automotive industry, arming them with critical skills and creating real opportunities for their future employment,” Sen.

Lincoln said. “I am pleased these federal funds will be used to train Arkansans and give them the skills they need to keep our state competitive.”

Sen. Pryor said the funds “will help provide quality job training in the areas in eastern Arkansas that need it the most. As many communities are struggling with job losses and hard times, we need to provide ways for workers to learn the skills they need to pursue new employment opportunities.”

Congressman Berry said the grant will help residents of eastern Arkansas receive job-relevant training.

“As our economy demands more workers with specialized skills, it is essential that we follow that trend in our education facilities too,” Berry said. “These programs will give competitive opportunities to students enrolled and lead to higher paying jobs in the long run. I believe education is the foundation for future growth in Arkansas, and I will continue to support funding towards that goal.”

Arkansas State University-Newport, on behalf of the Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium (ADTEC), will serve as the fiscal and programmatic agent for the grant.

“Arkansas State University-Newport and the Arkansas Delta Training and Education Consortium (ADTEC) institutions want to thank Senator Lincoln, Senator Pryor, and Congressman Berry for their support of higher education in the Delta,” said Dr. Larry N. Williams, Chancellor at ASU-Newport.

“ADTEC colleges will provide programs in diesel and automotive technology with emphasis on alternative fuels and hybrid vehicle technology, and we will be working closely with the Workforce Investment Boards, Arkansas Trucking Association, and employers throughout the region.”

In addition to initiatives at ASU-Newport and MSCC, similarly-focused programs will be offered at Arkansas Northeastern College in Blytheville, East Arkansas Community College in Forrest City, and Phillips Community College of the University of Arkansas in Helena-West Helena.

Overall, the \$4.3 million grant will provide job training for nearly 800 participants by supporting bachelor’s degree programs and a program for high school students interested in working in the transportation, automotive and diesel industries.

For more information about life-changing opportunities at Mid-South Community College, visit the campus at 2000 West Broadway in West Memphis, see the website at [www.midsouthcc.edu](http://www.midsouthcc.edu), call (870) 733-6722, or email [admissions@midsouthcc.edu](mailto:admissions@midsouthcc.edu).