



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION AWARDS
\$15 MILLION AS PART OF MONTEREY PENINSULA COLLEGE
REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP**

MONTEREY, CA – June 1, 2015 - State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson awarded \$244 million in total grants to 40 programs that blend academic and career technical education, connect employers with schools, and train students for jobs in high-demand fields, such as health care, advanced manufacturing, information technology, and software development.

The grants are provided through the California Career Pathways Trust (CCPT) program, which is the largest program of its kind in the nation. The program is providing nearly \$500 million in career tech grants over a two-year period.

Monterey Peninsula College will receive a portion of a \$15 million CCPT Regional Consortium grant partnership with San Jose/Evergreen Community College District. The funding will support creating STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) foundations to lead into career pathways in Cybersecurity, Networking Administration, and potentially Engineering/Robotics at Monterey Peninsula College.

Dr. Walt Tribley, President/Superintendent of Monterey Peninsula College states “At MPC we continue to focus on connections, and this grant allows us the opportunity to connect education to business through work-based learning that allows students to explore and experience real jobs under the mentorship of professionals in these industries.”

The grant will provide opportunities to promote an integrated system of STEM career pathways targeted at high-demand careers in computer science, engineering technology, and advanced manufacturing. Career Pathway programs will provide students with valuable experiential learning opportunities to explore job options within each pathway and identify specific skill-sets needed for different industries.

The state Legislature created CCPT in 2013 and allocated \$250 million for the program in the state's 2013-14 budget. Last year, Torlakson awarded grants to 39 recipients. After seeing the program's popularity—the state received 123 applications requesting \$709 million in CCPT grants last year—lawmakers approved an additional \$250 million for this year. The program builds on Torlakson's Career Readiness Initiative.

CCPT grant recipients are tasked with creating sustained career pathways programs that link businesses, K–12 schools, and community colleges to prepare students for the 21st century workplace. The California Department of Education worked with the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and the California Workforce Investment Board to identify the strongest applications based on a rigorous evaluation process.

ABOUT MPC: Monterey Peninsula College is committed to fostering student learning and success by providing excellence in instructional programs, facilities and services to support the goals of students pursuing transfer, career, basic skills, and life-long learning opportunities. Through these efforts MPC seeks to enhance the intellectual, cultural, and economic vitality of our diverse community.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Celeste C. White | white page communications

T: 831-682-0973 | E: celeste@whitepagecommunications.com