



The Eagle Flies



. . . FROM PRESIDENT FRANK CHONG, ED.D.

Career and technical education is one of Laney's academic strengths. The East Bay Career Advancement Academy (EBCAA) presents a unique opportunity to prepare our students for employment and career advancement. Leveraging the educational, business, community, and governmental resources, the Laney/EBCAA partnership is offering a solution to the chronic economic and educational challenges.

William Hanson, Dean of Community Partnerships & Workforce Development, is working diligently in securing funds, forging partnerships and establishing programs at Laney. We are offering job-skill-based curriculum in Biomanufacturing, Construction, Woodworking and the Pacific Gas & Electric PowerPathway.

Members of the first PG&E PowerPathway graduating class will soon join the ranks of utility workers. Their achievement is the best testimony to the dedication of our faculty members, department chairs and administrators. Please join me in thanking these individuals who made the PowerPathway program possible: Dean William Hanson, Career & Technical Education Dean Peter Crabtree, Math Professor Fred Bourgojn, Counselor Silvia Lorencato, Physical Education Instructor Sarah Stretch, Electrical Technology Professor John Warhus, and English Professor Antonio Watkins.

Congratulations to our PowerPathway graduates. I'm confident they will enjoy successful careers in the utility industry.

PG&E POWERPATHWAY PROGRAM TRAINS NEXT-GENERATION UTILITY WORKERS

The East Bay Career Advancement Academy provides substantial support for the PG&E PowerPathway program. See EACAA article on page 2.

Government officials and utility companies have kept a watchful eye on power supplies since the electricity crisis of 2000 and 2001. Since then, public administrators and corporate executives have added new power plants, decommissioned older facilities, and explored renewable energies. Today, they are also focusing on potential labor shortage when older craftworkers and technicians begin to retire.

Earlier this year, Pacific Gas and Electric Company launched PG&E PowerPathway – a workforce development program designed to recruit and train the next-generation utility workers. The program is developed in partnership with the East Bay Career Advancement Academy (EBCAA), local governments, Job Corps and community colleges.

On March 17, Laney College introduced the first PowerPathway program, and more than 20 men and women were selected for courses in English, Math, Electrical Technology, Life Skills, and Physical Conditioning. After more than 250 credit hours of classroom study, plus a 40-hour field experience at the PG&E training center in Livermore, members of the first PowerPathway class will graduate on June 24. Many will soon join the ranks of apprentice line workers, utility workers, and related skilled craft workers.

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Please send comments and story ideas to: Eliza Y Chan, Public Information Officer (elizachan@peralta.edu; 510.464.3161; Laney Tower T-811)

PROGRAM BRIDGES STUDENTS TO UTILITY WORKERS

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“These students are well prepared to pass a stringent examination which qualifies them for entry-level positions,” said Peter Crabtree, Dean of Career & Technical Education. “Almost half of the graduates already have job offers from PG&E.”

By all indications this PowerPathway class was a success. English Professor Antonio Watkins called it “a win-win” – students were highly motivated because they were prepared to fill a specific hiring pool, and PG&E had the opportunity to choose from a group of well-trained, fresh talent.

“Reading/writing is a key currency in our society. Our graduates will have the capability to communicate effectively with fellow employees and respond to customer needs,” he added.

To help students quickly compute problems such as dimension and voltage, Math Professor Fred Bourgoin redesigned a pre-algebra course to focus on speed and mental calculation. Participants also learned mathematical tricks and problem solving strategies.

A centerpiece of the curriculum was Electrical Technology, taught by Professor John Warhus. Students learned basic electricity, including voltage, current, and amperage. A retired electrical engineer from a national laboratory, Warhus was acutely aware of the potential hazards students face in the work environment.

“Our emphasis is on safety and compliance,” he explained.

“When students understand company, state and federal regulations, they have the ability to recognize problems, ask intelligent questions, and maintain safety.”

As challenging as classroom learning was, nothing compared to the field exercises at PG&E—including pole climbing, fork lift driving, and work with ropes.



PowerPathway participants also gained strength and agility at Laney under intense coaching by Physical Education Instructor Sarah Stretch.

Before they climbed the first pole, students practiced safety techniques. They supported each other by shouting words of encouragement, and cheered loudly

when their peers safely scaled to the top.

“There is a real sense of community among these students,” said Counselor Silvia Lorencato. “They have demonstrated resilience and camaraderie. I believe they will continue to work well together.”

EAST BAY CAREER ADVANCEMENT ACADEMY PAVES PATH TO ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY

The East Bay Career Advancement Academy (EBCAA) presents a unique opportunity to leverage educational, business, community and governmental resources to address the chronic economic and educational barriers facing youth and young adults in the East Bay.

“By linking students to living wage jobs, we are paving a path to their economic self-sufficiency and future successes,” says William Hanson, Dean of Community Partnerships & Workforce Development at Laney.

The Career Advancement Academy, a partnership with the Peralta and Contra Costa

Community College Districts, is providing significant support, including instructional design, to the PG&E PowerPathway program.

Adults between the ages of 18 and 30 are eligible for the Academy, regardless of past educational experience. Through the Academy’s community partners, students can find referrals for transportation, childcare, housing, career assessment and other services.

In the Academy, students are placed together in groups of no more than 25, allowing them to move through the program in small supportive communities. At the same time, instructors have the

flexibility to fine tune the educational materials to meet specific needs of each group enabling skills acceleration as well as remediation.

Academy courses – reading, writing, math and ‘soft’ people skills – are designed to increase student performance levels within specific career contexts.

Students who have successfully completed the program are ready to enroll in industry-specific technical and training programs or pursue general academic goals. The ultimate objective is to prepare under-educated or underemployed young adults for well-paid, career-track jobs.

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