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Funding Awarded to Help Foster Youth Succeed

Grants to Eight California Community Colleges Will Serve Nearly 600 Youth Statewide

SACRAMENTO—The Foundation for California Community Colleges has selected eight community colleges throughout the state to receive a total of \$630,000 to help foster youth in California become more independent.

The funding will support Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success -California (YESS-California) programs on each of the eight selected campuses. The YESS-California program helps current and former foster youth successfully transition into self-sufficiency through mentoring, tutoring and life-skills training.

Grant recipients include College of the Sequoias, Cuesta College, Evergreen Valley College, Fresno City College, Pasadena City College, San Bernardino Valley College, San Joaquin Delta College and Yuba College. Each will receive between \$70,000 and \$90,000 for a period of one year for staff and operational costs of the YESS-California program.

Each year, more than 4,000 foster youth in California become independent, with many of them facing the challenge of insufficient training in vital skills such as financial literacy, preparation for post-secondary education, daily living and job training.

“Our goal is to help more foster youth in California succeed,” said Hillery Gladden, Executive Director of Youth and Adult Services at the Foundation for California Community Colleges. “The funding will allow community colleges to provide young people coming out of foster care with the training and resources they need to become self-sufficient and overcome many of the challenges that emancipated foster youth face, such as homelessness, financial problems and incarceration.”

Developed in 2007, the YESS-California program is a collaboration of the Foundation for California Community Colleges and the California Department of Social Services. Participating colleges provide services such as one-on-one mentoring, resource referral, classroom training and employment services.

While each of the selected colleges already has the YESS-California program in place, the additional funding will allow the colleges to expand and enhance the services already established, primarily by providing more interaction and comprehensive programs to serve foster youth.

Breakdown of Grant Recipients

College	Location	Grant Amount	Number of Youth to be Served
College of the Sequoias	Visalia	\$70,000	50
Evergreen Valley College	San Jose	\$70,000	50
San Bernardino Valley College	San Bernardino	\$70,000	50
Fresno City College	Fresno	\$80,000	75
Pasadena City College	Pasadena	\$80,000	75
Yuba College	Marysville	\$80,000	75
Cuesta College	San Luis Obispo	\$90,000	100
San Joaquin Delta College	Stockton	\$90,000	100
Total Amount		\$630,000	575

For more information about the Foundation for California Community College's YESS-California program, visit www.foundationccc.org/yess .

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The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official auxiliary to the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors, Chancellor, and System Office. The Foundation's mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community College system, the largest higher education system in the nation. Incorporated in 1998, the Foundation works with Community Colleges and partner organizations to manage donations, grants, programs, and services that drive excellence in education while saving millions of dollars for colleges each year. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit corporation and receives no direct state or public support. *For more information, visit www.foundationccc.org.*
