



# C A L I F O R N I A

## Labor & Workforce Development Agency

### N E W S R E L E A S E

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**Secretary**  
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**Date:** January 13, 2009

**News Release No.:** 09-01

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### Californians Benefit from Three U.S. DOL Grants For Technology-Based Learning Programs

**SACRAMENTO** – The California workforce will benefit from three federal employment and training grants intended to increase access to technology-based job skills learning. The grants will fund projects that will use various types of technology to provide training for careers in the software and computer services industry, and nursing and related healthcare occupations.

“These grants will contribute to a more competitive workforce for California by providing better access to technology-based skills training that is offered via the Internet, through video teleconferencing, or by other types of media,” said Doug Hoffner, Acting Secretary of the California Labor and Workforce Development Agency.

The employment training grants were awarded to three organizations:

- Western Governors University was awarded a \$500,000 grant for an innovative nursing education pilot. In partnership with Kaiser, Tenet, HCA, and Cedars Sinai, Western Governors University will develop an \$11 million, multi-state, on-line competency-based nursing education program. Students will be assigned a mentor who will work with them for the entire program, and will self-pace their on-line work until they are competent in each area of study. In addition, students will meet with clinical instructors throughout their nursing education to practice and learn in health care environments. The funds also will assist with the development of the program as it goes through the California Board of Registered Nurses’ approval process. After piloting in California, the program will expand to include partners in other states. For more information, contact Pat Partridge, Western Governor’s University, at (801) 274-3280.
- Able-Disabled Advocacy, Inc., based in San Diego, received a \$584,600 grant to operate the CareerLink program that will serve 80 individuals with disabilities who are both new and incumbent workers. Individuals will receive technology-based training in a learning lab and/or at home for careers in the software and computer services industry, such as computer support specialist, project manager, systems administrator and software engineer. Trainees will receive extensive user support, hands on work-based learning opportunities; labor market information and career counseling; on-going vocational

(more)

assessment; in-kind financial assistance; subsidies for credentialing test fees; and job placement assistance. For more information, please contact Elaine Cooluris at (619) 231-5990 Ext. 319.

- County of Orange, OC Community Resources, in Santa Ana was awarded a \$500,000 grant to develop and implement a Virtual English as a Second Language learning program for nursing and related healthcare occupations. The program will emphasize the development of a “virtual hospital” that interactively demonstrates the English language communication skills necessary to successfully perform the functions of a nurse in an American hospital. The virtual hospital will be a coordinated offering of 25 two-hour lessons wherein students will be able to access online learning opportunities in an industry-specific simulated environment. For more information, please contact Andrew Munoz at (714) 567-7370.

The grantees and their partners will provide these services over a three-year period. The grants, announced today by U.S. Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao, are part of the Labor Department’s Employment and Training Administration’s Technology-Based Learning Initiative, which was launched in 2006.

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