PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
DATE:  May 18-19, 2015

SUBJECT:  Foundation for California Community Colleges Air Quality Programs – Promoting Cleaner Air and Expanding Career Training Opportunities

BACKGROUND: Workforce development initiatives have been core to the Foundation’s work since its inception. Our efforts to support workforce development include paid training programs, paid and unpaid internships, and other opportunities that help students gain real-world experience that prepares them for success in future careers. Workforce development programs within the air quality sector have been a key part of our work for over a decade. These programs support our colleges, help to train the next generation of automotive technicians, and help to improve air quality in California.

RECOMMENDATION:  This item is presented for information and discussion.
ANALYSIS:

The Industry of Air Quality

Clean air is critical to the California’s economy. California has more vehicles on the streets and highways than any other state in the nation, and the exhaust and emissions from these vehicles are a major source of pollution, impacting health and the economy. The Foundation’s air quality workforce development programs support the California Community College’s ability to play a key role in training the future air quality workforce in automotive technology programs and support the Community College system’s awarding of related degrees and certificates.

Smog Check Referee and Student Technician Training Program

In partnership with the Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) for over a decade, the Foundation has administered the Smog Check Referee and Student Technician Training Program at 31 Community Colleges throughout the state. BAR contracts with the Foundation to administer the program, which trains and employs student technicians in a hands-on work-based learning environment at the 31 colleges that house Referee sites. Through the Smog Check Referee Student Technician Training Program, students gain hands-on training that prepares them to become smog check technicians. Over 100 potential smog check technicians are trained each year through this program. The Referee program is beneficial to not only the students by providing paid hands-on training, but also to the campuses by bringing in lease revenue and state of the art equipment.

Partnership and Program Expansion

Our long-standing successful partnership with BAR has created the opportunity for many other new partnerships and programs. Over the past several years, we have also contracted with the South Coast Air Quality Management District, San Joaquin Air Quality Management District, and the California Air Resources Board for various programs designed to leverage our partnership with BAR and benefit the system. The Foundation has a developed a track record of leveraging our experience and expertise to create new partnerships with other air quality agencies, and attract diverse programmatic funding streams to benefit students, colleges, and the system.

From 2010-2012, the Foundation administered the Vehicle Repair, Retirement, and Replacement for Motorists Program (VRRRM), funded through a CyPres settlement fund, which provided consumer incentives to reduce the amount of high emitting vehicles on the road, and benefited student assistants and college campuses through program operations. During a similar time period, the Foundation also operated the High Emitter Replace or Scrap (HEROS) program and Enhanced Fleet Modernization Program (EFMP) which were also consumer incentive programs and provided further benefits to students and colleges. These three programs alone resulted in nearly 950 tons of emissions reductions – significantly improving California’s air quality while also providing meaningful benefits to students and colleges through program operations.

Other programs currently in operation—leveraging past successes, strong industry partnerships, and in-house expertise—include a Supplemental Environmental Program that will improve coursework and provide training opportunities in the area of small engine maintenance and repair, and an awareness campaign which aims to raise public awareness about the Referee services offered at the 31 California Community College campuses.