



# Emergency Planning & Preparedness NEWSLETTER

## DISASTER RESISTANT CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Dear Colleagues,

As we commence a new year, I want to offer my sincere gratitude to all who continue to ensure that the students and staff on our campuses are safe and healthy. The recent shooting in Arizona causes all of us to stop and consider the challenges we face on our campuses. As the largest system of higher education in the nation, the California community colleges have the tremendous responsibility of serving nearly three million students.

While we may never know what causes such senseless acts of violence, we have an obligation to our students and the general public to make sure we are doing everything possible to identify troubled students and take appropriate action. It is my sincere hope that our community colleges will reflect in the wake of this tragedy and seriously consider our responses to the mental health needs of our students.

I am pleased to announce that, through our homeland security grant, we will offer active shooter drills at campuses throughout the state. This training will provide realistic scenarios to prepare police

officers for response to an active shooter on campus.

In the current economic climate, it is imperative that we utilize the state and federal resources that are available to us. Now is the time for us to become even more creative and entrepreneurial. We must capitalize on many sources of funding so that we do not compromise on safety. This is no small venture, but with your dedication I know we will continue to innovate and improve our services.

Thank you for your hard work!

Sincerely,



*Jack Scott*

Jack Scott, Ph.D.

### DRCCC Task Force

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## PASADENA CITY COLLEGE UNVEILS EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER, INVITES COMMUNITY PARTNERS TO SHARE RESOURCES

PASADENA | Pasadena City College recently hosted a meeting with community partners from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) to unveil their new Emergency Operations Center (EOC) facilities. The EOC is located in a newly renovated building designed specifically to accommodate the technology and personnel needs of the incident commanders and others involved in emergency response.

Police Chief Peter Michael led representatives from Caltech and JPL through the technology features that were built into the EOC including the flat-screen monitors and SmartBoards controlled by the incident commander station. “Having worked for the city of Glendale Police Department for 29 years and having actually staffed real situations in its EOC, I designed Pasadena City College’s EOC to help support the SEMS/NIMS/ICS system. Therefore, our EOC is meant to drastically reduce, through technology, the chatter that occurs during a real emergency,” said Chief Michael.

“Our partnership with the city of Pasadena, Caltech and JPL is the beginning of a relationship that all community colleges should mirror.



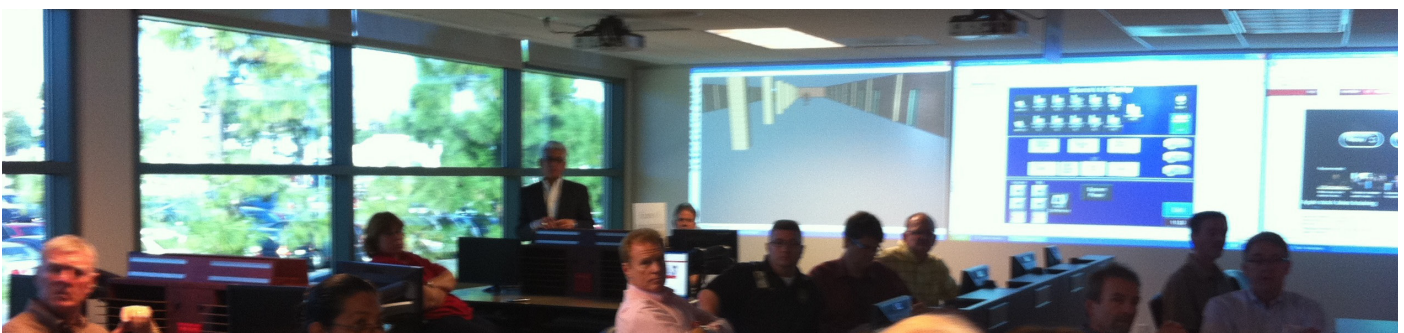
*Caltech staff members tour PCC’s new Emergency Operations Center facility.*

The fact that PCC is taking a lead in bringing these high profile entities together is out of the norm for a community college,” added Chief Michael. “We hope, through our M.O.U., to arrive at a mutual aid agreement that will benefit all the major stakeholders in the city.” This M.O.U. includes a proposal for joint trainings with Caltech, JPL and the City of Pasadena.

Caltech’s Associate Vice President for Facilities Jim Cowell noted that, “Caltech has had a longstanding

relationship with PCC and their police department. The addition of the new emergency operations center will enhance this relationship, and we look forward to joint emergency response exercises in the future.”

Chief Michael commends his college for their support and is open to sharing his experience. “My thanks to Dr. Robert Cody and his staff for the technological expertise it offered and to Dr. Rick van Pelt for opening up the purse strings to make it all happen. This was truly a team effort.”





## MERCED COLLEGE INSTALLS NEW HD SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM



MERCED | Merced Community College District deployed a new surveillance system to monitor activity across its campuses and to ensure the general welfare of students and staff. The Avigilon HD Surveillance System includes 15 HD cameras that monitor activity across campus grounds and parking lots.

Deputy Sheriff Jim Wilde of the Merced County Sheriff's Office heads up the Merced Community College Police Department serving 11,000 full-time students across two campuses. "In light of the growing concern over campus safety, we have implemented a proactive crime prevention strategy," explained Deputy Sheriff Wilde. The new system is already producing results. "Since deploying Avigilon, we have been able to successfully investigate and resolve numerous cases of crime, vandalism and assault on campus," stated Deputy Sheriff Wilde.

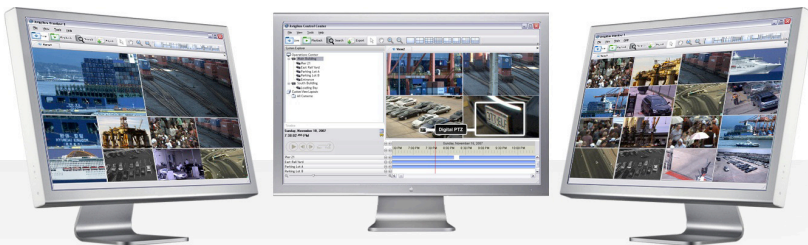
The new system features greater image clarity and advanced zooming capabilities. One of the key distinctions of the new system is that it allows users to

zoom in while the camera is still recording, which allows users to examine specific details without delay. Using the new system, Merced College can solve issues much faster than before. "With our previous analog-based system, the vendor had to come out to our data center and work with us to sift through footage and export it for investigation purposes," stated Don Peterson, director of IT at Merced College. Using the new system, "we can manipulate the footage ourselves, giving us greater control over our investigations and dramatically expediting the entire process," said Peterson.

The new surveillance system is a supplement to the existing analog system, which the district plans to gradually replace as the budget allows. "With a focus on ensuring student safety, we are always looking for ways to enhance our security programs on campus," said Deputy Sheriff Wilde. During the transition from analog to HD, Merced College also installed 11 analog video encoders to improve the performance of the existing surveillance system.

Since installing the new cameras, the Merced College Police Department has used footage of hit-and-run accidents in the parking

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## Chancellor's Office Funds CERT Grants Statewide

In 2011, the Chancellor's Office will offer several grants to colleges to develop or improve Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. The CERT supplement grant will provide funds to build capabilities necessary to offer CERT training and materials in local campus communities. These funds are part of a continued effort to enable campuses to address the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

We recommend a number of steps to start a CERT:

- Identify the program goals that CERT will meet and the resources available to conduct the program in your area.
- Gain approval from appointed and elected officials to use CERT as a means to prepare citizens to care for themselves during a disaster when services may not be adequate.
- Identify and recruit potential participants. Natural for CERT are community groups, business and industry workers, and local government workers. ([www.citizen Corps.gov](http://www.citizen Corps.gov))



# ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING COMES TO A DISTRICT NEAR YOU

SACRAMENTO | When asked what they believe to be the greatest threats to their stakeholders, district chancellors, college presidents and district chiefs of police have two answers in common; earthquakes and an active shooter.

An active shooter is an incident where one or more individuals armed with firearms and occasionally improvised explosive devices, come on campus with the clear intent of killing. While the tragedy on April 20th, 1999 at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado was not the first such incident, it was a defining moment for both college administrators and law enforcement personnel. Since this event, police have been trained to respond immediately and directly to the threat with the intent to stop the shooters quickly.



Active shooter training demands specialized equipment and life-like scenarios to hone police officer's skills. San Diego Community College District police department is on the leading edge of this training, having developed a course for community college police. Beginning in March 2011, the Disaster Resistant California Community Colleges, through funding from California

Emergency Management Agency, will be providing district police departments free access to this two-day training.

If you are interested in hosting a training, please contact Peter Wright at [pwright@cccco.edu](mailto:pwright@cccco.edu).

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lots, thefts in the cafeteria and bookstore, and a student protesting his class curriculum by burning his books. In another incident, security officers monitoring the system in real-time were able to catch an individual stealing trim off cars in a campus parking lot. In these cases, the footage was used to lead to quick resolution, admissions of guilt and the possibility of convictions. "In the past, we typically would only investigate an incident once a month or even every other month," said Peterson. "Now, we are always reviewing footage because it is so much more useable than before." As a result, Merced College hopes to achieve greater security for students and staff.

For more information regarding DRCCC, please contact:

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