**California Community Colleges**

**Proposition 39**

Proposition 39, the California Clean Energy Jobs Act, passed by the voters in 2012 awarded a series of five one-year appropriations to the California Community Colleges (CCC) to fund energy-efficiency projects and workforce training in energy related fields. The CCC have demonstrated success in implementing the Proposition 39 program on their campuses, resulting in one-time energy incentives, ongoing energy and monetary savings for districts, job creation and better educational environments for the community college students of California.

The community colleges have over 600 energy projects completed or in progress and have awarded over 13,000 certificates in energy related fields. A total of 180 energy projects have been completed resulting in a verified savings of 24.4 million kWh and 256,000 therms. These energy savings are roughly equivalent to the power required to power 4,000 homes. The projects have generated 238 direct job years and 6.7 trainee job years, and are saving districts $3.4 million of annual energy costs. In addition to these closed-out projects, there are an additional 465 projects in progress which will only add to the energy and cost savings once completed.

The CCC Chancellor’s Office used existing infrastructure provided by the California Community College/Investor Owned Utilities Partnership (CCC/IOU Partnership) to support the implementation of the Proposition 39 program for the community colleges. The energy incentive programs and district outreach offered by the CCC/IOU Partnership complemented the objectives of the new Proposition 39 program. In recognition of the CCC’s readiness to implement Proposition 39, the Legislature granted the community colleges authority through provisional language in the annual Budget Act to implement the Proposition 39 program immediately, separate from the California Energy Commission’s implementation efforts for K-12 schools.

The CCC Chancellor’s Office developed Proposition 39 Implementation Guidelines to provide the necessary instructions to districts for the implementation of the program to ensure all Proposition 39 and SB 73 (Chapter 29, Statutes of 2013) requirements are met. The CCC/IOU Partnership also identified several tools and templates to assist districts and campuses with the identification and prioritization of qualifying energy projects for Proposition 39 funding, including enrolling districts on Energy Star’s Portfolio Manager to track their energy usage.

By all standards the community colleges have been successful in implementing the Proposition 39 program and meeting the goals and objectives of the program. The CCC Chancellor’s Office, in partnership with the Investor Owned Utilities, has been aggressive in developing the program for the community colleges and distributing Proposition 39 funds. The California Energy Efficiency Council recognized this in awarding its Energy Champion Award to the Chancellor’s Office in 2015 for their championing of energy conservation and leadership on Proposition 39. Districts in turn have been very proactive in getting energy projects underway. Districts are engaged in the Proposition 39 process and appreciate the funds which enable them to provide a better campus environment for students.