



# BARSTOW COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Public Information Office

## News Release

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**Barstow Community College Partners with  
Career Institute to Offer Training to Empower Barstow's Youth**  
*Initial \$125,000 Grant Will Likely Increase Next Year*

(Barstow, Calif. - September 30, 2008) - Barstow Community College has partnered with the Career Institute of Rancho Cucamonga to offer its Youth Training Program to Barstow area youths between the ages of 17 and 21. The two-year program will serve 20 students each year and assist them in gaining vital skills and basic training to sustain themselves in the workforce and beyond. To qualify, students must live within the county of San Bernardino, hold a high school diploma or GED and meet low income guidelines. The Career Institute, which has offices in Victorville, will be on the Barstow College campus each week to help students through the process and assist with short-term certificate programs, career and educational counseling and incentive pay for completing life planning projects.

“Anything to help the students is a win for the college and the community,” states Joseph A. Clark, vice president of student affairs for Barstow Community College. “Economic difficulty is the number one impediment to obtaining higher education. This program helps fill that gap.” The Career Institute works with youth during the transition period between high school and work and offers incentive projects in time management, decision making, leadership development, computer skills, career research, office skills, college enrollment, healthy lifestyles, managing finances and more. Assistance is also available with required employment tests (such as tuberculosis or food handler’s certificate), gas cards, work or school uniforms, bus passes and obtaining a driver’s license.

“If you’re participating in another program such as Temporary Aid to Needy Families, you’ll most likely qualify for our program,” states Cynthia Harris, career mentor/ case manager with Career Institute, which uses low income guidelines for the individual, not the family. “One of our goals is to get students thinking long term, if possible, about careers and the partnership with Barstow College is a great asset. We’re very happy to be serving the Barstow area and cannot wait to begin,” Harris continues. To obtain additional information about the Career Institute serving Barstow and the surrounding area, please call Cynthia Harris at 760-403-1474.