

ABSTRACT

The **Moreno Valley Campus (MVC)** of the Riverside Community College District, in Moreno Valley, CA, is a public, open-door, two-year college serving Southern California’s Riverside County, east of Los Angeles. We are part of California’s “Inland Empire,” comprised primarily of the rapidly-growing Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario Metropolitan Statistical Area (pop. 4.1 million, **42% Hispanic**), where low educational attainment and economic challenges in a high cost of living environment are the norm.

MVC provides programs in General Education, Allied Health, Technology, Business, Vocational programs, and Basic Skills, creating pathways to occupational certificates, associate degrees, and baccalaureate transfer. We are a center for health and public services education, with Public Safety Education and Training (PSET) offered through MVC’s Ben Clark

STUDENT CHARACTERISTICS		FACULTY CHARACTERISTICS	
Headcount	10,692	Total FT	69
Part-time	75%	Part Time	451
Female/Male	52%/48%	Female	54%/46%
Hispanic	40%	Hispanic	25%
Age 25 and up	51%	Master’s Degree +	57%
% on Fin. Aid	34%	Fac:Student Ratio	1:24
Acad. Underprep.	74%	<i>Fall 2008 figures</i>	
First Generation	64%	<i>Institutional Research, 2009</i>	

Public Safety Training Center (BCTC), 14 miles from our main campus. PSET programs include Fire Technology, with a Basic Fire Academy and advanced Fire Technology curricula, and Law Enforcement Programming offering basic and advanced Peace and Corrections Officer curricula. These programs prepare completers for area employment, associate degrees, and transfer.

MVC’s public safety programs are challenged to meet student need and industry demand. Riverside County Sheriff’s Department projects the hiring of 1,500 uniformed deputies by 2011, necessitating a 42% increase in MVC’s Peace and Corrections Officer Programs. Over the same period, Riverside and its adjacent San Bernardino County project a need for at least 1,610 more fire service personnel. But our existing Fire Academy is enrolled to capacity, and fields ongoing requests for part-time training. Meanwhile, some 90% of area law enforcement agency applicants are rejected as academically underprepared, shutting them out of Peace and Corrections Officer training. And across our PSET curricula, Hispanic students are underrepresented. Further, external analysis of PSET curricula demonstrates inadequate adequate hands-on simulation training utilizing current industry-standard equipment. And MVC – hampered by an overburdened technological infrastructure – does not adequately support nontraditional time-bound students, such as those enrolled in public safety curricula at BCTC (91% PT enrollment).

We propose (1) to redesign Fire Academy, Peace Officer, and Corrections Officer curricula to incorporate hands-on simulation training supported by industry-standard tools and instructional technology, while expanding program capacity; (2) to develop a Part-Time Fire Academy to meet the training needs of time-bound, at-risk students; (3) to develop a Basic Skills Law Enforcement Pre-Academy, contextualizing Basic Skills instruction to prepare students for law enforcement employment and subsequent enrollment in our Law Enforcement programs; and (4) to develop dynamic 24/7 online student support, built upon a robust technological infrastructure.

The time is right for this Activity. Riverside County has committed to constructing a \$3 million, 20-acre Scenario Training Village at BCTC, facilitating public safety training for a variety of settings, including residential, high-rise, and jail facilities. Our initiatives will work in conjunction with the Scenario Village to expand educational opportunities for MVC’s Hispanic and at-risk students. **Total 5-Year Request: \$2,874,979** **Year 1 Request: \$574,999**