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Career Fair - Feb. 25 in Concord Earn & Learn East Bay

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Earn & Learn East Bay to Provide Summer Opportunities for Youth

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Ortega, jortega@ehsd.cccounty.us, (916) 637-3904

Earn & Learn East Bay to Provide Summer Opportunities for Youth

Local companies recognized for their commitment to youth programs

Walnut Creek, Calif. (Feb. 6, 2015) – Dozens of East Bay business leaders, elected officials and community partners on Friday celebrated the launch of Earn & Learn East Bay, an initiative to provide summer jobs, internships and work-based learning experiences to youth ages 16 to 21.

Led by the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County and the Contra Costa Economic Partnership, Earn & Learn East Bay seeks to connect local youth with opportunities to explore various careers, gain essential skills and earn money toward their future.

Unlike traditional summer jobs programs, Earn & Learn East Bay embraces a full range of work-based learning experiences for youth, including industry-lead summer camps, such as the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) camps organized by the Contra Costa Economic Partnership and sponsored by Chevron.

"From our perspective, this is just as much about helping young people, as it is about creating a tremendous opportunity for employers to develop their talent pipeline," said **Michael McGill**, chair of the Workforce Development Board of Contra Costa County and President of MMS Design Associates.

Through a new partnership with the Diablo Gateways to Innovation (DGI) Consortium – funded through the state's Career Pathways Trust grant – Earn & Learn East Bay will not only serve youth eligible for programs funded by the Workforce Innovation Act (WIA), it will also serve students currently enrolled in a career pathway within the 10-school district DGI consortium, which covers Contra Costa, Alameda and Solano counties.

"Providing young people with an opportunity to make real world connections is critical to developing a ready supply of workers for the jobs we have in our region," said **Kristin Connelly**, executive director of the Contra Costa Economic Partnership.

At the campaign kick-off event, more than a dozen local businesses were honored for their commitment to youth workforce development. Winners include:

Champions of Youth Opportunity

- STS Academy
- Phillips 66
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW)
- Lettuce In restaurant in Concord

Champions of Advocacy:

- Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART)
- Bio-Rad Laboratories
- City of San Pablo
- Dow Chemical Company
- East Bay Regional Park District
- Friends of Marsh Creek
- Tesoro
- USS-POSCO Industries

Champion of Action: Kaiser Permanente

Champion of Change: Chevron USA & Chevron Richmond Refinery

Champion of Innovation: SunPower Corporation

For more information about Earn & Learn East Bay, please visit www.wdibccc.com/youth

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