



# AIR QUALITY AND TECHNICIAN TRAINING PROGRAM



The Foundation for California Community Colleges has been contracted to operate the California Department of Consumer Affairs – Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) Smog Check Referee Program and Call Center since 2004. Through this program, students gain real world experience working alongside experienced Smog Check Referee staff and dealing directly with local consumers and their vehicles. Community College campuses benefit from the use of modern equipment and receive financial support for space sharing.

## Comprehensive Services

The Smog Check Referee program includes locations on 28 Community College campuses and at two vocational centers. Smog Check Referee Centers are state-contracted test facilities that provide specialized services that go beyond a regular smog check, such as inspecting specialty vehicles, locating hard to find parts for consumers, certifying exemptions, and issuing cost waivers. The centers offer paid

work experience and train students for careers in the automotive industry, with an emphasis on obtaining a smog technician license. More than 250 Community College students have gone through the program and received certificates of completion.

The Foundation also operates the Smog Check Referee Call Center and hires Call Center staff. Call Center staff answer questions and schedule consumer appointments for the most convenient Referee Center, taking into consideration availability and location. The Foundation houses the Call Center at its headquarters in Sacramento.

## Collaborative Research

In addition to technician training and consumer services, the Foundation contributes to the vehicle emissions research efforts of other agencies. The Foundation is currently working with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to identify gross polluters in their district. This program offers incentives to the owners of the dirtiest vehicles to retire or replace them with newer, more fuel efficient and less polluting models.

The Foundation also recently completed a joint study with the California Air Resources Board and State of California Auto Dismantlers Association. The study will focus on the amount of refrigerant left in vehicles waiting to be dismantled or crushed at wrecking yards, and whether it accounts for a substantial amount of greenhouse gas.

### Contact

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### Highlights

- 75,000 consumers have been served by Smog Check Referees in training since 2004.
- Since 2004, over 300,000 calls have been received and addressed by the Smog Check Referee Call Center.
- Over 100 students are trained each year through the BAR Technician Training program.

### Partner Organizations

- California Air Resources Board
- Department of Consumer Affairs – Bureau of Automotive Repair
- San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
- South Coast Air Quality Management District

The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official foundation to the California Community Colleges' Board of Governors and Chancellor's Office. The Foundation's mission is to benefit, support, and enhance the missions of the California Community College system, the largest higher education system in the nation. Incorporated in 1998, the Foundation works with Community Colleges and partner organizations to manage donations, grants, programs, and services that drive excellence in education while saving millions of dollars for colleges each year. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit corporation and receives no direct state or public support. *For more information, visit [www.foundationccc.org](http://www.foundationccc.org).*