



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JULY 7, 2008**

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## **Foundation Awarded Grant to Provide Free Microsoft Products, Services to California Community Colleges**

**SACRAMENTO**—The Foundation for California Community Colleges (FCCC) announced today that it has received a grant from Microsoft to provide \$50,000 worth of access to Microsoft programs and services to California Community College instructors and students in both science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) disciplines, and visual, illustration, design and art (VIDA) disciplines.

The grant will provide access to the Microsoft Developer Network Academic Alliance (MSDNAA) for selected community colleges that use technology in teaching STEM courses, and access to the Microsoft Designer Academic Alliance (MSDAA) for those using technology in VIDA areas of study. In addition, 20 memberships in Microsoft’s IT Academy Essentials will be provided to California Community Colleges to supplement the alliance subscriptions with additional training in the technology field.

“This grant will allow California Community Colleges to become increasingly competitive in the global economy by providing access to cutting-edge technology and tools,” said Paul Lanning, President of the FCCC. “Students will be able to take their training and studies to a new level and become more competitive in the workforce of the future, and faculty will be better-equipped to address new trends in technology.”

MSDNAA and MSDAA are annual membership programs that allow students and faculty in the technology and design fields to get the latest Microsoft software on their personal computers and in computer labs. As members, students and faculty also have the opportunity to interact, collaborate and share resources within an online community, as well as get assistance from instructors who share curriculum and other learning resources to support the technologies.

The Microsoft IT Academy Essentials is a comprehensive learning solution with a challenging curriculum that helps improve technology education and enables students to master new technology. It includes Office 2003 and 2007 certification training for students and instructors, Office 2003 and Office 2007 licenses for 50 lab computers, as well as Digital Literacy training, which teaches basic computer skills, in 11 languages, including Spanish, Thai, French, Japanese, and various other languages.

“California Community Colleges educate the workforce of one of the largest economies in the world,” said Sam Stokes, Academic Developer Evangelist for Microsoft’s Southern California region. “We are committed to helping students succeed in today’s world, and by providing colleges with access to these tools, we are helping enhance student skills with new technology that will better prepare them for the future workplace.”

Colleges that will benefit from this grant will be selected by Microsoft and the FCCC based on a number of criteria, such as ensuring access for schools that currently do not have memberships in the MSDNAA, MSDAA or IT Academy programs. Additionally, ensuring a broad coverage of the entire state and serving the largest number of students will be determining factors in the selection of participating California Community Colleges. Recipients of the grant programs will be announced in August.

For more information about the MSDNAA or MSDAA programs, visit [www.msdnaa.net](http://www.msdnaa.net), and for details regarding the IT Academy, visit [www.microsoftitacademy.com](http://www.microsoftitacademy.com).

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The Foundation for California Community Colleges is the official foundation to the California Community Colleges’ Board of Governors, Chancellor, and System 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 non-profit corporation and receives no direct state or public support. *For more information, visit [www.foundationccc.org](http://www.foundationccc.org).*

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