FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

$5 Million Federal Grant to Boost Northern California Apprenticeship Programs

(SACRAMENTO, CA; Sept. 10, 2015) In a tremendous victory for northern California’s workforce, the U.S. Labor Department has awarded a $5 million grant to northern California community colleges – led by American River College and the Los Rios Community College District – to support apprenticeship programs in the region. American River College, College of the Siskiyous, Cosumnes River College, Sierra College and Yuba College are collaborating to support partnerships with local industry, boost training to meet businesses’ employment needs and establish an apprenticeship model for advanced manufacturing where none currently exists.

“Northern California’s global economic competitiveness just got a huge lift,” said American River College President Thomas Greene. “Through this grant, our region’s workers will acquire the skills necessary to succeed and industry will have access to a skilled workforce in order to effectively compete.”

In addition to the five community colleges, key public partners in the program include the Sacramento Employment and Training Agency, regional workforce agencies, the California Manufacturers & Technology Association and the California Community College Chancellor’s Office. Primary private sector partners include Siemens USA and TriTool. Industries targeted in the program are advanced manufacturing/welding, mechatronics, machining, stainless steel and robotics welding.

“Congratulations to Los Rios and private sector employers for the successful award of the $5 million … apprentice grant,” said Robert Sanger, manager of training services for the state manufacturers and technology association. “This will be a huge boost for the greater Sacramento workforce.”

Working together with partner community colleges, the Los Rios Community College District has been awarded $5 million to fund the Northern California Community College American Apprenticeship Initiative. This initiative will improve coursework in advanced manufacturing to more closely align it with industry needs, and help redesign and schedule college classes to support apprenticeships. The program will train or retrain 1,000 workers for regional job openings.

“This is just tremendous news for American River College, the Los Rios Community College District and our regional economy!” said Los Rios Chancellor Brian King. “And we received the news about the apprenticeship grant on the same day that President Obama is calling on our nation to identify innovative and creative ways to provide community college students with a debt-free education. The timing could not be better!”

U.S. Rep. Doris Matsui of Sacramento added her voice of support to the project, noting, “It is vital that our education system is meeting our country’s workforce needs. Apprenticeships are a valuable tool that support local employers while also ensuring that we are creating career pathways for job seekers and Los Rios graduates. I commend Los Rios and their partners for working to establish this apprenticeship pipeline.”

ABOUT AMERICAN RIVER COLLEGE
Founded in 1955, American River College is one of the largest institutions of higher education in the Sacramento region, serving about 30,000 students each fall and spring. The college has an outstanding record for academic quality and is among the top community colleges in the state for transferring students to the University of California and California State University systems. American River College also has a strong reputation for its career programs, which include automotive/diesel technology, culinary arts, electronics, funeral service, and nursing, among others. For more information, go to www.arc.losrios.edu.

ABOUT LOS RIOS
The Los Rios Community College District is one of the nation’s most respected learning institutions and the second-largest community college district in California, serving the greater Sacramento region. Los Rios includes: American River, Cosumnes River, Folsom Lake and Sacramento City colleges; six major education and outreach centers; and specialized workforce and economic development programs, for regional businesses, governments and organizations. Los Rios colleges offer AA/AS degrees, certificates and transfer-education opportunities in more than 70 career fields. The District’s 2,400 square-mile service area includes all of Sacramento County, most of El Dorado County and parts of Yolo, Placer and Solano counties. About 77,000 students are enrolled in the four Los Rios colleges. For more information, go to www.losrios.edu.