



**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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ATTACHMENT 6

Date: May 22, 2014

To: State Board of Fire Services

From: Rodney Slaughter, Deputy State Fire Marshal, Specialist III

SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:

Approval of Sierra College Re-Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Discussion/Action

Seeking approval for reaccreditation of Sierra College as an Accredited Regional Training Program

Background Information:

During the Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) April 18, 2014 meeting, the committee approved Sierra College for reaccreditation as an Accredited Regional Training Program.

On March 31, 2014, State Fire Training conducted an accreditation site visit. The site team consisted of Ronny J. Coleman, STEAC Representative, Scott Ventura, Community College Representative, Leona Allen, Community College Representative and Rodney Slaughter as the SFT Representative.

Sierra College provides Career Technical and Vocational Education and does not intrude upon or compete with other accredited college programs in the greater Sacramento Region. The campus has the support of the administration and the local area fire chiefs. The campus offers California Fire Service Training and Education System (CFSTES), Fire Service Training and Education Program (FSTEP), California Incident Command Certification System (CICCS), along with the core fire science curriculum and classes. The fire academy staff is very familiar with SFT business processes and procedures. They are very mindful of the changes occurring in the system.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

The site team met with Tim Palmer, Fire Technology Coordinator and members of the Fire Advisory Committee including Chief Marcus Reed of the Roseville Fire Department. Other fire chiefs along with instruction staff met with the site team members to discuss the direction of Sierra College. This campus has traditionally enjoyed very strong support from local area departments in terms of donated tools, equipment, supplies, and a cadre of registered SFT instructors.

The team was shown an application of the I-Pad where fire academy instructors and assistants use the pads to record the student's progress both grades and actual video clips of the student performing critical tasks. Their computer generated evaluation system, which the college has worked with a local vendor to create, is worthy of best management practice consideration. Site team members were very impressed by its comprehensiveness and ease of use.

Among the initial group that greeted the site team were a half dozen members of former Sierra College Fire academies. The campus has established a system called "HUB" that allow students to help other students. The team was shown a marketing video that displays and encourages diversity among its student population. Also, each graduating class of students also prepares a memento video of their academy. Cadets maintain their communication with each other through their Academy Facebook page.

At the main Sierra College campus the site team was introduced to the college's administration. Sierra College President William "Willie" Duncan, Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Deb Sutphen, Dean of Business, and Applied Academics, Dr. Sonja Lolland took time to meet with the site team. The site team was able to ask the colleges administration questions. The team was impressed with their commitment to the Fire Technology program.

The team toured the Roseville Gateway Training Facility. This location is the office of the Fire Technology Director and where classrooms are available for fire and other emergency services related training programs. While at the facility student/class records were reviewed for compliance with the SFT procedures manual.

The site team did not note any deficiencies on the tour of the training center, campus or Gateway Center. The program has an adequate amount of tools, equipment, and props to adequately serve the students and the staff. The site team unanimously agreed that Sierra College meets all the State Fire Training criteria to become reaccredited as an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP).