



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

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## ATTACHMENT 3

**Date:** August 20, 2015

**To:** State Board of Fire Services

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

**SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:**

Accreditation of Columbia College as a new Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP)

**Recommended Actions:**

Discussion/Action

Seeking SBFS approval for the accreditation of Columbia College as an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP's).

**Background Information:**

An accreditation site visit was conducted on May 12, 2015 at the Columbia College campus in Sonora, California. The accreditation evaluation was conducted by Rodney Slaughter, Deputy State Fire Marshal-State Fire Training Division. Fire Academy Director, Shane Warner, provided introductions to members of staff, the Fire Advisory Committee members and to the college administration; Dr. Angela Fairchilds, Columbia College President, Dr. Leslie Buckalew, Vice President of Student Learning, Kathy Lynn Sullivan, Interim Dean of Career Technical Education and Economic Development. Collectively we talked about the College's commitment to Fire Technology, issues related to career paths and recruiting under-represented populations to the fire service. The administrations had an opportunity to share long term goals and plans.

Columbia College opened in 1968 and is located in the Yosemite Community College District. After conducting a needs analysis with local fire service agencies, Columbia College has continued to offer a full range of firefighting/rescue, emergency medical service, and hazardous materials training for the last 45 years.

A review of the self-assessment report was followed by a tour of the facilities and classrooms. The tour provided an opportunity to review course records, impressive library resources, along with tools and equipment for the fire academy.

Columbia College offers an Associate Degree and certificates in Fire Science, along with the full range of CFSTES, FSTEP and CICCIS classes. The Columbia College Fire Advisory Board provides input on the up-coming training needs of the local area departments. The College does use off-site training facilities and has a plan to build a training facility of their own in the future.

Unique to this campus, and a recognized best practice for any fire technology program, is the fully functioning fire station and on-site dormitories. The Columbia College fire station responds to on and off-campus emergency calls within the surrounding local area in coordination with local fire agencies. The fire station dormitories offer rooms to out-of-area students who are completing their internship for their Firefighter I certification.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

Columbia College is supported by the area fire departments. The Fire Technology Director keeps pace with changes in the SFT system and is instituting the 2013 Firefighter I curriculum into the fire academy. Classroom facilities are state of the art.

Columbia College is also well positioned to become a Firefighter 1 certification testing center. They meet all of the requirements of an accredited fire academy and many of their instructors have participated in the development of State Fire Training curriculum. A records management system is managed by college staff who are all familiar the SFT procedures and processes.

Columbia College meets all of the SFT requirements as a Regional Training Program. The Accreditation of Columbia College will be a welcomed addition to the broad range of Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP's) within the State Fire Training system.