

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

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**ATTACHMENT 4**

Date: May 21, 2015

To: State Board of Fire Services

From: Michael A. Garcia, Deputy State Fire Marshal III

Subject/Agenda Action Item:
Approval of Mount San Antonio College Reaccreditation

Recommended Actions:

(Discussion/Action)

Seeking approval for reaccreditation of Mount San Antonio College as an Accredited Regional Training Program.

Background Information:

An accreditation site visit was conducted on March 12, 2015 initially at the Chino Valley Fire Training Center, with additional follow up at the main campus in Walnut. The site team consisted of Michael A. Garcia from State Fire Training, Rodney Slaughter from State Fire Training, Steve Shull, Director Mount San Antonio College and Jamie Hirsch, Fire Academy Asst. Chief, Mount San Antonio College. After initial introductions and a review of the self-assessment report, the site team was given a tour of the classrooms and training facilities along with an opportunity to review course records.

In 1998, Mount San Antonio College was accredited as an ARTP in the SFT system. They were re-accredited in 2008, and continue to provide a fire academy as well as in-service training for the eastern portion of Los Angeles County and western San Bernardino County service areas. State Fire Training (SFT) classes are open enrollment to keep the variety of training programs offered viable. Mount San Antonio College does not compete with other accredited academies; in that there are no other Accredited Regional Training Programs (ARTP's) serving this specific area, with the nearest being Crafton Hills College.

The college staff is very familiar with SFT business processes and procedures and they are very mindful of the changes occurring in the system.

The site team was given the opportunity to meet with Dr. William Scroggins, President, Dr. Irene Malmgren, Vice President of Instruction, and Jemma Blake-Judd, Interim Dean of Technical Education and Health during a review of SFT findings, with the opportunity to discuss relevant issues.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities, located at the Chino Valley Independent Fire Protection District training center (the college has a written contract with Chino Valley), with several state of the art classrooms and a fully functioning drill tower with a burn room and flashover prop.

The college enjoys a great relationship with local fire agencies as evident in the abundance of donated tools and equipment. The college has enough tools and equipment to conduct a Fire Fighter I Academy. The Fire Technology/Academy Advisory Board is comprised of local Fire Chiefs and training officers. The Advisory Board meeting is usually attended by Dr. William Scroggins (College President), and is very supportive of the college.

The site team discussed ideas for both recruiting under-represented populations to the fire academy and succession planning for staff and faculty. It is noted that Chief Hirsch, as the Academy Assistant Chief is continually working various outreach programs to increase participation of women in the academy and the fire service as a career goal, she is an outstanding asset to the program.

The fire academy program lacks a full-time equipment and tool technician relying instead on a person working part time to maintain tools and equipment at several locations on and off campus. The college administration recognizes the needs of the program and is considering a solution.

The site team was unequivocal about Mount San Antonio College, continuing as an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP). STEAC approved this reaccreditation request at their April 17, 2015 meeting.