

News Release

For Immediate Release – November 21, 2016

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SCOE and Opportunity Stanislaus Announce Partnership – SCOE also announces Purchase of “Modesto Bee Building”

Following a special Stanislaus County Office of Education Board meeting on Monday morning, November 21, a press conference was held to announce a new and innovative partnership between the Stanislaus County Office of Education (SCOE) and Opportunity Stanislaus. This new partnership will seek to provide training, certification and preparation for jobs needed by employers in Stanislaus County. The new programs will take advantage of industry training modules aligned with certification. Additionally, the programs are designed to be flexible to respond quickly to new needs from local industry.

After approval by the County Board at their special meeting, it was also announced that SCOE will purchase what is known as “The Modesto Bee Building,” located at 1325 H Street in Modesto. Staff from SCOE and Opportunity Stanislaus plan to move to this facility, and the trainings and certification programs will take place at this location, along with other locations in the county.

The number of SCOE programs and employees has expanded tremendously over the years. When SCOE first moved its central offices to 1100 H Street, Modesto in April 2000, the office employed 800 employees. The current number of employees (including open positions not yet filled) is 1,050. SCOE currently rents building spaces in downtown Modesto to house its ever-growing and popular “Come Back Kids (CBK)” program (a second-chance high school diploma program for adults who have dropped out of school). Plans were already underway to rent space in The Modesto Bee building to accommodate the CBK program growth. Office and meeting space, not to mention parking, are at a premium at the 1100 H Street site.

“The 1100 H Street facility is over-crowded and overused at this point in time,” said Stanislaus County Superintendent of Schools Tom Changnon. “The purchase of The Modesto Bee building will provide much needed space for innovative programs, additional meeting rooms, and 230 parking spaces. In addition, it will allow us to begin this exciting partnership with Opportunity Stanislaus that will benefit community members looking for training and certifications for jobs. It’s a win-win situation. Our local businesses have been telling us they need employees trained in specific job skill areas, and we have heard them and are taking the lead in making that happen.”

Dave White, CEO of Opportunity Stanislaus, remarked, “This is an outstanding opportunity for the business community and educational community to come together to provide timely and business-driven training to the workforce. Our greatest asset in Stanislaus County is our people, and we look forward to working with SCOE to improve the skill base of our workforce.”

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