



## ***Student Accomplishments***

### ***Youth Entrepreneurship***

#### **Diesel Technology Students Advance To Statewide Competition**

SRJC hosted the regional Skills USA competitions on Saturday, February 7 on the Santa Rosa Campus. Skills USA is a national leadership and vocational organization that spotlights student skills through competitive contests, and also encourages students to compete in regional, state, and national workforce skills contests. This year, nearly 120 students from 10 regional schools participated in the competition. SRJC provided 20 faculty and staff who worked side by side with industry representatives to judge 37 individual skill competitions. Each competition showcased the students with the strongest career and technical skills. Students participated in skills competitions in the following areas: video and TV production; drafting; speech; job interviewing; computer applications; Internet; CO2 racers; automotive and diesel technologies; precision machining; welding; cabinetmaking; and architectural drafting, among others.

This year, eight students from the SRJC Diesel Technology Program competed and three advanced to the state competition April 23 and 24. Winners from the state competition will move on to the national contest in Kansas City. Congratulations to Brian Gully for his leadership and support of our students!

#### **SBDC Helps Youth Entrepreneurs**

SRJC's Redwood Empire Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has provided professional business counseling and workshops for the region's small businesses since 1993. Recently, the Chancellor's Office provided funds to SBDC to create a Youth Entrepreneurship Program to teach high school students the skills to start and run a small business.

The funds allowed SBDC to design customized workshops that feature guest speakers from various industry clusters to discuss their businesses and the entry-level requirements for their particular industries. SBDC also created Thrive and Survive Workshops to identify the skills new employees need when entering the workforce. In addition, SBDC created a Spanish language version of Thrive and Survive to be offered in partnership with Marin County's Canal Alliance.

The SBDC also funded two counselors to support Youth Business Week simulations of new businesses (one of the SBDC-mentored youth teams won the competition). The Chancellor's funds also supported Get the Buzz on Biz, a two-day entrepreneur training program designed to help at-risk youth explore small business ownership.

#### **Habitat Restoration: Environmental Summer Youth Jobs for Ages 16-20.**

The Summer Jobs Program will provide approximately 250 youth in Sonoma County (ages 14-24) with paid work experience. Most work is part-time (about 28 hours per week), will involve habitat restoration or other ecology projects, and will pay \$8 per hour for 6-8 weeks starting in June 2009.

To be eligible, youth must be low income. Other eligibility criteria apply. You are encouraged to apply if you are between the ages of 16 – 20 and currently receive (or have recently received) CalWORKS, Workforce Investment Act, foster care, probation or gang-related services.

To receive more information, please call the Summer Jobs Program at (707) 565-8510 after May 1st.