

# Career Technical Education

## *Abridged Program Review, 2015*

### **Solano Community College Fire Academy**

#### **Program Introduction:**

The Fire Academy program at Solano Community College (SCC) was established in the mid-1970's to assist public and private fire entities within the region of Solano County with training and education for prospective fire service employees.

This program was established under the direction of Solano County fire protection agencies and offers both an intensive training course culminating in a Certificate of Achievement and a well-rounded educational program leading to an Associate of Science Degree.

Instructors in this program are experienced members of the fire service field. The Fire Academy is conducted regularly and the curriculum is consistent with the California State Fire Marshal's (SFM) training program.

The SCC has enjoyed offering this fire academy for the last several decades and looks forward to offering the entire range of required courses that benefit our regional fire service agencies.

Our goal is to continue to serve the regional communities and those who aspire fire service careers through our educational opportunities in partnership with our local and state-wide fire service agencies.

#### **Enrollment:**

Fire Academy	Fall 2014	18 enrolled students
Fire Academy	Spring 2014	24 enrolled students
Fire Academy	Spring 2013	25 enrolled students
Fire Academy	Spring 2012	27 enrolled students

#### **Curriculum Analysis:**

The most important task the Fire Academy must accomplish is reaccreditation with the SFM. We anticipate completing this process by the end of 2015.

Within the last two years the Trench Rescue class was dropped from the curriculum. Beginning in spring 2016 the Fire Academy will be required to adopt the California State Fire Marshal Firefighter I 2013 curriculum. The new curriculum requires as a prerequisites the EMR course or its equivalent.

**Demonstrated Effectiveness:**

Each graduating student receives SFM certificates of completion in the following:

- Low Angle Rope Rescue Operational (LARRO)
- Rapid Intervention Crew (RIC)
- Auto Extrication
- Rescue Systems 1 (RS1)
- Confined Space
- Rescue Awareness
- Fire Control 3A
- Firefighter Survival
- ICS 200
- S-130
- S-190
- Hazardous Materials First Responder Operations/Decontamination

Each graduating receives 24 college units for the course. We are presently unable to track post-employment of the students.

**Labor Market Data:**

We are unable to track that at this time.

**Advisory Meetings:**

The Fire Academy, through the support and cooperation of the Solano County Fire Chiefs Association, formed the Solano College Liaison Committee that meets on a regular basis with the focus of meeting the needs of the county fire agencies for future firefighters. In addition, the committee reviews curriculum and makes appropriate recommendation to improve educational delivery to the students.

**Duplication of Services:**

The SCC Fire Academy is the only entity that provides this training and certification in the county.

**Perkins Funding:**

The Fire Academy was able to purchase needed personal protective equipment for the cadets in their hands-on fire safety training.

**Planned Actions:**

The outlook for the Fire Academy is encouraging. In approximately 2005, the City of Vacaville contracted with Interact Business Group, who developed a written plan, which was adopted by the Mayor and Council for a public safety training center. This center would include a drill tower, burn building, Emergency Vehicle Operations Course (EVOC) and various props for law enforcement needs.

The ultimate goal is to build this public safety facility at the SCC Vacaville Center or at a newly constructed Vacaville City fire station near or on the SCC Vacaville Center campus location. This plan is supported by the county fire agencies with the goal of not only training fire academy cadets but current fire personnel.

SCC, the Solano County Fire Chiefs Association (SCFCA), the Solano County Training Officers Association (SCTOA), and the Solano Community College Liaison Committee (SCLC) understand the need to provide quality education and training to an expanding population of public safety personnel. The programs and courses currently delivered will continue and improve through the Academy.

The commitment to meet this challenge is strong; the recognition that technology and innovation are key factors in successful educational environments.

The status as an accredited Fire Academy will enhance the existing training program and the courses offered, with quality programs and promotion of State Fire Marshal's goals and objectives.

Solano Community College will continue to demonstrate its commitment to quality education through collaboration and cooperation with all partners and the State Fire Marshal's (SFM) staff.