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Engineering Fields Smart Choice for Career Selection ***CACT @ El Camino College focuses on quality engineering education***

With a recession in full swing and unemployment numbers topping the charts, Americans are looking for careers that are sustainable and in high demand. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistic's 2008-2009 *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, which inventories and profiles industry trends, American engineers are looking at normal growth through 2016. Incoming engineers will be dependent on extraordinary education to help prepare them for these challenging and lucrative careers.

To help individuals lay a strong foundation for a career in engineering, the Centers for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) at El Camino College has partnered with Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a not-for-profit educational program that provides middle and high school students with the rigorous education they need to develop strong backgrounds in science and engineering. The PLTW program at El Camino College is called "Engineering Technology" and offers courses such as Principles of Engineering, Introduction to Engineering Design and Computer Integrated Manufacturing. "The program is a great start to providing relevant hands-on activities to stimulate student interest, and improve success in higher level Math and Science courses," said CACT Director David Gonzales.

El Camino College's Quick Start Program funded the expansion of the college's engineering and technology programs, and offers high school students the ability to earn college credit in the science and engineering fields while still in high school. To date, 41 courses in robotics and pre-engineering technology have been added to El Camino's catalog, along with 27 instructors and partnerships with six high schools serving nearly 1,000 students. "There's no job that's completely recession-proof," adds Gonzales. "But, students would be really smart to check out careers in engineering and get started now with the right coursework." For more information on the CACT @ El Camino's partnership with PLTW, contact David Gonzales at (310) 973-3170 or dgonzales@elcamino.edu, or check out our YouTube video at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2g1JnO_ZPaM

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