



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Valley CAN, General Motors partner with local community colleges to expand new zero-emission vehicle workforce training across the San Joaquin Valley

- *More zero-emission vehicles on road will increase maintenance demand*
- *Valley-wide training program will create green technology careers*
- *Collaboration is big step in supporting the state's transition to ZEVs*

BAKERSFIELD, CA – Valley Clean Air Now (Valley CAN) has teamed up with General Motors (GM) and local community colleges to expand a new zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) maintenance training program that will soon be available to students at a total of five community college campuses throughout the San Joaquin Valley.

“Zero-emission vehicles are the new reality, so training our workforce on how to maintain them is a critical element of the state’s transition to a zero-emission fleet,” said Rocky Carlisle of Valley CAN. “Expanding this program Valley-wide will better position our local communities to create the next generation of green technology careers, resulting in increased economic mobility, reduced emissions and cleaner air across the region.”

The program launched at Bakersfield College on June 14, and, thanks to support from General Motors, is now expanding to Reedley College, San Joaquin Delta College, Fresno City College and Merced College.

“General Motors wants to make mobility safer, more accessible and more environmentally friendly for all,” said Terry Rhadigan, Executive Director of Corporate Giving at GM. “We’re proud to work with Valley CAN to support greater access to ZEV maintenance training programs in California, helping to meet the growing demand for highly-skilled ZEV technicians and pave the way to our shared vision of an all-electric future.”

The program will support an inclusive workforce transition for California communities while ensuring the economic and environmental benefits of the state’s transition to zero emission vehicles are equitably distributed. In addition to workforce training, the program will provide opportunities for job placement through support from local car dealers, including Three-Way Chevrolet and Motor City GMC in Bakersfield.

“What an exciting opportunity to have this cutting-edge EV (Electric Vehicle) workforce training program and what a privilege it is to be able to offer it to the students in our community,” said Dan Bonnema, Associate Professor of automotive electric training at San Joaquin Delta College. “This revolutionary



program will be a real game-changer preparing students for these high-tech vehicles of the future. We will be creating new opportunities for our region's large and diverse workforce."

The program's curriculum will be available free of charge to community colleges statewide to support the expansion of this critical workforce development program in communities throughout California.

"This is the right opportunity at the right time for students in the San Joaquin Valley," said Marty Kamimoto, an Automotive Technology Instructor at Fresno City College. "Community colleges have long been the backbone of workforce development in California, and we're excited to be able to create new career opportunities within our community that benefit the entire region."

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