

EAST BAY BUSINESS TIMES

Friday, February 15, 2008

OSHA selects Chabot-Las Positas for training site

East Bay Business Times - by [David Goll](#)

The Chabot-Las Positas Community College District will become the first site in Northern California to offer OSHA classes geared to business beginning May 6.

The district, which operates Chabot College in Hayward and Las Positas College in Livermore, will become one of eight new locations nationwide for an **OSHA Training Institute Education Center**. Previously, Bakersfield and San Diego were the closest locations to take OSHA courses, so courses offered in the East Bay could bring major cost savings on travel and hotel bills for companies that need to send management and/or rank-and-file employees to training sessions.

The Occupational Health & Safety Administration, operated by the U.S. Department of Labor since 1971 and headquartered in Arlington Heights, Ill., promotes policies and practices to create safe and healthy workplaces.

In May, four-day courses on OSHA standards for the construction industry and for general industry - defined as all businesses outside construction - will be offered at the district's headquarters office in Pleasanton. The construction industry requires separate treatment because of its myriad health and safety issues.

"We will start with the basics and then move on to other subjects, such as the handling of hazardous waste materials and protection against falls in the workplace, in the future," said Julia Dozier, who will oversee the education center's operations as the district's director of contract education and economic development. "And we will also be taking classes out to the business community, too."

James Barnes, director of the OSHA Training Institute Education Center, said the Chabot-Las Positas district was geographically well-suited to serve the Bay Area and Sacramento area, and had a track record of working with the local business community.

"Chabot-Las Positas Community College District demonstrated the necessary qualifications in safety and health training, as well as the ability to reach key target audiences with their worker training programs," Barnes said.



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Julia Dozier is the director of contract education and economic development for the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, and also director of the new OSHA Training Institute Education Center that will start in May.

OSHA has a catalog of 28 different classes and, eventually, the Chabot-Las Positas district will offer the entire spectrum. Though courses vary in length, Dozier said the typical four-day class will cost \$800 a person.

Dozier said that after the first wave of classes, another new one should start in about six months. The program will be self-supporting through tuition.

"We will see where the demand is," she said, referring to future course topics.

Dozier said the district, which, in a competitive bid process, won a five-year authorization to offer the OSHA courses, was chosen because of its strong commitment to working with the East Bay business community. She said about half of California's 72 community college districts have contract education departments, which deliver training and services to businesses and other types of organizations.

"One of the reasons we were chosen is we have a strong group of (adjunct faculty) who are already working out in the business community," Dozier said, adding the district typically uses people who work in various business sectors to provide training within their industries.

Instructors must have detailed knowledge of their industry sectors since OSHA requirements can be even stricter at the state level than federal. Individual industries and companies can impose even more stringent standards, she added.

"We also have a new district chancellor and board of trustees who are very supportive of our program," Dozier said of her six-member department. "We run this department like a business, which is the way it should be, so we make money for the district. We are among the top five in the state for generating income."

A catalog of classes and registration information should be available online by March 15 at the district's Web site, www.clpccd.org. For more information, call Dozier at 925-485-5234.

dgoll@bizjournals.com | 925-598-1436

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