



Moorpark College
7075 Campus Road
Moorpark, CA 93021
805.378.1400
moorparkcollege.edu

For Immediate Release

Moorpark College Work-Based Learning Program Championed by Representative Julia Brownley

Moorpark, Calif. (July 27, 2021) –Moorpark College is proud to announce that its Work-Based Learning Program has been chosen to be one of the nine programs to potentially benefit from the more than \$20.6 million dollars requested by Congresswoman Julia Brownley for Ventura County. The \$225,000 requested for the Moorpark College Work-Based Learning Program would provide 150 students, \$1,500 in paid internships for working in local businesses while earning college credit.

“I’m proud that so many of our community’s priorities were included in this first round of the appropriations process,” said Congresswoman Julia Brownley. “Our work is only now beginning and as these projects make it through the legislative process. I will continue to fight for Ventura County’s priorities.”

The appropriation funding would be used for work-based learning opportunities for students and local community members by giving them real-world insights into potential careers. The project supports 150 students in internships that provide experiential learning. The project would fund 150 college student internships at \$1,500 each. Students would work at area businesses for at least 75 hours, earning \$14.50 per hour while enrolled for college credit. The \$1,500 internship total also includes administration and payroll fees and statutory benefits. While earning college credit in a Moorpark College internship class, students engage with employers in tasks that benefit the business and the student. Students gain experience by applying classroom concepts in a real-world environment. These paid internships are designed to supplement a student’s income while they are attending Moorpark College by allowing them to work in their fields of study as opposed to other jobs that might not be furthering their ultimate career goals

“We are excited about our partnership with the City of Moorpark and Congresswoman Brownley recognizing our Career Education programs in supporting work based learning,” said Robert Cabral, Interim Dean of Student Learning at Moorpark College. “This project improves the quality of post-secondary education by providing paid learning opportunities for our students and giving them real-world insights into potential careers.”

The project uses existing processes at the college’s Career Transfer Center, and actively engages with the local business community to locate internship opportunities. Each internship team consists of a student, a workplace supervisor and a faculty advisor. The team sets learning objectives for the student and meets three times to ensure that students achieve their learning objectives. In the end, the student accomplishes a specific goal, gains work-based learning experience and earns a wage. Academic studies show that work-based learning students are more likely to complete their studies and achieve their academic goals.

"It's a privilege connecting employers with Moorpark College's robust internship program," said Celine Park, Job Developer in the Moorpark College Career Center. “These connections allow us to better serve our students with workforce training and support business retention throughout Ventura County."

Moorpark College has partnered with a number of local public and private employers to provide students with unique experiences in a variety of career fields, including the City of Moorpark. Interim Community Development Director Doug Spondello has been hosting Planning Intern / Moorpark College Student Hanna Dever over the summer. He notes that, “the partnership between Moorpark College and the City of Moorpark provides students with first-hand experience in public administration and working directly with the community. This exposure broadens their understanding and helps inform their career decisions. We are very grateful for our relationship with Moorpark College and the dedicated advocacy of Congresswoman Brownley that provides for this. Ms. Dever added “the internship with the Moorpark Community Development Department has been an incredible experience. I have learned so much about how government works; it has been an amazing opportunity.”

Along with the Moorpark College Work-Based Learning Center, additional educational funding was requested for the development of an Indigenous Studies program at California State University Channel Islands to include the development of new curriculum covering indigenous history, culture, arts, language, and natural resources, hiring and training faculty, outreach to community partners and piloting courses.

Once the draft fiscal year 2022 federal agency funding bills have been approved by the Committee, they will advance to the floor for a vote by the full U.S. House of Representatives.

Information on the more than 150 Associate Degrees for Transfer, Career Education Certificates and Proficiency Awards offered at Moorpark College can be found at [MoorparkCollege.edu/Academics](https://moorparkcollege.edu/academics).

About Moorpark College

Moorpark College Mission

Grounded in equity, social justice, and a student's first philosophy, Moorpark College values diverse communities. We empower learners from local, national, and global backgrounds to complete their degree, certificate, transfer, and career education goals. Through innovation and customized student support, our programs are designed to achieve equitable outcomes.

Moorpark College is one of three colleges in the Ventura County Community College District and annually serves more than 14,000 students. Founded in 1967, Moorpark College is fully accredited and has the highest six-year completion rate within the California Community College System. The Campaign for College Opportunity named Moorpark College a 2020 Champion of Higher Education for the Associate Degree for Transfer Pathway. It is also a designated Hispanic-Serving Institution. The college's signature career/technical programs include nursing, radiologic technology, biotechnology and journalism. The college's America's Teaching Zoo is the only associate degree exotic animal training program in the country. To learn more, visit [MoorparkCollege.edu](https://moorparkcollege.edu) or follow @MoorparkCollege on social media.

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Media Contact:

John Loprieno
Interim Director of IA
Community Relations & Marketing
(805) 378-1469
JLoprieno@vcccd.edu