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Date: January 12, 2024

To: Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee
State Board of Fire Services

From: Caryn Petty, Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist)

Subject/Agenda Action Item:

Modesto Junior College Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Initial Accreditation

Recommended Actions:

Recommend Modesto Junior College be provided Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP) Initial Accreditation in the State Fire Training (SFT) system for a period of three (3) years.

Background Information:

An Initial Accreditation Site Evaluation was conducted on October 26, 2023, at the Modesto Junior College (MJC) training facility at 1220 Fire Science Lane in Modesto, CA. The Accreditation Site Evaluation Team included Deputy State Fire Marshal III (Specialist) Caryn Petty; Staff Chief Cat Frazer, CAL FIRE, representing STEAC; and Fire Chief Garrett Contreras, Hayward Fire Department, representing the Accredited Academies system. Introductions were facilitated by Deputy Chief Chris Jelinek that included Interim College President Chad Redwing, College Vice President Troy Gravatt, Interim MST Fire Chief Kevin Wise, MST Training Division Chief Bill Becker, Captain Matt Curless, and Captain Chris Steffen.

The MJC Self-Assessment Report (SAR) was reviewed and discussed, with requirements for supplemental documentation noted. Said documentation has since been received and has met the requirements as set forth by State Fire Training policies and procedures. The review of the SAR was followed by a tour of the training facilities with opportunity to assess equipment complement. The Site Team was provided the revised SAR for remote review prior to the event.

Analysis/Summary of Issue:

A tour of the training facilities indicated sufficient classroom space with a fully functioning and compliant training facility complete with all necessary props, tools, equipment, and vehicles to accommodate a fire academy training program. MJC will utilize the Fire Fighter (2019) curriculum and possesses all necessary materials for successful Certification Examination delivery. The training grounds exhibit appropriate a California Fire Code-compliant classrooms equipped with enhanced audio/visual equipment and necessary learning aids. All Academy recruits will be

provided sufficient study materials, devices, and equipment for applicable success within the Academy training. Several Registered Instructors will participate in the Academy delivery with members from regional partners complementing the need for Instructors and Evaluators.

Area(s) of focus for growth and improvement:

- Consistent participation at regional training officer meetings is recommended to continue fostering the growing relationships in the region for enhanced networking and partnership opportunities.
- The current staffing is at its capacity with workloads beyond the Academy delivery that would be offset with additional resources and personnel. The Academy has identified a specific need for additional instruction and administrative support personnel to lessen the workload of existing staff and ensure the thorough delivery of the Academy free of peripheral assignments, tasks, and duties.

Modesto Junior College is poised to excel in the State Fire Training system as an ARTP and as a collaborative partner in its region. The College has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to quality of instruction and excellence in training. The staff and students demonstrate a proud devotion to professionalism and service required of fire service personnel. A cooperative neighbor in its region, the College is focused on providing comprehensive, relevant training and professional development specific to area need.

Modesto Junior College has demonstrated a strong devotion to training and education that is indicative of a proud, professional, and progressive training program. The Site Evaluation Team is unanimous in the recommendation of Modesto Junior College being designated as an Accredited Local Academy in the State Fire Training system for an Initial Accreditation period of three (3) years.