



Press Release

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YOSEMITE COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
Modesto Junior College & Columbia College

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MJC Regional Fire Training Center Awarded \$2,000,000

MODESTO, CA. – The Yosemite Community College District is pleased to announce that Modesto Junior College will receive \$2 million in federal funding to upgrade equipment at the MJC Regional Fire Training Center in Modesto.

The funding will support state-of-the-art training for students enrolled in MJC's Fire Academy and Fire Science degree and certificate programs, as well as for working firefighters who depend on MJC for continuing education in the latest fire-suppression techniques.

“By replicating real-world fire conditions at our training site, and equipping our students with the latest in fire-suppression equipment and technology, MJC trains some of the most skilled firefighters in California,” said Chad Redwing, MJC's interim president and longtime advocate of hands-on career training.

The Regional Fire Training Center, which opened in 1994, includes classroom space, grounds for vehicle-fire simulations, and a 5,816-square-foot, six-story concrete tower for simulating fire emergencies.

Upgrading the facility, long among the best in the state, reflects MJC's commitment to state-of-the-art career preparation, said YCCD Chancellor Henry Yong. “We remain dedicated to providing excellent tools and curriculum to prepare every student for a well-paying job in the Stanislaus County workforce,” he said.

The \$2 million for MJC's Regional Fire Training Center was allocated through H.R. 2617, the 2023 Consolidated Appropriations Act, through the joint efforts of Sen. Alex Padilla, Rep. Josh Harder, and MJC staff.

“Firefighters risk their lives to protect our communities — they deserve the training and resources to be able to do their jobs safely and efficiently,” said Rep. Harder. “I am so proud to have secured \$2 million for the Modesto Junior College Regional Fire Training Center. This federal funding will empower MJC to provide high-level, comprehensive training for firefighters who will serve communities throughout the region.”

“When disaster strikes, our firefighters are the first responders on the front lines answering the call. That is why I worked to secure \$2 million for the Modesto Junior College Regional Fire Training Center to upgrade to state-of-the-art equipment. As we continue to face the threat of wildfires, I’ll keep working to ensure our firefighters receive the training, resources, and support they deserve.” – Senator Alex Padilla (D-Calif.)

For more information on MJC’s Fire Academy, please visit mjc.edu/firescience or contact the Regional Fire Training Center at (209) 548-5706.

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