The Linked Learning Connection

Cosumnes River College is partnering with the Elk Grove Unified School District on an initiative called Linked Learning.

This enterprise offers students a personally relevant, rigorous academic and career-based curriculum with real-world professions. It also ensures students graduate from high school well prepared to enter a two- or four-year college or university, an apprenticeship, or formal job training.

“Partnering with the Elk Grove School District on Linked Learning gives CRC the opportunity to have a voice in making sure students are well prepared to enter college and are successful throughout their college career,” said CRC President Deborah Travis.

There are four core components of Linked Learning:

- **Rigorous academics** - An academic component that includes college preparatory English, mathematics, science, history and sometimes foreign language courses.

- **Real-world technical skills** - A challenging career-based component of three or more courses that help students gain the knowledge and skills that can give them a head start on a successful career.

- **Work-based learning** - A series of work-based learning opportunities that begin with mentoring and job shadowing and evolve into intensive internships, school-based enterprises, or virtual apprenticeships.

- **Personalized support** - Support services including counseling and supplemental instruction in reading, writing, and mathematics that help students master the academic and technical learning.

Data show that Linked Learning students of all demographic profiles have higher persistence and graduation rates than their peers at traditional high schools.

“The synergy of educators, community stakeholders, industry partners and institutions of higher education will forge educational opportunities needed by our students to be successful in a 21st century global economy,” said Elk Grove Unified School District Superintendent Steven M. Ladd, Ed.D.

CRC has a strong track record of articulating courses with local high schools. For example, last year 131 high school students received CRC college credit in disciplines such as Accounting, Architectural Design Technology, Agriculture Business, and Radio, Television & Film Production. The students took these courses at their local high schools and then received college credit.

“CRC has aligned itself with the Linked Learning initiative because of the results seen from schools that offer it,” said CRC Associate Vice President, Jamey Nye. “Students in Linked Learning pathways attend, advance, achieve, and graduate at higher rates than their peers, and are more successful in college and the workplace.”

Linked Learning is also aligned with Common Core as it is a key principle with the Linked Learning approach. “Overall, I think the college will see the benefit of students who have gone through the Linked Learning process because they will come to us more prepared,” added Travis.