



# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Six Richmond Area Nonprofits to Receive a Share of \$1 Million in Grants from Chevron**

*Grants to Improve Local Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Education, Prepare Residents for Technical Jobs*

**RICHMOND, Calif., Nov. 7, 2011** – Six Richmond area nonprofit organizations have been selected to receive a share of \$1 million in grants from Chevron as part of the company’s California Partnership Program, an initiative that invests in education and economic development in California. The grants will help boost science and technology education in Richmond and the surrounding communities and invest in other nonprofits.

“Our contributions are designed to help people and businesses thrive,” said Nigel Hearne, general manager of Chevron’s Richmond Refinery. “When business and nonprofits work together we can ensure better education and jobs for the next generation and a better future for all of our communities.”

According to California’s Employment Development Department, Richmond’s unemployment rate is 16.9 percent, considerably higher than the country’s overall rate of 9.1 percent. Chevron has selected specific nonprofit organizations that help address the unemployment rate by preparing residents for today’s jobs and preparing youth for the technical jobs of the future.

An increasing number of jobs in the modern economy will require education in science, technology, engineering and math – the STEM fields. Training in these fields will be crucial for students seeking work in computing, high-tech, biotechnology and other emerging industries.

Chevron will support six programs by providing each of them a share of the grant, including:

- Enhanced mathematics instruction in middle schools to improve student achievement (West Contra Costa Unified School District)
- Advanced student preparation for post-secondary education and careers in STEM fields (Contra Costa Economic Partnership)
- Developing STEM education infrastructure for students beginning in junior high school (Contra Costa College Foundation)

- Helping create 76 jobs and technical internships in the computing and e-waste recycling fields (The Stride Center's ReliaTech program)
- Training Richmond residents for jobs in commercial solar installation (Solar Richmond)
- Mentoring for low-income residents ages 18-24 years old to help secure employment as early-childhood education teachers (Catholic Charities of the East Bay)

“We are grateful for Chevron’s generosity,” said Nia Rashidchi, Assistant Superintendent of the West Contra Costa Unified School District. “This grant will provide crucial help coaching teachers in rigorous, standards-based mathematics content and instructional strategies. This will help to improve student mathematics achievement and better prepare students for success in higher level mathematics courses.”

Grant recipients were selected based upon their capacity to improve education, expand vocational training and increase job opportunities in Richmond and West Contra Costa County. Each proposal was evaluated through an open request for proposal (RFP) process, and scored by an evaluation committee around criteria that included the evaluation of the nonprofits’ technical approach, capacity to implement the project and management plan.

Chevron started the California Partnership in 2009. Since then, it has helped more than 24 nonprofit organizations geared toward economic development and education in and around California. Chevron has committed approximately \$15.2 million in giving through the California Partnership since 2009, and overall invested approximately \$31.8 million in the State of California to support education, economic development and other initiatives significant to the communities in which Chevron employees live and work.

### **About Chevron**

Chevron has been headquartered in California for 130 years and is the state's largest company. Chevron is the largest private employer in the Richmond area, with approximately 2,700 employees and 850 contractors. More information is available at [www.chevron.com/CA](http://www.chevron.com/CA).

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