

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NOCCCD School of Continuing Education's Pharmacy Technician Certificate Program Granted Accreditation Renewal

The noncredit program earns longest cycle of accreditation, six-year with mid-term report

ANAHEIM, Calif. -- Congratulations to the North Orange County Community College District School of Continuing Education's (SCE) Pharmacy Technician Certificate Program for recently being awarded accreditation renewal by the American Society of Health-System Pharmacists (ASHP) and Accrediting Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE). The accrediting board voted to grant SCE's program a six-year cycle of accreditation renewal, with a mid-term progress report, at its June 21, 2017 board meeting.

"Congratulations to SCE's Career Technical Education Director **Raine Hambly** and Pharmacy Technician Education and Training Accreditation Program Director/Lead Faculty Member **Catherine Dunne** as well as the outstanding faculty and staff who go above and beyond to ensure student success in our Pharmacy Technician Certificate Program," said SCE Provost **Valentina Purtell**. "On a daily basis, this hands-on pathway program allows students to gain the skills needed to earn meaningful employment while transitioning to credit college programs to improve their earning potential and quality of life."

SCE's tuition-free, state-supported Pharmacy Technician Certificate Program is representative of an approach to noncredit vocational programs that uphold rigorous standards and provide higher education pathways and career employment opportunities for the overwhelming majority of its graduates.

SCE's Pharmacy Technician Certificate Program is unique among noncredit programs:

- It is a short-term vocational program, requiring 11 classes (432 hours total)
- SCE's program is the only California community college noncredit program accredited by the national accrediting body for pharmacy technician programs; only six other community colleges offer this program statewide
- SCE had 66 graduates during the 2015/16 school year; not including the 2017 Spring Term, SCE had 44 graduates during the 2016/17 school year

At SCE, the full program, including the laboratory and externship components, was implemented in the 2003 Fall Term, and since then it has graduated 809 students (not including the 2017 Spring Term). The program became fully accredited in March 2006. To accommodate busy students, the program is scheduled in trimesters and meets during day and evening hours and is aided by vocational counselors, new student orientation, assessment, and a range of academic support services. In addition to being ASHP/ACPE accredited, the program, as part of SCE, is also accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Schools of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

SCE Background

A member of NOCCCD, which also includes Cypress College and Fullerton College, SCE has been cultivating change since 1973 with educational programs and services from high school completion, English-language acquisition, career technical education training, and self-development courses. SCE serves 30,000 students annually, ranging from preschoolers to seniors, at three Center locations in Anaheim, Cypress, and Wilshire (Fullerton) as well as approximately 150 off-campus locations. Accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and part of the California Community College System, all SCE courses are approved by the State of California. NOCCCD's School of Continuing Education – **Change. Cultivated.**

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