

September 26, 2008

Washington, D.C. – Today, Congressman Jerry McNerney (CA-11) announced that San Joaquin Delta College has been awarded a \$1 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to improve its STEM education programs for Hispanic students.

The grant, in the amount of \$1,069,133, will be available for two years beginning October 1, 2008 and will be used to improve Delta College's STEM education programs for Hispanic students.

"I spent my entire career as a scientist, mathematician and engineer," said Rep. McNerney. "Scientific research is the key to our economic future, and it's important that we have a strong pipeline of students who are prepared to enter the STEM workforce."

"That's why I'm pleased that Delta College, an institution that is so accessible and serves so many in San Joaquin County, has been awarded this grant. This is a great example of how we can invest in our future by supporting our community colleges."

Rep. McNerney has consistently supported efforts to improve STEM education in our country and to increase the number of students who are prepared to enter the STEM workforce.

Delta plans to use the Department of Education funds to strengthen its STEM education programs with the following activities:

In particular, funds will be used to craft a STEM curriculum that matches that of four-year institutions to help students transfer to four-year institutions.

The Department of Education grant is being made under the College Cost Reduction Act Program, which provides grants to eligible institutions to improve their STEM education programs.

The provision Rep. McNerney authored to create a STEM grant program for Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) is a key part of the College Cost Reduction Act.

Upon hearing of the Congressman's effort last year, Jose Hernandez, a mission specialist with NASA, offered Delta College a letter of support for the grant.

