



## TECHNOLOGY CAREER INSTITUTE AND ASSURE CONTROLS PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE CONSORTIUM FLY-IN TO WASHINGTON D.C.

Washington D.C., September 19th, 2016 – Assure Controls, Inc. joined MiraCosta College’s Technology Career Institute for a series of meetings with federal agencies on issues relating to advanced manufacturing, workforce development, and accelerated technical skills training. The Technology Career Institute (TCI) is part of MiraCosta College’s Community Education & Workforce Development department, and Assure Controls is the onsite industry partner representing maritime and clean technology companies in the San Diego region.

The meetings took place from September 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> and included the following:

- U.S. Department of Agriculture
- U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)
- U.S. Department of Defense
- U.S. Department of Education
- U.S. Department of Energy
- U.S. Department of Labor
- United States Navy, Military Sealift Command
- U.S. Department of Transportation, Maritime Administration
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
- National Science Foundation

Approximately thirty community and technical colleges attended, representing a strong consortium of the best technology and career advancement programs in the country. In addition, several industry associations and foundations sent senior representatives.

Topics covered included a Federal Legislative Update, presentations on Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training Grants, a panel on Manufacturing Industries, the Training, Education, and Credentialing of Veterans, NSF’s Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Program, and Maritime & Energy Workforce issues.



As an example of the sessions, the U.S. Department of Education’s Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical and Adult Education (Gregory Henschel) attended, as did the U.S. Department of Labor Deputy Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training (Eric Seleznow), as well as Mark A. Johnson from the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Advanced Manufacturing Office.

To illustrate the significance of our country’s need to comprehensively address unemployment and the technical skills gap, a representative from the Hillary Clinton Democratic presidential campaign, and a representative of the Donald Trump Republican



campaign also met with the delegation. These were separate presentations followed by a roundtable discussion on career and technical education.

During the trip, Linda Kurokawa, Director of Community Education & Workforce Development, Technology Career Institute, MiraCosta College also arranged to meet at the Office of Congressman Darrell Issa, from California's 49th Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. The 49th District includes Camp Pendleton, the largest Marine Corps training facility in the United States, and the northern portions of San Diego County and southern Orange County. She delivered a copy of a bill currently in the House to provide federal recognition for advanced manufacturing centers of excellence and requested the Congressman's support of the legislation. Such recognition is often a prerequisite in several federal grants and funding sources.



Bryan Bjorndal, President and CEO of Assure Controls, attended all sessions and provided overviews and industry data on the maritime industry and clean technology companies of the greater San Diego area. For example, according to the 2012 San Diego Maritime Industry Report, the maritime industry brings in more than \$14 Billion a year, and supports more than 46,000 jobs in San Diego. Additionally, the Cleantech sector includes more than 100 local businesses, universities, governments, and nonprofits committed to advancing sustainable solutions for the benefit of the economy and the environment.

More information on MiraCosta College's Technology Career Institute (TCI):  
<http://tci.miracosta.edu/>

More information on Assure Controls:  
[www.assurecontrols.com](http://www.assurecontrols.com)