Berkeley City College (BCC) is centrally located in downtown Berkeley, only 1-1/2 blocks from the U.C. Berkeley campus. The college’s mission is to contribute to the success of all students and to the well-being of the community by offering the best possible education which promises intellectual growth, social mobility, economic development and an understanding of diverse ideas and peoples. BCC ranks second in the state in the percentage of students who transfer to U.C. Berkeley.

- BCC serves students who seek general education, transfer to four-year universities, associate degrees and certificates in liberal arts, the sciences, career/technical areas, or foundational skills. BCC students represent a diverse mix of ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds. Many are the first in their families to attend college. The college is an active partner in local economic development and employment training endeavors and maintains a strong and unique collaboration with U.C. Berkeley. Financial aid, academic and career counseling, programs for students with disabilities and assistance for economically disadvantaged students are available.

- Berkeley City College’s world-class faculty have created a student-centered learning community dedicated to academic excellence and student success. They have won distinction in the sciences, arts, English, humanities, first-generation and diversity in teaching awards. BCC’s curriculum successfully integrates academics and career technical education with firm business and community partnerships.

- Berkeley City College was recently awarded a $2 million Title III U.S. Department of Education grant to develop programs that integrate basic and multicultural learning skills across the curriculum. BCC also received over $1 million for a TRIO grant to assist underrepresented students, and a $660,000 U.S. Department of Labor TAA grant to develop stepping stones to science, technology, engineering and math careers. Another $1.1 million California Institute for Regenerative Medicine’s (CIRM) Bridges Program grant continues the college’s leadership in biotechnology education and makes possible first rate stem cell research collaborations at Oakland’s Children’s Hospital, U.C. Berkeley, U.C. San Francisco and others.

College of Alameda (COA) is located on the island of Alameda and is situated on a beautiful park-like campus which offers the quiet of a suburban setting in a bustling urban environment. Founded in 1970, COA enjoys a well-deserved reputation for the excellence of its academic, vocational and student-support programs.

- As a comprehensive community college, COA has a number of unique career and technical programs, which includes the only community college Aviation Maintenance Technology program in the East Bay; a renowned Apparel Design and Merchandising (ADAM) program, a Toyota authorized Automotive Technology program and Diesel Foundation Training program. COA offers many programs that integrate basic and multicultural learning communities, a civic engagement/violence prevention program and an extensive English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

- A first in the Bay Area, is the Alameda Transportation and Logistics Academic Support (ATLAS) program; an innovative program designed to create career pathways for East Bay residents in the growth industry of logistics and warehouse operations. ATLAS and the Green Diesel program are examples of the Peralta Green Jobs training initiatives, and are part of a 10-community college collaborative to develop pathways to California State University, East Bay and University of California, Berkeley. These programs have been highlighted by Congresswoman Barbara Lee and the Assistant Secretary of Employment and Job Training for the U.S. Department of Labor.

- COA’s Dental Assisting Program, in a collaborative process with Asian Health Services and the City of Alameda, opened the district’s first campus dental clinic to provide comprehensive and accessible dental care to students and the community.

- COA’s faculty have been recognized locally, state-wide, nationally and internationally for their teaching and academic excellence in such areas as anthropology, political science, English and English as a Second Language, psychology, civic engagement and the sciences.

- Academic Excellence and student-centered learning are part of the institutional culture of the college. COA students have been selected to the Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team for the past seven years.

Laney College occupies a beautiful 60-acre campus in Oakland adjacent to the Oakland Museum and Lake Merritt BART station. Founded in 1948, Laney is the largest of the four Peralta Colleges. Laney has many unique elements and achievements, which combine to create a great educational institution.

- Laney has an extraordinarily diverse population of over 12,000 students of all ages and educational goals, drawn from varied ethnic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Laney also has a richly diverse faculty of full and part time instructors, many of whom have professional accomplishments in the larger community.

- Laney is among the top 10 colleges in the state regarding transfers to U.C. Berkeley, and has earned regional recognition as a leader in integrating academic instruction with career/technical education.

- Programatically, Laney offers some of the nation’s best academic and career technical programs, including the Advanced Manufacturing programs, Green Jobs program, Building Automation program, and the new Medical Technology Engineering program, in partnership with U.C. Berkeley’s Bioengineering Department.

- Laney College is recognized as a model center for the acceleration of ESL curriculum across the state and nation.

- With distinguished excellence in a wide range of arts and design programs, the dynamic faculty of Laney continue to inspire students to join the diverse community of professionals in the Bay Area.

- The athletic programs of Laney College are known both for their higher performance standards at State competitions and their high transfer rates to four-year colleges and universities, due to a network of support for aspiring young athletes.

- Laney is developing and improving learning communities that increase student success through contextualized instruction, accelerated coursework completion and personalized student support. The college’s presence in the community has increased through many partnerships with business and industry as well as K-12 districts and local universities.

Merritt College is located on a 125 acre site in the hills of East Oakland and combines modern spacious facilities with a spectacular view of the entire Bay Area. An integral part of a large, busy urban community, the location provides a sense of tranquility and peace. With a comprehensive day and evening program of transfer, technical, occupational and basic skills education, Merritt is committed to meeting the educational needs of the diverse student population it serves. Merritt also offers opportunities for intellectual and cultural growth at the Fruitvale Education Center in Oakland.

- Since 2010, Merritt has been awarded over $15 million in grant funding: First in Child Development, TSA training with the Oakland Port Authority by Administration of Justice, Extreme Entrepreneurship, Department of Labor Community Based Job Training Grant, Financial Opportunity Center, Alameda County Mental Health Grant, Bay Area Workforce Collaborative, and Alameda County Innovations Grant.

- Merritt celebrated a 100% pass rate for its 2012 nursing students in the class of 2013. The Associate Degree Nursing Program includes instruction in applied nursing sciences and clinical nursing experience in healthcare agencies. Upon successful completion, graduates earn an Associate of Science Degree and are eligible to take the national licensing examination.

- Merritt College’s Maximum Achievement Program (MAP) earned national recognition as a model program and was visited in 2011 by both Congresswoman Barbara Lee and Education Secretary Arne Duncan. MAP, a federally funded program, is designed to increase the graduation and matriculation rate of African American males and other at risk students.

- Last year Merritt College began to requiring every new and matriculating student attend the New Student Orientation. These two hour orientations, which are now mandatory, welcome 60 students on average at each session. Students participating in categorically funded programs must also now attend the general college orientation before attending any of their particular program. Students cannot continue the subsequent matriculations steps until they successfully complete the New Student Orientation.