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## **CITY COLLEGE OF SAN FRANCISCO**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **City College of San Francisco announces ground-breaking Stem Cell Research Technician Certificate program**

SAN FRANCISCO, California, April 13, 2005 — San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, City College of San Francisco (CCSF) Board President Rodel E. Rodis, Board Vice President Dr. Natalie Berg, and Chancellor Dr. Philip R. Day, Jr., announced today the receipt of a \$779,067 grant under the California Governor’s Funding category, Growth Industries – High Wage, High Skill Job Training. This two-year grant will enable City College to create a Stem Cell Research Technician Certificate program which will equip participants with the advanced skills needed to find jobs in the lucrative and rapidly growing field of stem cell research.

“San Francisco is providing clear leadership when it comes to stem cell research,” said Mayor Newsom, adding, “this program is part of a comprehensive strategy to ensure that we maximize the opportunities created by the Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative.”

“This is another example of the extraordinary efforts that City College of San Francisco is continuously making in ensuring that its programs reflect the need of the area that we serve,” said Dr. Day. “Clearly, the SF Bay Area has the high-growth potential and amazing array of resources in biotechnology, life sciences and related fields.”

Phyllis McGuire, CCSF Associate Vice Chancellor for Workforce Education, said, “San Francisco residents deserve access to the thousands of new jobs the Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative will create. We can now provide them with the level of education and training employers such as UCSF will require in this rapidly emerging field. During the grant funding period we can anticipate training of at least 85 students in various parts of the program.”

“City College will provide summer research training to our instructors at stem cell research institutions in order to ensure the highest quality of instruction in cutting-edge themes and techniques,” explained Project Director and CCSF Biology Professor Philip Jardim. “This is an exciting opportunity for our faculty to train students who will be prepared for employment opportunities once funds are distributed from the \$3 billion Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative passed by California voters last November.”

Building on relationships with local private industry and academic institutions, including UCSF, Gladstone Institutes, Stanford, Geron, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and others is a critical element of the Stem Cell Certificate program. Student internships funded by the grant will advance participants’ skills sets and pave the way for future employment. Wrap-around services by SF Works and the Private Industry Council will offer further assistance to disadvantaged students in finding and maintaining employment.