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News Release
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May 17th Tech Center Grand Opening at Cajon Valley Middle School

"The Woodshop of the 21st Century"

El Cajon - A Grand Opening of the new Technology Center at Cajon Valley Middle School at 395 Ballantyne Street, El Cajon, will be held Tuesday, May 17 beginning at 5:30 p.m. The event sponsor is GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and readiness for Undergraduate Programs), a federally funded program coordinated by Grossmont College, designed to provide access to college for low income students and families.

The new Technology Center uses software developed by Pitsco Company called "Synergistic System", in which students participate in fourteen computer-based, hands-on modules that combine standards-based instruction in math and science with current workplace technology. Modules include communications, lasers, optics, electronics, health science, audio/broadcast and structural engineering. The center, in essence is "The Woodshop of the 21st Century" and was funded by a state technology grant, site categorical funds and a grant from the El Cajon Rotary Club.

The Grossmont-Cajon Valley GEAR UP partnership includes Grossmont College, Cajon Valley Middle School, El Cajon Valley High School, Cox Communications, Inc., and the Boys and Girls Clubs of East County.

According to Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Grossmont College president, “We are pleased to help bring these innovative programs and services to the youth of East County. As the coordinator of the first GEAR UP program in San Diego County, Grossmont College has taken the lead in helping middle school students and their parents learn more about the opportunities and options of higher education.”

Events are as follows:

Time	Title
5:30-6:00	AVID (Advancement through Individual Determination) college fair presentations and student art gallery, refreshments
6:00-6:20	Welcome, Introduction of Special Guests
6:20-8:15	Modules: science activities, math activities, computer lab, technology center, math lab
8:15-8:30	Concluding Remarks and Raffle

Math and science activities are part of the \$46,330 SBC/NCCEP grant received by the Grossmont-Cajon Valley GEAR UP program for science and math enrichment activities. Refreshments and free childcare will be provided.

For event information, please call 619-588-3655.

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