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The BEST Center is offering the High-Performance Building Operation Professionals (HPBOP) program at Laney College and Mt. San Antonio College from September 14th to December 6th, 2018. Sacramento City College hosted the program during the summer of 2018.

The HPBOP program is funded by the investor-owned utilities (IOUs), and is designed to address the knowledge gap between incumbent workers and the technical knowledge required of stationary engineers, building managers, and building engineers. The goal of closing the gap is to improve building performance, reduce energy consumption, and contribute to California's 2030 Climate Commitment. The HPBOP curriculum was developed by the BEST Center as part of its goal and mission to improve building efficiency and reduce energy costs. The HPBOP was a response to the demand for proficient technicians required to manage new, highly efficient, intelligent buildings and the requirements to retrofit existing buildings.

Mt. SAC, Laney College, and Sacramento City College were selected as initial instructional sights for the program. The selection was based on their proximity to major commercial centers with a high density of intelligent buildings. The maturity of their building science programs were taken into consideration as well as their consistent engagement with the BEST Center. According to Lanny Richardson, BAS faculty & Department Chair at Mt. SAC, the HPBOP curriculum began over five years ago through the Best Center at Laney College. It was developed through the DACUM process with solid industry input that included the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), Kaiser Permanente, ABM, and Lawrence Livermore Laboratory. According to Richardson, Mt. SAC benefits greatly by hosting the program. "HPBOP offers excellent exposure to our own Building Automation Program. It provides new industry contacts and resources, including student placement opportunities and curriculum development."

Sacramento City College (SCC) hosted the HPBOP program during the summer of 2018. According to Jon Zeh, Electrical-Mechanical Technology Professor at SCC, the program was designed for the incumbent stationary or building engineer "that is involved in making important, long term decisions about modifications or processes to improve building performance." Richardson and Zeh both indicated that in order to benefit from the instruction, participants must be experienced, incumbent workers. "They must be willing to develop their thought process to make informed decisions about improving building performance in the long run."

The HPBOP program is pursuing a nationally recognized certification. Those who complete the training will be part of the first group of high performance building operations professionals to receive the nationally recognized certificate.