



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Center for Advanced Research and Technology Receives \$100,000 Grant**

*Grant Will Fund New Air Quality Learning Activities*

At a time when school districts across the Fresno region are cutting budgets, the Center for Advanced Research and Technology (CART) is expanding its budget after receiving a \$100,000 grant from Valley CAN. Valley CAN, a San Joaquin Valley non-profit organization created to help support and promote real-world solutions to improving the region's air quality, received grant applications from organizations through out the Valley. CART received the largest grant.

CART, ([www.CART.org](http://www.CART.org)) an innovative high school for juniors and seniors that combines the instructional strategy of project based learning with an interdisciplinary curriculum to provide a powerful learning environment, will use the \$100,000 grant to support a new air quality research and education.

"Valley CAN is excited to provide CART with funding to educate our youth about air quality issues in the San Joaquin Valley," said Bob Maddux, president of Valley CAN.

CART will purchase equipment that will allow students to collect relevant data about air quality in the San Joaquin Valley. Teams of students will perform research and generate information, statistics and facts on air pollution while other teams of students will design products that contribute to improving the air quality, investigate laws that regulate air quality, and research the effects of poor air quality on health and the community.

"Valley CAN's grant will enable CART to establish a new lab dedicated to teaching students about air quality issues, a fundamental real world issue that all of our students face on a daily occurrence. With this funding, our students now have the opportunity to research and work on solutions to an issue that is important to our community with state of the art equipment. We are very excited!" said Steve Ward, Chief Operating Officer, CART.

CART students will organize and present an Air Quality Forum that will showcase research and products learned from the outcome of the grant in April 2004 as a culminating activity. CART is a joint venture between Clovis and Fresno Unified School Districts and has been recognized as a national model of innovative academic programs.

Proposals funded by Valley CAN met the following standards:

- Representative of the San Joaquin Valley as a whole
- Sought to improve Valley air quality
- Generated or supported real-world solutions
- Present opportunity for real leadership, and/or provided an educational component

Three other organizations received grants from Valley CAN, who represent the diversity and broad spectrum of the Valley, including a trade association, an educational foundation located in Fresno, and a medical society representing the Fresno-Madera region.

For more specific information about the grants and each recipients project, visit [www.valley-can.org](http://www.valley-can.org)

Valley CAN supports a Valley-wide effort to encourage the active participation of individuals and community and business leaders who are serious about immediate, actionable and quantifiable solutions to air quality problems. Valley CAN also will identify and promote voluntary local emission reduction opportunities and existing programs that already are making a difference. Some of the targets for these initiatives will include individual activities, motor vehicles, large and small businesses, industries, agricultural operations, and property development.

Valley CAN continues to accept grant applications and will review them on a first come first served basis. For more information about the Valley CAN grant program, visit [www.valley-can.org](http://www.valley-can.org).

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