



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emergency Medical Services Professions-Paramedic (Paramedic Training Institute-PTI) Earns CAAHEP Accreditation, Demonstrating Quality in Health Professions Education

Santa Fe Springs, California — January 16, 2026 — Paramedic Training Institute (PTI) is proud to announce that its Paramedic education program has been awarded accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP). This prestigious accreditation underscores PTI's commitment to providing high-quality education and training that meets the national quality assurance standards established by CAAHEP.

CAAHEP Accreditation Benefits Students, Employers, and the Public

CAAHEP accreditation offers significant advantages for students, graduates, and employers alike. For students, it ensures a high-quality educational experience that equips them with the knowledge, skills, and professional competencies essential for success in their chosen health profession. Graduates of CAAHEP-accredited programs are highly sought after by employers, opening doors to enhanced job opportunities and career growth. Additionally, many professional certification bodies require graduation from a CAAHEP-accredited program for eligibility to sit for certification exams—an essential step toward licensure and professional practice.

Employers can trust that graduates from CAAHEP-accredited programs are well-prepared to meet the ever-evolving demands of the healthcare field. These graduates bring a strong foundation of knowledge and practical experience, enabling them to deliver high-quality care and contribute meaningfully to their communities.

Dr. Barry S. Eckert, President of CAAHEP, emphasizes the importance of accreditation: "Choosing a CAAHEP-accredited program is crucial for students seeking a career in allied health. It ensures that they receive an education that is both comprehensive and relevant to current industry needs, ultimately benefiting their future employers and people receiving care."

A Commitment to Excellence in Allied Health Education

At PTI, we are dedicated to fostering excellence in allied health education and are preparing the next generation of skilled healthcare professionals. For more information about our accredited Paramedic program, please visit [Paramedic Training Institute \(CLICK HERE\)](#) or contact Program Director, Miguel Ortiz-Reyes: meortiz@dhs.lacounty.gov.

About Emergency Medical Services Professions-Paramedic (Paramedic Training Institute-PTI):

In 1969, Dr. J. Michael Criley initiated one of the first paramedic training programs in the country at Harbor General Hospital (HGH). This pilot program was based on research done by Dr. Walter Graf (Daniel Freeman Memorial) on mobile intensive care units and by Dr. Eugene Nagel (University of Miami) on training for firefighters to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

As head of the Cardiology Division, Dr. Criley was interested in the treatment of heart attack patients and was an early advocate for the use of defibrillators in public buildings. He was encouraged by the positive results of treating cardiac patients in the field and felt that emergency medical systems should utilize existing personnel, vehicles and dispatch systems. With the help of Carol Bebout, Critical Care Unit Nurse at HGH, Dr. Criley began training firefighters to provide a wide range of medical care services at the scene of an emergency. The first class at PTI was composed of six Los Angeles County Fire Department firefighters. Their training focused on the care of the cardiac patient and encompassed 192 hours of classroom training and experience in the emergency department.

In 1995, PTI affiliated with El Camino Community College District and enhanced its standing as an academic program. Through this new partnership, PTI was able to provide 32 college units to each

graduate, accept private students sponsored by El Camino College, reduce the cost of tuition to the student/employer, and offset program costs.

PTI continues to be one of the most innovative and recognized EMS paramedic training programs in the world. PTI's mission is to provide paramedic students with the cognitive, psychomotor, and affective skills necessary to provide the highest quality care to patients in the prehospital setting.

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