

**TO: QUED**

**DATE: 4/14/10**

**FROM: WIB Staff**

**For Discussion**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**SUBJECT: Commerce, Aviation and Economic Development (CAED) Business Retention and Expansion Program Proposal.**

**FOR OUTCOME(S): Recommend to the Executive Committee how to move forward with the Business Retention and Expansion program proposed by Commerce, Aviation and Economic Development (CAED).**

**DISCUSSION: The goal of CAED is to participate in activities leading to the expansion of job opportunities in Merced County and facilitating the resources necessary to sustain and expand existing businesses. The primary goal is a healthy local economy and an improved business climate. By partnering with the Department of Workforce (WI) this goal can be expanded. The partnership would also promote business retention and job growth by identifying the concerns and barriers to survival and growth facing local business. Business visits will be conducted, with follow-up and on-going business support by building a local database from the information collected on the businesses.**

**In order to facilitate this process Commerce, Aviation and Economic Development (CAED) has requested funding from Department of Workforce (WI) to hire a student intern, for the use of a computer, office supplies and equipment, and the use of a county van. The funding provided by the Department of Workforce (WI) will not exceed \$27,702. The funding would be from July 2010 through June 2011.**

**ATTACHMENT(S): Proposal available at meeting**