

| |
|--------------------------------------|
| <i>Education</i> |
| Improve Education |
| New Culture for Learning |
| UC up and running |
| Good Public Schools |
| Higher Education |
| Markedly improved school test scores |

Merced County officials should use the policy tools and resources at their disposal to promote a culture of learning and high expectations.

| |
|---------------------------------------|
| <i>Economic Development</i> |
| Higher Wages |
| More & Better Jobs |
| High Tech Business Growth |
| Large Employers Higher Wages |
| Higher Paying more diverse employment |
| Completion of Downtown Development |

There should be a two-pronged approach to job creation that simultaneously addresses the employment needs of the less skilled and the more highly educated and skilled.

Given the lack of job diversity documented in this report, there is a need for Merced County to broaden its economic base.

Continue efforts to improve the business climate in Merced County.

Creating a supportive environment for entrepreneurial activity should be a priority.

The racial and ethnic diversity of Merced County should be considered economic and community development assets.

Commuters on the west side of Merced County are a potential economic development asset.

Establish a visioning process that is both inclusive and focused.

A “centering strategy” will reap economic development benefits and facilitate County efforts to overcome the fragmentation that invariably hinders the pursuit of the shared interests of residents, regardless of where they live or the nature of their group identities.

| |
|---|
| <i>Integrated Workforce Development Plan</i> |
| Business & Education Partnering |
| Work ready applicants with work ethic |
| Skilled applicants for job openings |

Support coordinated job training and human capital investment.

There should be a two-pronged approach to job creation that simultaneously addresses the employment needs of the less skilled and the more highly educated and skilled.

Given age trends in Merced County, there is a need to invest in youth—Merced County’s future workforce.