

DIRECTORS NOTES



1/24/02

Local News

- The Department has initiated letters of support to two California Department of Education grant applications. One submitted by Merced County Office of Education (MCOE), is intended to expand Youth services at the One Stop and affiliate sites. The second grant was submitted by Tulare County Office of Education and supported by MCOE, to promote regional education coordination.
- The planning effort to expand the RN program at Merced College is in the final stages. Education and Employers will be contributing to this effort. A request for WIB participation will be coming through committee to the WIB in March.
- Building Trades program is in review for continuance. Merced College, Human Services Agency, the Carpenters Union and the Department are exploring the feasibility of continuing this program.
- Mr. Robert Carpenter has resigned from the State Workforce Investment Board and the Merced WIB as well.
- Mr. Ed McLaughlin has been named Assistant Director of the Private Industry Training Department.

State/Local News

- Performance negotiations for Program Year 2 and 3 of WIA has gone regional. The Work Force Investment Area's from Kern to San Joaquin Counties (excluding Fresno), have collectively submitted performance measures to the State for consideration, that reflect the economy and the labor market of the Central Valley in relationship to the State. The Standards and Certification Committee is working on the negotiation process. Thanks to Ned Miller for attending extra regional meetings to facilitate the process.
- Re- Designation of the Workforce Investment Areas under a 500,000 population base and Re- Certifications of Local WIB by the State WIB must be accomplished by June 30th 2002. No process has been identified by the State at this time.

State News

- The Governor in the State budget is proposing a new State Department of Labor. Both the State Workforce Investment Board and the Employment Development Department), which administers WIA would be included in the new Department.
- The State Workforce Investment Board (SWIB) will be having a retreat at Stanford University on February 10th and 11th. This event is open to the public.
- The 1st State Youth Council meeting is scheduled for January 31st at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento.
- The SWIB is taking recommendations for waivers to WIA through the California Workforce Association (CWA). Three areas that have been put forward, among

others are: 1. The expansion of the activities permitted under Economic Development, 2. The re – establishment of “long term unemployed” as a definition of Dislocated Workers, and 3. Access to Unemployment Insurance information for better tracking of participant outcomes.

State and National News

- Congress did not rescind dislocated Worker rescissions for this program year in the Economic Stimulus effort. The “How” and at what these funds will be taken back are still unclear at both the Federal and State level. The Director is working on a CWA work team to provide input to the process at the State level.
- There is a perception at the Federal Level that there are under expenditures in the WIA system. California is a target State for review. The Department is participating in providing information to change this perception. Although Merced County is expending funds at an appropriate rate, this may not be the case for other areas.
- Re-Authorization of TANF is starting to be discussed in Congress. It is the prediction of Congressional Staff that workforce legislation will be tied to or otherwise affected by the reauthorization. An effort to alert WIB’ to be vigilant in this process is underway.
- The Futurist Magazine has identified the “Hot Jobs” in 2002 to be security, construction, computer/IT, aerospace/defense, health care education and social work.

Respectfully Submitted by:
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Att: State Facts & Figures