

Merced County Private Industry Training Department

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Chamber of Commerce
Workforce Learning Academies
1615 H Street, NW
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To Whom This May Concern:

As Chairman of the Merced County Workforce Investment Board, and on behalf of that Board, I fully support the creation of a Center for Workforce Preparation in this area. A full operational center will add a much needed community resource which will both compliment and expand the efforts being put forth by the local WIB in meeting the challenges facing our community.

Merced County is currently in a transitional stage of economic growth. Following the closure of Castle Air Force Base in 1995, the local economy was hard hit. It has been a long, uphill battle, but the outlook for the future is improving. Our community was selected as the site for the 10th campus of the University of California, scheduled to open in 2004. Having a UC campus will open the door for Merced County to play a leading role in the economic resurgence of the state. Due to the anticipated changes the new university will bring about, Merced will need to draw upon every available resource as well as create new ones.

By creating a Center for Workforce Preparation through the Greater Merced Chamber of Commerce, the community can make a smooth transition from that of an agriculture-based economy into one where technology and knowledge are key. Implementing such a center in this area will help revive and invigorate the local economy through the involvement of area employers and community leaders. Working together, they can better address major issues affecting the local labor market. The Learning Academies will teach employers how to operate in a competitive economy while fostering new ideas and technology. The system will, in turn, create more knowledgeable, diverse and productive workers, which will result in a win, win situation for the entire community. .

The Merced County Workforce Investment Board has empowered me, as Chair, to submit documents in support of projects, grants, initiatives, etc., when submission is required, prior to the next Board meeting. This authority is contingent upon subsequent ratification by the full Board. This will go before the full Board at its next meeting on January 25, 2001.

Sincerely,

Steve Tinetti, Chair,
Merced Workforce Investment Board

"Preparing people for today's jobs and tomorrow's careers."