

**TO: WIB Executive Committee**

**DATE: 04/25/05**

**FROM: Program Planning & Development**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**For Discussion**

**SUBJECT: Continuation of Registered Nurse (RN) Program**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S): Continue the Registered Nurse Program with Merced College through June 30, 2006.**

**DISCUSSION: Since August 1, 1999, Merced County has had continuing contracts with Merced College to provide Registered Nurse (RN) training for WIA participants. The present contract was ratified by the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) on May 13, 2004, and will run until June 30, 2005. At present, the WIB funds 24 students in training, with six (6) students graduating every semester and six (6) new students entering training. The present contract cost will not exceed \$131,376.**

**RN training is provided over four semesters taking a total of 2 years. The new contract will continue to train 24 students at a new cost of \$135,926. Cost per participant is \$5,663, an increase of \$273 per student. The contract will run from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. The increased cost of the contract is due to increases in the College's benefits package.**

**The RN training program has been a success. Since the program began, 36 WIA sponsored RNs have graduated with an average starting wage of \$53,000 a year. According to a July 2002 report by the Health Resources and Services Administration, the existing RN shortage is expected to intensify.**

**ATTACHMENTS: N/A**