



**Merced County Workforce Investment Board
Education and Employers Committee
Private Industry Training Department
Large Conference Room
1880 West Wardrobe Avenue, Merced, CA
April 27, 2001
7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.
Meeting Minutes**

Members Present: Don Bergman, Don Gormly, Anne Newins, Al Romero (Chair), James White

Members Absent: Elaine Craig, Gisela Malone, Leslie Peeler, Carol Roberds

PITD Staff Present: Dave Davis, Dee Knight, Debbie Morrow, Joanne Presnell

Others Present: Jay Fowler, Madera Union High School; Cynthia Kelly-Reponte, Youth Council

1. – Call to Order and Roll Call

The Chair opened the meeting, and roll call was taken.

2. – Approve Agenda

It was **M/S/C Bergman/Gormly** to approve the agenda.

3. – Approve Minutes

It was **M/S/C Bergman/Gormly** to approve the March 23, 2001 minutes.

4. – Opening Comments from the Chair

The Chair introduced Jay Fowler from Madera Union High School, who came to make a presentation on implementation of Madera's Employability Card.

5. – Introductions – Everyone introduced themselves to Mr. Fowler.

6. – Public Opportunity to Speak – None.

7. – Marketing of Employability Card

Mr. Fowler provided informational handouts and gave a presentation. He stated the Employability Card was implemented to build a trusting relationship between the educational system and employers. They formed a committee of 16 people, consisting of equal representation from education (high school, middle

school, college) and employers (those who hire students). The program is designed for high school students who have to reapply each semester, and it meets federal and state labor laws.

Marketing the program is done by ads in the school and local newspapers, placing posters in classrooms and businesses, staff presentations, and committee members went door-to-door. Each week teachers check a list of students' names to insure program accountability. Program follow-up is accomplished by employers notifying the school when a student is employed, and the school sends a survey form to each business. Four times a year they send reminder postcards to employers. Program funding is through a Carl Perkins grant. They hired a career technician to promote the program, and work experience students also help.

Mr. Fowler presented an informational handout regarding employee criteria from Fresno County, which is based on a three-year program system.

8. – Organization/Volunteers for Employability Certificate Work Group

The following volunteered for the Employability Certificate Work Group: Don Bergman (Chair), Don Gormly (Co-Chair), Cynthia Kelly-Reponte, Anne Newins, James White (White volunteered Ralph Vigil). Ms. Kelly-Reponte stated Youth Council members have already volunteered for this Work Group.

Staff will get the Youth Council volunteers' names and e-mail addresses to Don Gormly, and he will set the Work Group meeting date after corresponding with all volunteers.

Staff was asked to obtain a complete Employment Competency Program booklet from Fresno County.

10. – Feedback Report from Youth Council Meeting on Employability Certificate

Ms. Kelly-Reponte stated concerns were that this program include not only high school students, but also youth ages 14-21 and dropouts. The Work Group should explore the issue of having two different cards.

9. – Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m. Next meeting will be May 25, 2001, 7:30-9:00 a.m., Wardrobe Small Conference Room.

Minutes prepared by Devilla D. Knight.