

**MERCED COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD
PROGRAM PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
WORKFORCE ACTION TEAM
GREYSTONE BUILDING CONFERENCE ROOM-
360 E. Yosemite Avenue
3:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. April 28, 2003**

Members Present: Mike Sullivan, Sharon Cresswell, Mike Boardman

Members Absent: Gisela Malone

WI Staff: Andrea Baker, Joanne Pressnell, Chuck Purcell

1. Discussion with possible Action Agenda

a. Discussion of Workforce document derived from the source document “People, Place, Prosperity-Positioning for Global Competitiveness”

The team determined and listed each weakness identified was valid.

1. The Team discussed and elaborated on the weaknesses in the Merced County Workforce.
 - Adults and Youth are leaving the area for higher paying, stable jobs in other regions in and out of California.
 - Discussed developing higher paying , stable jobs here in Merced County and keeping the people trained in those jobs here.
 - Discussed training to accommodate incoming industry.
2. The Team discussed the importance of teaching basic skills, work skills and a good work ethic and possible action.
 - Gisela Malone told the team about the AVID program at Golden Valley High School. Merced High School has the same program. It teaches Life Skills to high school students.
 - The team discussed developing a pilot program for students to job shadow successful local businessmen to see how they operate.
 - The team discussed contacting other university towns to see how they handled bringing in a large educational institution into their community.
3. The Team next talked about how to concentrate on employers.
 - The team discussed a Seattle program that gives out employability cards to adult and dislocated workers. The program sounds similar to our youth employability card program.
 - The team discussed developing more and better relationships with local industry.

4. The Team proposed coordinating their efforts with the other teams.
 - The team talked about what the other teams were concentrating on. Education was concentrating on working with local educators. Economic Development was concentrating on identifying industries to focus on in the county and also working with educators to provide better trained workers.

2. **Next Meeting Date and Time** – May 19, 2003, 3-4:30 p.m. at the Greystone building, 360 E. Yosemite Ave., Merced, CA