

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: May 23, 2002

- For Action**
- For Information**
- Meeting Notes**

FROM: Planning, Policy Development & Legislation Committee

SUBJECT: Support for the California Community Colleges Economic and Workforce Development Program [SB 1566].

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Authorize the Chair to send letters to State Senators Polanco [author of the bill], Vasconcellos [Chair - Education Committee], O'Connell [Chair - Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee on Education], Alarcón [Chair - Labor and Industrial Relations Committee] and Monteith and Assemblyman Cardoza expressing the Board's support for the subject bill.

DISCUSSION: The California Community Colleges Economic Development Program [also known as EdNet] was originally established in 1987. It was reauthorized in 2000 and is scheduled to "sunset" on January 1, 2003.

SB 1566 would rename the program the California Community Colleges Economic and Workforce Development Program and extend the sunset date to January 1, 2008.

According to the most recent EdNet annual report [1999-2000], 93,000 workers, 123,000 students and 15,000 community college faculty and staff have received instruction through the program. Regional centers and short-term grants have provided services to over 54,000 businesses and other organizations.

Locally, EdNet funds support both the Workplace Learning Resource Center and the Center for International Trade Development at Merced College.

Attachment(s): Draft letter of support

The Honorable _____
California State Senate/Assembly
State Capitol, Room _____
Sacramento, California 95814/94249

Dear Senator/Assembly Member _____:

I am writing to you on behalf of the Workforce Investment Board of Merced County to express support for SB 1566 – the California Community College Economic and Workforce Development Program.

Economic Development is one of the four core missions of the community colleges and the Economic Development Program is that mission's only source of funding. This program is vital to the community colleges and California because it provides: critical assistance to colleges in preparing students for high wage jobs, direct training/retraining of the incumbent workforce, and services to businesses that accelerate California's economic recovery and growth.

Locally, the program funds two important programs at Merced College: the Workplace Learning Resource Center and the Center for International Trade Development. The Board considers both of these key resources within the Merced workforce development system.

If you would like to talk with me about this critical issue, I can be reached at _____.

Yours very truly,

Rick Osorio, Chair