

**TO: WIB Program Planning and Development
Committee**

DATE: 5/26/04

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) Workplace Learning Academy, Construction/Building Trades Program request to be added to the Eligible Training Provider List.

PROPOSED MOTION(S): To accept the proposal by MCOE's Workplace Learning Academy, Construction/Building Trades Program to be included on the Eligible Training Provider List.

DISCUSSION: MCOE and Firm Build have created a training partnership. They have trained individuals referred through the Housing Authority and have trained ROP students.

The Construction/Building Trades Program consists of classroom time, but primarily is hands-on working on projects throughout the county. There is a qualified trainer for every 5 individuals who work in crews. The total cost for six months/125 days of training is \$13,030 per person, with \$2,000 for the trainer and \$11,030 in wage-related costs. The wages are paid through Continental Labor at \$11.03 per hour, and include Workers Compensation coverage, safety training, and drug testing.

Firm Build has trained 91 adults, and their placement rate is approximately 75%. Most of the trainees get entry level jobs paying from \$8.00 to \$10.00 an hour. There are often raises and benefits within 3 to 6 months for those who perform well.

ATTACHMENT(S): WIA Training Provider Application will be available at the meeting.