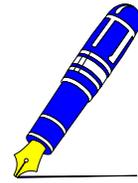


DIRECTORS NOTES

7/8/04



Local News

- The Board of Supervisors approved the youth program contracts on, June 8, 2004. Contracts are in place with MCOE for both in school and out-of-school programs.
- The Department has submitted the WIB's One Stop Certification process for a CSAC Challenge award. Notification to award winners will be in late summer.
- Beginning June 21, 2004, the Merced SCORE (Senior Core of Retired Executives) will be operating out of the Departments Wardrobe office. Businesses that would like their services can be schedule through our offices.
- The Department has been working with a coalition of County, Education and Community based organizations to prepare for the arrival of from 400-600, newcomers from the Refugee Camps in Thailand.
- John Headding, Scott Galbraith, Bob Bittner, Andrea Baker were joined by Bunny Bentley or the Employment Development Departments Labor Market Division to make a presentation to the P-16 Council on the future of Merced's workforce on June 30, 2004.
- Andrea Baker was re-elected to the Executive Board of the California Workforce Association. She will serve a second term as the Chair of the Program and Training Committee.

Advocacy

- June 2, 2004, John Headding and Andrea Baker visited both Assemblywoman Barbara Mathews and Senator Jeff Denham. They gave both legislators an overview of the work the WIB has been doing and asked them to support local control WIA programs.
- Letters have been sent to the President and State and Federal Legislators asking them to support workforce programs as a critical element in of economic growth and specifically to keep local control of the programs. WIB members have been asked to send similar letters.

State News

- On June 2, 2004, the California Workforce Association (CWA) held a State WIB Chair/Director meeting. Thirty of the fifty local WIB's were represented. John Headding and Andrea Baker attended. Acton plans for the work for the WIB

Chairs were identified and work groups for the Chairs were created. The next meeting of this group will be in September 2004.

- CWA Spring conference was attended by Andrea Baker, Joanne Presnell and by Department staff. A presentation of our RN expansion project was made. At the request of our Merced College partner Andrea Baker made the presentation.
- The CWA Executive Board met with State Labor Secretary Victoria Bradshaw to discuss State- wide issues that the WIB's can impact. Andrea Baker attended. Quarterly meeting have been scheduled.
- The State Workforce Investment Board convened a group of local WIB Directors to make recommendations on Rapid Response funding for their consideration. Merced attended the three sessions held. The State WIB adopted the group's recommendations at their May 18th meeting.

National News

- The National Practitioners Group on Migrant and Seasonal Farm workers and Workforce Boards was held in Washington DC, and was attended by Andrea Baker. The National Association of Workforce Boards, with input from the Practitioners Group has submitted a report to the Department of Labor on how both groups can work together. The report is at DOL for approval. There is no time frame for its release.
- The "04-05" budget and WIA reauthorization are on slow a track until the election. Although the House has acted on some pieces of the budget, the Senate has not completed its work. The conference committee on WIA reauthorization has been named but work has not commenced. It appears there may some changes in committee chairmanships, which will further slow the process.