

TO: Executive Committee

DATE: 09/08/08

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Application to Department of Labor (DOL) for Technology-Based Learning Grant

PROPOSED MOTION(S): Approve the submission of the Technology-Based Learning Grant to DOL in the amount of \$500,000 entitled “Merced Industrial Automation Technologies”.

DISCUSSION: The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has announced the availability of competitive grant funds for Technology-Based Learning (TBL). The source of the grant funds is Federal and are derived from H-1B visas to employ foreign workers. DOL intends to fund \$10 million in grants ranging from \$100,000 – \$500,000 each. The Merced County Department of Workforce Investment in collaboration with Merced College and Local Manufacturers, has submitted the grant proposal.

The grant funding will be used to coordinate technology based training to employees of existing manufacturers in the local area. This incumbent worker project will provide Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) training to 82 individuals. PLCs are the “brains” that control every aspect of manufacturing lines, by moving, shifting, turning, sliding products/output. Individual assessments will be provided by the local One-Stop and will be tied to the Manufacturers Skills Standards Certificate (MSSC). A large number of manufacturers have expressed interest in this grant opportunity and if awarded, will release their employees (with pay) to take part in this incumbent worker training.

Due to limited time frames, the application has been coordinated through the Merced County CEO’s office and submitted.

ATTACHMENT(S): Application available at meeting.