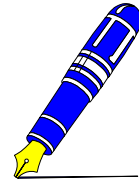


DIRECTORS NOTES

09/11/03



Local News

- Merced County Department of Workforce Investment has been awarded the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) 2003 Challenge Award for the County and Community Partnership to Impact the RN shortage. CSAC received 168 entries from 34 counties. Eleven received the challenge award, three of which were from Merced County. Selections were made based on demonstrated leadership, innovation, collaboration, creativity, resourcefulness and effectiveness, as well as the potential of the program to be used as a model for other Counties. The eleven winners will receive their award during the annual meeting in November.
- Merced had a team of individuals at the California Workforce Associations Meeting of the Minds conference in Monterey. The WIB had its officers, John Headding, Nellie McGarry and Mike Sullivan and the Director Andrea Baker in attendance. Other partners in attendance were John Fowler and, Lorretta Schlosser from MCBEQ, Evelyn Eagelton from MCOE, Phil Flores from HSA, and Ernie Flores from CVOC. Andrea Baker and Terry Plett, director of Stanislaus County WIA made a presentation of the Return on Investment (ROI) study done by CSUS in 2002 for Merced and 2002 and 2003 for Stanislaus. The presentation has generated interest by the Federal Department of Labor, The State Workforce Investment Board, the State Employment Development Department, and other Workforce Investment Areas in California. Visitations are expected.
- The Workforce 2020 Academies will be receiving a site visit from the Department of Labor at their next Academy. Steven Malliaras from the Department of Labor will be attending.
- The Department is scheduled to be monitored by the State Employment Development Department for program compliance on early November. This review will monitor the One Stop, WIA eligibility, and WIA program compliance for PY 2000 through 2003/04.
- An excellent time was had at the retirement dinner for Mr. Ed McLaughlin, Assistant Director of the Department. Mr. McLaughlin's 27 years of service to the County, and 24 years of service to Workforce Development in Merced County were celebrated.

State and National News

- The State will be issuing another round of applications for nursing grants in September 2003. The Department will be developing an application for those funds, and will bring that application back to the WIB and the Board of Supervisor for submission.
- On September 2nd it was expected that the Senate would begin to consider the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. The Senate hopes to complete work on the bill by the end of this week. Sen. Murray (D-WA) is expected to offer an amendment that would restore funding for WIA programs to FY 2002 levels, including \$1.127 billion for the youth formula, \$250 million for the Youth Opportunity Grant program, and \$55 million for the youthful offenders program for a total of over \$1.43 billion or a 35 percent increase for WIA youth programs alone over FY 2003 appropriations levels! (The current Senate bill would provide \$1 billion for the WIA youth formula, \$54 million for the youthful offenders program, and would eliminate funding for the Youth Opportunity Grant Program.)
- Mark-Up of WIA Reauthorization Bill has been Delayed Until Later in September. The Senate HELP committee will not mark up the WIA reauthorization bill on September 10th as previously expected. Senate staff indicates they continue to make good progress on the bill. They plan to continue ongoing consultation with WIA stakeholder groups in Washington and desire not to rush the process at this point. However, they are committed to marking up the bill in September. A draft of the current status of the bill is available at www.calworkforce.org.