

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 09/14/06

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Grant Application for Planning an Engineering Academy at Buhach Colony High School – Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Support

PROPOSED MOTION(S):

- 1. That a Letter of Support be provided by the WIB supporting the project.**
- 2. That in the event the grant is awarded, the WIB would be receptive to providing feedback to Buhach Colony HS as to progress in achieving its goals and suggestions for continuous improvement; to be accomplished by Buhach Colony HS providing a brief written report to the WIB approximately twice per year.**
- 3. Provide any other suggestions at this time, as Buhach Colony HS continues to develop the Engineering Academy project concept.**

DISCUSSION: A “Specialized Secondary Programs” (SSP) grant opportunity from the California Department of Education exists to provide funding for the cost of planning an Engineering Academy at Buhach Colony HS. SSP grant funds may also be available in subsequent years to implement an Engineering Academy.

The eventual aims of the Academy are:

- To meet an increasing workforce demand for engineers and engineering technicians.**
- To prepare high school students to serve internships in workplace settings which employ engineers and engineering technicians.**

The grant application will provide \$35,000 over a one-year period as part of the total \$52,009 planning costs. If approved by the Board of Trustees, the Merced Union High School District would obligate \$17,009 as an in-kind match.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Draft Letter of Support

DRAFT

Dear California Department of Education:

On behalf of the Merced County Workforce Investment Board (WIB), we wish to express our enthusiastic support and commitment for Merced Union High School District's application for Specialized Secondary Programs grant funding. All of us are excited at the possibility of receiving planning funds for an Engineering Academy here in Merced County.

The Engineering Academy is a perfect fit for the Governor's workforce investment priorities of collaborating to improve the California education system at all levels, and, understanding and meeting the nation's workforce needs to prepare workers for 21st century jobs. It is also a perfect fit for the WIB's goal of influencing the education system to design and implement strategies that provide students knowledge of employee skills and attitudes.

One of the Merced County Workforce Investment Board's core values is continuous improvement. If this grant is awarded, it is our intention to continue to work with the District to provide professional feedback to the Buhach Colony HS, and strive for continuous improvement of both its Engineering Academy and students.

Sincerely,

**Robert Harmon
Chair**