

**Merced County Workforce Investment Board  
Education and Employers Committee  
Private Industry Training Department  
Small Conference Room  
1880 West Wardrobe Avenue, Merced, CA  
September 18, 2001, 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.  
Meeting Minutes**

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**Members Present:** Don Bergman, Don Gormly, Anne Newins, Al Romero (Chair), Carol Roberds, James White

**Members Absent:** Leslie Peeler, Gisela Malone

**PITD Staff Present:** Dee Knight, Bob Molmen, Debbie Morrow

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- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call** – The Chair opened the meeting, and a sign-in sheet was used in lieu of roll call.
- 2. Approve Agenda** – It was **M/S/C Gormly/Bergman** to approve the agenda. It was noted to remove Elaine Craig (who resigned) as a member of this committee.
- 3. Approve Minutes** – Mr. White said his motion on page 3, paragraph 3, was incorrectly worded—it should state “...WIB to support funding of the project”. It was **M/S/C Gormly/Roberds** to approve the August 17, 2001 minutes with this correction.
- 4. Opening Comments from the Chair** – None.
- 5. Introductions** – None.
- 6. Public Opportunity to Speak** – None.
- 7a. Merced County Education & Business Alliance Motorola Project Manager** – Bob Molmen noted this item has been sent back from the Executive Committee to gather more pertinent information on the project. Following are issues the Executive Committee would like Ms. Sylvia Smith to address:
  - a. Who else will be contributing, and how much, to the overall cost of the first phase?
  - b. They would like to see a budget, breaking down all line item expenses related to the project (salary and fringe benefits, office space, admin overhead, copier, phone, computer equipment, transportation, travel, supplies, etc).
  - c. Provide a job description for the project manager position.
  - d. Provide workplan and time line.
  - e. Who the project manager reports to?
  - f. How will the project benefit Workforce Investment Act eligible clients (economically disadvantaged, dislocated workers, and disadvantaged youth)?
  - g. If the WIB does not fund the project, what other options does the Alliance have?

In addition to the above questions, the Education and Employers Committee would also like to know the following:

- h. How does the Great Valley Center San Joaquin Valley Access Project complement or compete with the Motorola Project?
- i. Provide examples of things that can be expected to occur, what is the end project?

It was **M/S/C Bergman/Gormly** that staff submit all of the above questions to Ms. Smith, request a written response, and have a Motorola representative and Ms. Smith give a presentation at the next Education and Employers Committee meeting. A meeting date will be announced after staff contacts Ms. Smith.

Mr. White, who is a member of the Merced County Education & Business Alliance, gave the committee a detailed background of this entity.

Mr. Bergman noted (and wanted to go on record) that telecommunications is important, and Merced County is lacking in this area; therefore, he was wondering why the Executive Committee overwhelmingly approved giving over a hundred thousand dollars to a nonprofit (Kings View) to compete with profit organizations, and the amount asked for by the Education & Business Alliance is not half that much.

**7.b. Employability Card Certificate Update (Don Gormly)** – Mr. Gormly noted the subcommittee had a good meeting with the principals. They discussed the mechanics of implementing the Employability Card, making it both beneficial to the emerging workforce and to the schools, and ways to deal with the fairness issue—trying to bypass individual likes and dislikes of a teacher when assessing a student.

Mr. Bergman and Mr. Gormly will meet to formulate a sample card and a marketing plan, and bring to the committee before making a presentation to the Executive Committee.

**8. Action/Workplan Review and Update of Progress** – The committee added another “How” to the workplan, 2.4.6 – “Promote seeking post-secondary training and education.” The two “Hows” listed below were modified as follows:

- a. 2.4.4 – Should read “...high school diploma, learning English language, and other ...”
- b. 2.4.5 – Should read “...Skill certificate, and Employability Card to lift the ...”

**9. Other Comments** – Ms. Roberds noted a company in Merced called Olde World Corporation, who manufactures display cases for stores, asked the Adult School to provide courses for their workers to learn English—they now teach a class 2 days a week. The owners of the company are paying for the employees to improve their English language, and based on the instructor’s assessment, the company will monetarily reward those employees who are achieving growth in the English language. This is a terrific model of an employer promoting education.

**10. Adjourn** – **M/S/C Smith/Bergman** to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Devilla D. Knight.