

TO: Workforce Investment Board

DATE: 11/13/08

FROM: WIB Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: Technology-Based Learning – Cardoza Letter of Support

PROPOSED MOTION(S): For Information Only

DISCUSSION: A letter has been sent to Congressman Cardoza’s office requesting his support for a proposal submitted to the Department of Labor. Merced County has submitted a grant proposal to the Department of Labor (DOL) to support manufacturers in their expansion and skills attainment efforts for their workers. The collaborative consists of 17 local manufacturers, Merced College and the Workforce Investment Board, and has requested \$500,000 for a Technology-Based Learning grant.

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 at the One-Stop, and will be directly connected to the Manufacturers Skills Standards Certificate (MSSC). A large number of manufacturers have expressed interest in this grant opportunity and are willing to release their employees (with pay) to take part in this incumbent worker training.

ATTACHMENT(S):

Congressman Cardoza TBL Support Letter



**WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT BOARD**
MERCED COUNTY

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September 23, 2008

The Honorable Dennis Cardoza
435 Cannon Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cardoza:

Support for Merced County Industrial Automations Project Collaborative

This letter is to notice you that Merced County has submitted a grant proposal to the Department of Labor (DOL) to support manufacturers in their expansion and skills attainment efforts for their workers. The collaborative consists of 17 local manufacturers, Merced College and the Workforce Investment Board and have requested \$500,000 for a Technology-Based Learning grant.

The economic strength of our communities largely depends on the availability of a highly skilled and trained workforce. Through this grant we will be able to provide workers with the skills employers need and have requested for a strong economy.

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. 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.

We strongly urge your support for this Technology-Based Learning Grant being offered by the DOL to seek an improved investment in the Nation and California’s workers and business. Your support will assist in building a stronger economy, one built on the skills of the American workforce.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Andrea T. Baker
Executive Director