

**TO: Workforce Investment Board (WIB)**

**DATE: 07/08/10**

**FROM: Executive Committee**

**For Discussion**

**For Action**

**For Information**

**SUBJECT: Business Education Alliance of Merced County (BEAM) contract with Merced County Office of Education (MCOE)**

**PROPOSED MOTION(S):** That the WIB ratify the Executive Committee's recommendation from the June 7, 2010 meeting to approve funding BEAM to provide assistance within Merced County to conduct research, form collaborations between business and education, map, design, and implement a system for adopting a work skills assessment and certification program to prepare and certify a local workforce to fit the business needs of Merced County for an amount not to exceed \$60,000, direct staff to negotiate contract, and forward to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

**DISCUSSION:** BEAM is a partnership of committed business, education, government, and community leaders who support education, workforce development, and economic growth in Merced County. The Alliance mission is to support the child's journey from preschool to productivity, building an educated community, a qualified workforce and a strong local economy. BEAM has been endorsed by the WIB and has WIB membership.

The MCOE requested funding for BEAM for an amount not to exceed \$60,000, for the period July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Key research and analysis will be conducted to determine if there are a multitude of collaborations between businesses and various county organizations, providers and educators that can be consolidated. Another project will be to plan and design a county-wide skills certification for high school students, adults and dislocated workers that will be supported by education and the business community.

The funding will be utilized to compensate salaries and benefits, office supplies, convening costs, office machines usage, and travel to accomplish the collaboration between business, education and workforce development.

**ATTACHMENT(S):** None