

MERCED COUNTY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD

April 13, 2001

Mr. Robert Schallig
California Department of Education
Office of Workforce Development, Policy and Interagency Relations
660 J Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Schallig,

The Merced County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) and its Youth Council enthusiastically endorse Merced County Office of Education's (MCOE) Request for Application for Demonstration Projects for Local Education Agencies. Their proposal to provide supplemental funds for the expansion and comprehensive delivery of Project Based Learning (PBL) will have both immediate and long lasting, positive impacts on our Merced County youth.

We in Merced have chosen to not limit our youth focus to just WIA youth ages 14 through 21, but to start building life and working skills capacity from kindergarten through adulthood. The Project Based Learning will do just that.

All of us on the WIB are excited about PBL, most especially those educators and employers who are integral members of the Youth Council. Already, both employers and educators have attended a PBL conference and are eager to help create projects that interface with the local business community. Because of the size and scope of this project, we are positive that large numbers of WIA eligible youth will be provided with academic and work skills to help make them a viable part of Merced County's future.

Lastly, one of our Youth Council's goals is to develop an Employability Certificate. This funding will accelerate the process through allocations of PBL time and money to the WIB's Education/Employer Committee. It is MCOE's goal to have students as a part of this process and this is heartily endorsed by the WIB.

In summary, Merced County Office of Education has a winner with its Project Based Learning Demonstration Project. We in the Merced County Workforce Investment Board applaud their efforts and urge you to favorably consider their application.

Sincerely,

Steve Tinetti
Chair, Workforce Investment Board