

TO: Youth Council

DATE: 05/12/2004

FROM: Youth Council Staff

For Action

For Information

For Discussion

SUBJECT: P-16 Council Member

PROPOSED MOTION(S): That the Youth Council select a member to monitor and/or be a member of the P-16 Council, and report periodically to the Youth Council on the P-16 Council's progress.

DISCUSSION: The P-16 Council was created as a result of the Merced County Economic Development Strategic Plan. The plan was accepted by the Workforce Investment Board on March 27, 2004. The P-16 Council is presently addressing educational issues in Merced County.

The Merced County Economic Development Strategic Plan has the following goal concerning youth and education:

- Partner with schools to place a high priority on preparing students for educational and job achievement—science, math, technology, critical thinking, teamwork as well as learning the relevancy between school achievement and future opportunities.

The Strategic Plan also recommended the following initiatives:

- Create a Collaborative Partner Network— education, workforce, economic development, cities and county working together to leverage resources, achieve efficiencies, focus services, implement the strategic plan and accomplish common goals.
- Create an Education Achievement Agenda—change the education paradigm in Merced County.

The Strategic Plan also listed Merced County Education Strengths and Weaknesses:

- Strength—Merced College offers applied technology programs for youth and adult.
- Strength—Merced County schools are increasing their application of technology in schools.
- Strength—Schoolteachers and administrators are experienced and qualified.
- Weakness—K-12 students do not score well on standardized tests, and high school graduation rates are generally below the state average.
- Weakness—Youth are not learning the skills needed to get and keep a good job (soft and hard skills).
- There isn't a strong collaboration between employers and schools and colleges to provide opportunities for technical training and skill building of youth and adults.