

**Workforce Investment Board**  
**Youth Council Meeting**  
**UC Cooperative Extension, 2145 Wardrobe Avenue, Merced, CA**  
**November 17, 2001, 9:00 a.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**

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**Members Present:** Bob Bittner, Mary Cavazos, Claudia Corchado, Troy Fox, Kathy Hassett, Mary Jane Hawkes, Jerry Johnson, Jeff Knapp, Rebecca Lincoln, Noah P. Lor, Nellie McGarry (Chair), Jim Newberry, Jack Page, Mayra Ramirez, Mike Smith, Rev. Craig E. White, Sr.

**Members Absent:** Barbara Ayers, Lorena Briano, Suzannah Campbell, Daryl Dupree, Evelyn Eagleton, Renisse Ferrario, Robert Gilbert Jr., Robert Harmon, Henry Ildefonso, Cynthia Kelly-Reponte, Charlie Lambert, Steve Lundgren, Richard Mahacek, Marie Nelson, Suzanne Nuñez, Michael Parker, Ralph Vigil, Jean Weaver,

**PITD Staff Present:** Andrea Baker, Dave Davis, Marta Echevarria, Dick Skarke

**Others Present:** Micki Archuleta

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**1. Call to Order/Roll Call** – The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. and roll call was taken.

**2. Approval of Agenda** – Several topic items were added to the agenda:

- a. Employability Card topic was added as item 6b,
- b. A discussion on Merced Net/“Getting into Education” article was added as item 6c,
- c. “Voices of Diversity” magazine was added as item 6d.

The Youth Council did not have a quorum and could not formally approve the agenda.

**3. Approval of Minutes** – Same as above.

**4. Public Opportunity to Speak** – None

**5. Announcements:**

- a. Bob Bittner noted the article in the Merced Sun-Star regarding teenage pregnancy.
- b. Claudia Corchado announced the California Health Collaborative on Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program was awarded a small grant to promote anti-teen pregnancy youth conferences. The first is expected to take place in May 2002.
- c. Andrea Baker announced the Youth Council has been awarded an additional youth allocation totaling about \$50,000.
- d. Dave Davis mentioned a Modesto Bee article on Point Guard Leadership Institute holding a conference for over 100 youth and spending a lot of money on leadership building. Dave

wanted members to know they are doing an exceptionally well job of saving money by finding economical ways of doing similar projects.

- e. Mary Jane Hawkes confirmed that the Aviation Challenge Center has closed due to economic hardships. New arrangements will be made to house those attending the youth conference planned for March 2002. Staff has contacted other sources for ideal locations and will inform members accordingly on housing and catering arrangements for the conference. Mary Jane also noted that the Challenger Learning Center and the Science and Technology Center are both still open and will not be affected.

## 6. Agenda Items:

- a. **Application for Membership (Cecilia Jimenez)** – The agenda item was tabled for the next Youth Council meeting.
- b. **Employability Card** – An informational packet was distributed to members regarding the WIB’s Education and Employers Committee idea for an employability card for high school students. This card will be a pre-screening tool to be used by businesses when selecting high school students for employment. Youth holders of this card will verify that they have met minimum levels of competency skills that are considered important for employment, as well as meet other set standards in order to carry the card. The student’s employability skills identified for the Merced County Employability Card are:
  - 1) 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) – in overall subjects,
  - 2) Regular Attendance – zero unexcused absences and three (3) or fewer excused absences over the previous semester,
  - 3) Works Well With Others – must be able to get along with fellow students and adults,
  - 4) Punctuality – must have three (3) or fewer tardies over the previous semester, and
  - 5) Completion of all Assigned Tasks – must complete all assigned tasks required by the instructor.

The Employability Card is currently being marketed and will be implemented by all high school students at the beginning of the next school year in June 2002.

- c. **Merced Net/“Getting Into Education”** – The Chair distributed an *American Way* article regarding innovative ways for youth to learn advanced technological skills through the use of computers. The article relates various companies pilot program’s approach to building networking academies that teach youth computer and other high tech skills. The Chair also mentioned that a representative of Merced Net is interested in proposing a computer pilot program locally. Members talked about where to find funding sources for this type of project. The Chair noted Merced Net would provide computers to low-income families at a reasonable monthly price, as well as on-line support and help with setting up the computers. One suggestion was to house this project in an apartment building where resources could be combined for those who could not pay the monthly amount and could otherwise not afford this type of program. The Chair noted Housing Authority of Merced County would be a likely choice for this project. It was suggested the Plato Labs could be used for such programs provided it was suitably staffed. It was also suggested that members consider other alternatives in order to discuss more options at a future meeting.

- d. **“Voices of Diversity”** – Mayra Ramirez presented members with the first edition of the youth magazine “Voices of Diversity”. For each new edition, the editor selects 2 articles to be published. The editor chose Mayra’s entry essay as one of the articles for the first edition. You can view excerpts from the magazine at: <http://www.nyec.org/racism.htm>. Mayra expects the group will reunite often in order to keep writing for this magazine.

## 7. **Committee Chair Reports:**

- a. **Operations Committee (Kathy Hassett)** – Members were notified that the Funds Request package was approved at the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) meeting on 11/14/01.
- b. **Leadership/Marketing Committee (Claudia Corchado)** – The committee Chair discussed the progress of the Youth Resource Directory. She noted the committee is currently discussing the amount of copies that will be made of the directory, and to whom they should be distributed. They are also considering renaming the directory before it becomes published, working on a process to evaluate membership to the Youth Council, and prioritizing the committee’s goals and objectives. It was also noted the WIB is currently in the process of selecting their logo as well as the revamped Youth Council logo. The three (3) final youth logo selections were made available to Youth Council members.
- c. **Planning and Quality Assurance Committee (Jerry Johnson)** – The committee is currently working on ideas to begin developing a website. Members were informed of Fresno County’s similar efforts to conduct asset mapping at an exorbitant amount as compared to this Council’s costs of producing an asset mapping and gap analysis data report. The committee is also working on a second survey directed towards Merced County Office of Education ROP students that will help to either validate or discredit the first survey results.
- d. **Outreach and Education Committee** – No new information was given.

**8. Chair’s Comments** – It was recommended the Youth Council change its meeting time to facilitate youth who would like to become members of the Youth Council. Currently, the meeting time conflicts with youth’s school schedule.

**9. Other Business** – None

**10. Date, Time and Location of Next Youth Council Meeting** – The next Youth Council meeting is 01/11/02, in the UC Cooperative Extension Classroom (2145 W. Wardrobe Avenue, Merced).

**11. Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Marta Echevarria