



NEWS RELEASE

Workforce Development Board

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Wells Fargo invests \$100,000 to Inland Empire non-profit organizations to bolster workforce development and job creation: San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board on of two non-profits chosen



\$1.7 million in Economic Opportunity grants awarded to programs supporting individuals and small business owners

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (March 19, 2014) – Wells Fargo & Company announced today that it will invest \$100,000 in Inland Empire organizations and programs that support workforce development and job creation. This funding is part of \$1.7 million in grants Wells Fargo plans to give California, Washington, Oregon and Alaska. As part of this investment, the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board will receive \$50,000 towards helping residents obtain new skills and find employment.

“We are delighted to receive this grant, which will fund vocational training for 15 individuals, including On-the-Job Training, career counseling and job placement,” said Sandy Harmsen, Executive Director of the County of San Bernardino Workforce Investment Board.

Wells Fargo & Company’s grant will target unemployed veterans, low-income residents, long-term unemployed and those in transitory living situations.

The Workforce Investment Board has been providing assistance to job seekers for many years. One resident who benefited from a WIB training program is Willie Collins. Despite working for 18 years as a driver, Willie’s Class ‘A’ license expired while he was on leave for disability and he was then unable to find a job.

The WIB paid for his commercial truck driving training, provided resume assistance and helped him find a job making \$25.00 an hour. “I am so grateful for the assistance I received. I would never have been able to afford the training on my own. Now, I have a job I love and am able to earn a good living,” said Willie.

San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chair Janice Rutherford said the Wells Fargo grant will help residents find employment in occupations that are seeing an increase in demand across the region.

“Participants will receive a full complement of employment services. In addition to earning a business-recognized certificate, individuals will get career assessment and planning assistance, and each one will be assigned a personal advisor to help them with resume writing, interview techniques, job searches and job placement.”

The Riverside Community College Foundation’s TriTech Small Business Development Center was also named a \$50,000 Wells Fargo Inland Empire grant recipient.

"Wells Fargo understands the importance of workforce development and helping create sustainable communities that have been hard hit with unemployment," said Celia Lanning, Inland Empire Regional President. "These grants will go a long way to help strengthen and reinforce the efforts of these organizations as they focus on creating jobs in our communities."

Wells Fargo stated that award recipients were chosen in both urban and rural locations within each state based on their support for individual job seekers, the self-employed and small business owners. Large cities and urban areas with the highest levels of unemployment as measured by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics were selected. Urban organizations were selected in the following cities:

- Oakland, San Jose, Fresno, Sacramento, Los Angeles, San Francisco, San Diego, Anaheim-Santa Ana and Riverside-San Bernardino, California
- Seattle, Washington
- Portland, Oregon
- Anchorage, Alaska

Rural organizations were selected in each of the four states with the stipulation that 75 percent or more of the grant must benefit programs directly serving rural communities.

In 2013, Wells Fargo invested \$275.5 million in grants to 18,500 nonprofits, and team members contributed more than 1.69 million volunteer hours around the country. In the Inland Empire, Wells Fargo invested \$2.55 million to 228 schools and non-profits. For more information, please visit: www.wellsfargo.com/about/csr.

About Wells Fargo

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