



NEWS RELEASE

Workforce Development Board

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Workforce Development is key to High Desert's future

By Jonathan Weldy

Midge Nicosia runs the Victor Valley Community Services Council on a tight budget. It's a fact of life in the nonprofit world, and makes the arduous process of recruiting qualified employees even more difficult.

Help is available through the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board (WDB). The WDB is dedicated to assisting job seekers find and secure high-quality jobs while helping employers hire and retain skilled workers. WDB also partners with a variety of service providers to provide training and placement assistance.

The Community Services Council can attest to this, having filled a number of critical staffing needs over the years, while also receiving financial reimbursements, through the WDB's On-the-Job (OJT) assistance.

"Each person received through the program has gone on to flourish," Nicosia, the Council's executive director, said during a recent presentation to the board. "Nonprofits have a very small budget. To have this available is very helpful."

OJT is one of many programs and services provided by the Workforce Development Board, which works closely with the business community to better understand their needs while building an employment base they can tap into efficiently and effectively.

Employers of all kinds – from large corporations to small businesses to nonprofits – are finding the WDB to be a valuable resource for hiring well-trained, high-quality employees. The WDB also provides free training and support in areas such as human relations and marketing.

The WDB starts at the source – the businesses themselves. During the past year, WDB staff contacted 7,901 companies and conducted labor market surveys with 2,396 businesses. Our efforts with at-risk businesses alone during the past year resulted in 323 saved jobs, 76 new ones, \$699,000 in cost savings and more than \$10.5 million in increased revenues. We also helped 1,290 laid-off workers find employment.

All of this is in direct alignment with our Countywide Vision, a key element of which is a "vibrant economy with a skilled workforce that attracts employers who seize the opportunities presented by the county's unique advantages and provide the jobs that



create countywide prosperity.”

Meeting the workforce needs for employers is essential to our future – in the High Desert and throughout San Bernardino County.

A focused, collaborative workforce development system is essential to making that happen.

Jonathan Weldy is President of Meridian Land Development Co. in Apple Valley and a member of the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board.

About the Workforce Development Board of San Bernardino County

The San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board (WDB) is comprised of private business representatives and public partners appointed by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. The WDB strives to strengthen the skills of the County’s workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations. The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors is committed to providing county resources, which generate jobs and investment in line with the [Countywide Vision](#).

The Workforce Development Board, through the San Bernardino County Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department, operates the San Bernardino County’s three America’s Job Centers of California (AJCC). The AJCCs provide individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life. The AJCCs also support and provide services to the County’s businesses, including employee recruitment and business retention programs.

Employers and job seekers who are interested in the Workforce Development Board programs may call: (800) 451-JOBS or visit www.csb-win.org. Also follow us on: Facebook www.facebook.com/SBWIB; Twitter @InlandEmpireJob; and YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/SBCountyWIB>.