



# NEWS RELEASE

## Workforce Development Board

**CONTACT:**

Sandy Harmsen  
Executive Director  
909-387-9862

[sharmsen@wdd.sbcounty.gov](mailto:sharmsen@wdd.sbcounty.gov)

August 4, 2016

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### Workforce development is key to San Bernardino County’s future

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**By Tony Myrell**

Christina Mendiola wanted to share her story. It wasn’t an easy one to tell – of single motherhood as a teen, struggling to make ends meet while battling personal problems that would land her in the hospital and a crisis center.

Now 22, Christina is preparing for a fall term of college classes – healthy, happy and with a new sense of confidence that has changed her life.

The difference maker, she says, was the CalWORKs Youth Employment Program (CYEP), which provides low-income youth with work experience. The San Bernardino County Workforce Development Department (WDD) partners with the Transitional Assistance Department in managing the program, which has helped hundreds of young people in the county find jobs and, in Christina’s case, a career track as a medical assistant.

“I’m so thankful for this program,” she said, sharing her story during a recent meeting with the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board. “It changes lives, and I’m a witness. When I was ready to give up, I had my support group behind me, pushing me to the right path.”

The Workforce Development Board and our staff at the WDD are dedicated to giving people such as Christina a chance for a better future while building a strong, diverse economy with a trained and skilled workforce.

We work closely with businesses to help meet their needs, developing partnerships with other agencies and offering training and assistance to companies and job seekers.

In this last year alone, the workforce development team contacted 7,901 businesses, conducted labor market surveys with 2,396 businesses and helped 1,290 laid-off workers find employment.

For businesses at risk of closure, we provided training and expertise to help them improve productivity, reduce costs and operate more efficiently – resulting in 323 saved jobs, 76 new ones, \$699,000 in cost savings and over \$10.5 million in increased revenues during the 12 months.

Robust growth is occurring in a number of key business categories, such as logistics and health care. Small businesses are being created in record numbers. The county's unemployment rate has steadily declined, from 8.1 percent in June 2014 to 6.4 percent in June 2016. All of this is helping San Bernardino County seize an extraordinary opportunity.

In simplest terms, our county economy is on the move.

A focused, collaborative workforce development program is essential to keeping it that way.

*Tony Myrell is President and Chief Executive Officer of Premier Medical Transportation in Colton and Chair of the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board. Myrell recently was appointed to the National Association of Workforce Boards.*

### **About the Workforce Development Board of San Bernardino County**

The Workforce Development Board of San Bernardino County (WDB) is comprised of private business representatives and public partners appointed by the County of San Bernardino 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 County of San Bernardino 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 County of San Bernardino's Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department, operates the County of San Bernardino'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](http://www.csb-win.org). Also follow us on: Facebook [www.facebook.com/SBWIB](http://www.facebook.com/SBWIB); Twitter [@InlandEmpireJob](https://twitter.com/InlandEmpireJob); and YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/SBCountyWIB>.