



NEWS RELEASE

Workforce Development Board

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October 26, 2017

High Desert Job Fair connect job seekers with businesses

More than 650 job seekers poured into the San Bernardino County Fair Grounds in Victorville on Wednesday in what organizers are calling the most successful High Desert Regional Job Fair to date.

Wednesday's event attracted 64 employers from every key industry sector in the region, including manufacturing, construction, logistics, and healthcare. Employers in attendance included Church and Dwight Company Inc., Heritage Victor Valley Medical Group, International Aerospace Coatings, Beck Oil and Mountain Ski Resort.

These high demand industry sectors alone are expected to add 65,000 new jobs in the Inland Empire in the coming decade; this represents the extraordinary opportunity that exist in one of the nation's fastest-growing population and employment centers. With nearly 4.5 million people, the Inland Empire is now the 13th largest metropolitan statistical area in the country.

"Connecting businesses to a skilled workforce is critical to the development of the County," said Reg Javier, San Bernardino County's Deputy Executive Officer of Workforce & Economic Development. "Job fairs such as these are a great place for employers to establish their talent pools in which to draw. The WDB is proud of the work being done day in and day out in our America's Job Centers of California (AJCCs)."

The WDB operates three AJCCs in the County – in San Bernardino, Rancho Cucamonga and the High Desert AJCC in Victorville. The centers provide job training, workshops for job seekers and businesses, and placement and recruitment assistance.

Wednesday's job fair was sponsored by the WDB and the High Desert AJCC, in partnership with the cities of Adelanto, Hesperia and Victorville, and local Chambers of Commerce. Full results won't be known for a few weeks, but interviews were being scheduled throughout the day.

Leo Garcia, a recent Mechanical Engineering graduate of University of California, Merced said he found the job fair to be very informative and is looking forward to following up with prospective employers like CEMEX. "This job fair really opened my eyes to the different opportunities available to me here in our region. I'm really looking forward to calling CEMEX tomorrow and hopefully scheduling an interview."

"The Workforce Development Board is excited for the economic growth in the coming years," said Tony Myrell, Chairman of the WDB. "For businesses seeking a highly skilled and highly qualified workforce, events like these are invaluable."

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About the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board

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, offers a variety of programs designed to help youth and adults identify career pathways and get the appropriate training and skills. Programs funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provide eligible youth, ages 16 to 24, access to a variety of career and educational services designed to help enhance job skills, develop leadership qualities, explore career options, participate in adult and peer mentoring opportunities, and take advantage of work experiences. In addition, the WDB operates 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.sbcounty.gov/workforce. Also follow us on: Facebook www.facebook.com/SBCountyWDB; Twitter @InlandEmpireJob; LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sanbernardinocountywdb>; and YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/SBCountyWIB>.