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Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County appoints new board members

Workforce Investment Board grows as it puts federal stimulus dollars to work throughout the county to train residents and support businesses

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (June 1, 2009) -- The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County announced the addition of Dr. Audrey Mathews and Antonio Myrell, appointed by County Supervisor Josie Gonzales, Fifth District. The Workforce Investment Board is a public-private volunteer board that oversees the use of federal dollars to train the local workforce and support the county's employers.

"We appoint members who reflect our business community, and are driven to help the county develop projects that create jobs and sustain businesses," said Supervisor Josie Gonzales. "The board's ability to help our residents and businesses at a time of great need can be attributed to the talented members who volunteer their time and support."

The Workforce Investment Board partners with the county's largest industry sectors to identify workforce needs, create training programs, and prepare residents to work in those industries. It also provides job placement, job search, and career counseling services at the county's three Employment Resource Centers.

"We are pleased to draw board members who share our vision to build a strong, competitive workforce," said Sandy Harmsen, executive director of the Workforce Investment Board. "Our appointed educators, business owners and industry leaders will provide great direction and oversight to meet workforce needs and help move the county toward economic recovery."

Dr. Mathews is a professor emerita at California State University, San Bernardino in the College of Business and Public Administration, and a member of the San Bernardino County Planning Commission, representing the Fifth District. She has more than 30 years of experience in local and state government, serving as a budget director, planning commissioner and accounting consultant. She is a past Deputy Director for the Office of the Budget for the District of Columbia.

Myrell is the owner and president of Premier Medical Transportation, Inc., provider of non-emergent medical transportation based in Colton. He has more than 30 years of the experience in the health care field and has owned several successful medical companies. He is a board member for the Colton Chamber of Commerce, and the vice president of the California Association of Medical Product Suppliers.

About the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board is a volunteer board comprised of private business representatives and public partners appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. It strives to create a strong, vibrant economy by developing the county's workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations.

Through the county's Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department, the Workforce Investment Board operates the county's Employment Resource Centers which provide individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life. It also operates the county's Business Resource Centers, which provide services and support to the county's businesses including employee recruitment.

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