



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Sandy Harmsen, 909.387.9862

Jessica McLeish, 951.805.1236

Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County honored for ingenuity in program planning

*Railroad dispatch training program and workforce development model honored
with Achievement Awards*

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (July 30, 2009)—The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County is being honored with two Achievement Awards from the National Association of Counties for their work in developing economical, innovative programs targeted to assist local residents in building necessary skills and education to secure employment.

The first award recognized the county for a training program developed to assist individuals in attaining employment as railroad dispatchers with Burlington Northern Santa Fe leading to the hire of 14 individuals at a starting salary of \$50,000 a year.

A second Achievement Award was given to the county for building training curriculums using the skills of Workforce Development Department employees to serve the training needs of other county departments and their clients. This approach has allowed the Workforce Development Department to bring in revenue through broadening the use of its existing programs and staff. The Workforce Development Department case managers completed a Career Counselor Certificate Program through Chaffey College to accommodate the employment and training needs of the county.

“Our highest priority is to assist residents by providing quality training that will lead to employment in fields that are hiring locally,” said Sandy Harmsen, executive director of the Workforce Investment Board. “We are very pleased to be recognized for the programs that are making a difference in our community.”

The National Association of Counties provides assistance to 3,066 counties and is the only national organization that represents county governments at the federal level.

More-

National Association of Counties Awards

Page 2 of 2

About the Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County

The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County is 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.

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

###