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**Department of Labor recognizes San Bernardino County
Workforce Investment Board's Summer Youth Employment
Program as best practice**

Board is highlighted in national best practice webinar

San Bernardino, Calif. (October 1, 2009) – The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County was recently recognized by the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration for administering an effective Summer Youth Employment Program.

The Workforce Investment Board participated in a national best practice webinar as a feature example demonstrating for other workforce investment areas its model and methods of transitioning program participants into year round youth and adult WIA services. San Bernardino County was one of three boards from across the country to be highlighted for its successes. More than 500 people, including representatives from each state, attended the webinar.

San Bernardino County was selected for its strategic effort to bring older youth into the county's high demand industries. The Workforce Investment Board has identified aviation, health care, advanced manufacturing, transportation and green technologies as the largest industries in the county that seek a skilled workforce. It is currently using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to pay for local residents to take training courses that will lead to employment in one of these industries.

"There are still companies in our county's largest industries that cannot find enough trained and skilled workers to replace their aging workforce," said Sandy Harmsen, executive director of the Workforce Investment Board. "Our board is working to make sure that the county residents can access the training and support dollars that are available to them to build a successful career path in one of these industries."

In running the Summer Youth Employment Program, the Workforce Investment Board focused on exposing the county's young people to its demand industries and transition the older youth in jobs in these sectors. This gave youth the opportunity to pursue a career pathway that will lead to future employment within the county.

The Workforce Investment Board identified youth enrolled in training courses throughout the county and placed them with correlating worksites. For example, several students participating in an auto mechanics program at Ontario High School were placed in jobs with local dealerships at the Ontario Auto Center to provide repair and maintenance services. Of those students, nine were hired on full time.

The Workforce Investment Board through its Summer Youth Employment Program successfully placed 1,834 of the county's young people in jobs throughout the county, using federal stimulus funding to pay for their wages. Many of these young people would have missed out on this important work experience without this program.

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.

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