

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



ACTION ITEM # 1.5

SUBMITTAL DATE: February 17, 2010

SUBJECT: The Press Enterprise Newspapers in Education Program (NIE) Public Outreach

RECOMMENDATION: That the Workforce Investment Board (WIB) Executive Committee approve the \$250 public outreach effort to support the dissemination of the Press Enterprise newspaper to Riverside County secondary schools to improve student reading skills.

BACKGROUND:

The WIB has provided support of NIE to ensure that Riverside County elementary schools' students from Kindergarten through the 6th grade have the opportunity to sharpen their reading skills by having access to newspapers in the classroom. The students receive their own personal newspaper; teachers receive lesson plans and other valuable teaching tools to teach an array of subjects such as reading, math, science, writing and geography. Last year, two Riverside County elementary school students' benefited from the WIB's generosity. The benefit to students was that 8 to 9 of their schools' classrooms used the newspapers at least 10 times a semester (9-week period).

Riverside County elementary school students will have the opportunity to improve their literacy skills through up-to-date real world sources. NIE students show tremendous improvement in standardized testing based on their exposure to the newspaper. Additionally, the WIB's support of this program will also meet its goal to "...close the skills gap for businesses and workers..." by preparing the future workforce in their early years of school.

<p>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</p> <p>Date: February 18, 2008 Approval: Yes/No</p>	<p>BOARD OF SUPERVISORS CONCURRENCE</p> <p>Required: Yes/No</p>
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