

**Worknet Leadership Team**  
**Merced County Office of Education-Newbold Room**  
**632 W. 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced, CA**  
**Tuesday, February 9, 2010, 1:00-2:30 p.m.**  
**Meeting Minutes**



[www.co.merced.ca.us/wi/wlt/wlt.html](http://www.co.merced.ca.us/wi/wlt/wlt.html)  
[www.co.merced.ca.us/wi/worknet/worknet.html](http://www.co.merced.ca.us/wi/worknet/worknet.html)

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**Members Present:** Debbie Glass, Heidi Hall (Co-Chair), Christine Kulina, Joanne Presnell, Kurt Silva (Co-Chair)

**Members Absent:** Lori Gomes, Terry Nichols, Alfonse Peterson, Chris Vitelli, Dawn Yesitis

**Others Present:** Michelle Allison, Jessica Garibay, Mary Mendoza, Ana Muniz-Laguna, Jesse Villa,

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1. **Call to Order:** Mr. Kurt Silva, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. A sign in sheet was used in lieu of roll call. Self introductions were made.
2. **Approve Minutes (January 12, 2010):** The Chair asked for approval of the last minutes. It was *M/S/C Hall/Kulina* to approve the January 12, 2010 minutes with the following corrections, item 3a, "C4 Yourself Services", second sentence, same paragraph, should read, "C/IV" is the automated system.
3. **Building Partnerships:**
  - a. **Strategic Plan:** Ms. Hall reiterated the Strategic Plan's 1<sup>st</sup> Goal which is to Engage other Partners. Ms. Hall received contact information from staff for UC Merced who showed interest in the Partnership. Recruitment of different Partners is still needed. Ms. Michelle Allison will contact the Mental Health Department (Wellness Center), the State Parolee, the United Way, Social Security Office, and various Faith Based Organizations. Ms. Hall will contact Starbucks, the Merced County Library, and AARP. Ms. Debbie Glass will contact the Lao Family. The Chair assigned Mr. Chris Vitelli, who was not present, to contact UC Merced. There will be a Worknet Leadership Luncheon on April 13, 2010 from 12:00-2:00pm, to introduce potential new partners. Please RSVP to Ms. Ana Muniz-Laguna at 209-724-2057 by Monday April 5, 2010.
  - b. **Worknet Partner Meeting:** Wednesday, February 24, 2010 at 10:30 a.m., Worknet, 1200 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Merced.
  - c. **Partner Presentation (MAS):** Ms. Debbie Glass gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Merced Adult School Program. MAS is part of the Merced Union High School District. The program served 2,829 students, most were primarily female with 216 being concurrent high school students needing to make up units for High School graduation. The majority of the students are between 30 to 60 years old, but students of all ages are served, including their oldest student who is 87. They serve many people with diverse demographics. The classes taught at MAS are mainly Basic Skills Training, which includes basic reading, writing and math, as well as ESL, and are taught by credentialed teachers. Standardized testing, GED curriculum, and High School Diploma with exit exam tests are also provided. Computer Labs are available for those who need additional computer skills. MAS works in partnership with other systems such as Dept. of WI/Worknet, CalWorks, and

the Department of Rehabilitation. Funding for MAS program recently became available for the use of the School District's K-12 program.

**4. Customer Focus:**

- a. Customer Service Highlights:** Ms. Michelle Allison gave a report on the Customer Service & Satisfaction Report for all locations.
- b. VITA update:** Ms. Hall noted HSA's Vita Program is up and running. Customers can call (209) 385-3000x5987 to schedule an appointment, or walk-ins are welcome at the Employment and Training office at the Human Services building, M-F between 8-5, 2115 Wardrobe Ave. Fliers have been sent to the community advertising this service. Ms. Hall noted this program is for low income families who need help with basic tax form preparation. Ms. Hall will check if this service is offered in Spanish.
- c. Success Stories:** Ms. Mary Mendoza introduced Mr. Jesse Villa as the new Supervisor for the Merced Employment Development Department office. Mr. Villa will be representing the Employment Development Department at future Worknet Leadership meetings.

Ms. Joanne Presnell noted the Virtual One Stop System (VOS) will be up and running in mid-March 2010. In addition there will be an ad in the paper advertising training for Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) for Adults, Dislocated and Incumbent workers. Ms. Presnell also reported that Dept. of WI/Worknet was granted State funding for two Disability Navigator positions, one for Merced and one for Los Banos. These positions will work with organizations that employ, train, or work directly with disabled individuals and help partner advocacy for this group. The Department also received a Tri-County Veterans Grant, in partnership with Madera, Stanislaus and Merced to provide services to 22 Veterans.

Mr. Kurt Silva noted that Ms. Nai Saechao, who was an intermittent employee with Employment Development Department, has a fulltime position with the Human Services Department.

Ms. Christine Kulina noted Job Corps is having a lot of applicants and all centers are close to full capacity. Due to the high demand, the admissions process is taking longer and wait times are between 9 months to 1 year in some centers.

Ms. Allison noted one group in the RN/LVN program has graduated and 33 more have enrolled in the program. Regarding the State Parolee program, Ms. Allison noted an increase in participation. Furthermore, Ms. Allison reported that both clients and staff will soon be able to get Spanish lessons via the Rosetta Stone software. She is now an accredited National Certified Workforce Professional II, by the Dynamic Works Institute.

Ms. Glass informed the group of Merced Adult School's student of the month, Ms. Debbie Banda, who previously worked at Quebecor for 20 years and is currently doing very well training under the Hemodialysis program.

- d. Elevate America update:** Ms. Allison noted Merced received 2,250 vouchers for the Microsoft program. Three types of vouchers will be available, General Learning, IT, and Advanced. Once

given, they will need to be activated within 90 days of issuance. Certification will take place at one of the following certiports at Merced College, MCOE, and Worknet/Workforce Investment. The contact person for this program is Ms. Robin Redwine at (209) 724-2123 or email [Rredwine@co.merced.ca.us](mailto:Rredwine@co.merced.ca.us).

5. **Next Scheduled Meeting – Date/Time of Meeting:** March 9, 2010, 1:00-2:30 p.m. Merced County Dept. of Education, J2 Room. 632 W. 13<sup>th</sup> St. Merced.
6. **Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.