



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CORPORATE TRAINING (EDCT)

Professional Development Center



Summary of Parolee Workforce Activities

by Robert Levesque

The Professional Development Center (PDC) of the San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD) received from the California State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) a three-year \$2.6 million dollar contract to coordinate workforce activities in collaboration with the San Bernardino Re-entry Initiative (CSRI) which operates a Day Reporting Center. The Center for Employment Opportunities (CEO) is an agency that specializes in coordinating transitional work for parolees; Caltrans selects the locations to which the work crews will be assigned.

This program places parolees (not early release probationers) on transitional work crew assignments, where they perform such tasks as litter and debris removal, create firebreaks, plant restoration, and storm damage repair, sixteen parolees are sent into the field each day. Participants receive \$10.00 per hour, are paid daily, and are allowed to work up to 32 hours per week.



To augment the transitional work experience received by the parolees and provide them with marketable job skills, the San Bernardino Community College District (SBCCD) applied for and received an Industry Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) grant from the State Chancellors Office and included two additional colleges, Chaffey and Barstow, as training sites. Additionally,

the application was enhanced by the commitment of the employers represented by the Inland Empire Manufacturer's Council as potential sites of employment for the graduating students.

This one-year grant will allow us to provide training in Advanced Manufacturing or Welding Applications to 60 long-term unemployed adults with barriers to employment. At least 35 of the participants will be parolees who have successfully participated in the CSRI re-entry program. SBCCD has provided forklift training to this parolee population and was keenly aware of the pent-up employer demand for skills training by this population.

Graduates of these training programs will receive certification through the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) or American Welding Society (AWS) processes and they will be prepared for entry-level jobs with advanced manufacturing and logistics companies. These certificates will provide participants with a nationally recognized measurement of their skills.