



**Board of Trustees**  
David A. Grant  
Mary L. Hornbuckle  
Jim Moreno  
Jerry Patterson  
Lorraine Prinsky, Ph.D.  
Joe Venegas III,  
Student Trustee  
Chancellor  
Andrew C. Jones, Ed.D.

**CONTACT:**  
Jim Moreno  
Board Vice President  
(714) 292-5580

September 22, 2011

## NEWS

### **Coast Community Colleges Board Adopts Resolution Supporting American Business and Commerce**

At its meeting of September 21, 2011, the Board of Trustees of the Coast Community Colleges adopted the Resolution in "Support of Purchasing Items from Firms that are Based in the United States and Who Employ Staff Within our Borders."

At a time when young adults face the lowest employment rate since the end of World War II, with just 55.3% of 16-29 year olds in the workforce, community colleges play a key role in supporting the economic recovery through their programs and their purchasing power. While community colleges are locally based, they allocate millions of Dollars in taxpayer monies each year for the purchase of goods and services on behalf of students, throughout the United States and world. Additionally, the California Community College system is the largest provider of workforce training in the state and in the nation, providing job training and career technical education programs provide support for new or displaced workers. The Coast Community College District enrolls over 35,000 students in vocational training programs.

The passage of the Board's resolution demonstrates a step that local, county, state and federal agencies can take to, when possible and economically viable, purchase goods and services from firms based in the United States and who employ local workers. With rising poverty, unemployment, and falling incomes, the action of the Coast Colleges Board of Trustees is one that can be emulated by all community colleges and public agencies.

Board Vice President Jim Moreno, author of the Board's resolution commented, "With the severe unemployment crisis we face, it is imperative that we support local firms and businesses that hire and train American workers in every way we can. This supports the students we train and the communities we serve. This principle holds firm whether we are training workers or ensuring that, as much as possible, tax dollars are spent on contracts with organizations that directly employ our workers."

Coast Board President Jerry Patterson stated, "Community colleges are about workforce development and as such, Coast Colleges should do all they can to support American owned businesses that hire and develop local staff, which is a win-win for our community, and overall economy."

###

*The Coast Community College District is comprised of Coastline Community College, headquartered in Fountain Valley, Golden West College in Huntington Beach, and Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. The District is a statewide leader in career and technical education and workforce development training programs.*