



Chairperson: Leslie Abasta

Director: Erick Serrato

Phone: (209) 724-2100

Fax: (209) 383-4039

Prospero Workforce Development Board Meeting

(Merced County Workforce Development Board)

Thursday, June 25, 2026; 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

(Lunch available at 11:45 a.m., meeting begins promptly at 12 Noon)

Meeting Location:

Prospero Job Center

635 Fairfield Dr.,

Merced, CA 95348

No virtual option available

Public Comment: If you wish to speak on a matter that does NOT appear on the agenda, you may do so during the Public Opportunity to speak. Please state your name and address for the record. Each speaker will be limited to three (3) minutes.

Agenda Items: Public opportunity to speak on items on the Workforce Development Board WDB Agenda will be heard following announcement of each section or subsection of the Agenda. In order that interested individuals have an opportunity to speak, any person addressing the WDB will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes per section or subsection of the Agenda.

Agendas and Minutes: All supporting documentation is available for public review at 1900 Airdrome Entry, Atwater, CA 95301 or visit our website at www.worknetmerced.com during regular business hours, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. (Except holidays). Any material related to an item on this Agenda submitted to the WDB, after distribution of the Agenda packet, is available for public inspection at 1900 Airdrome Entry, Atwater, CA 95301.

Reasonable Accommodations: Persons, who require accommodation for disability in order to review an agenda, or to participate in a meeting of the WDB per the American Disabilities Act (ADA), may obtain assistance by requesting such accommodation in writing addressed to Merced County Workforce Development Board Admin Office or telephonically calling (209) 724-2000 or Erick Serrato (209) 724-2041. Any such request for accommodation should be made at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting for which assistance is requested.

Quorum and Action: A quorum of the WDB shall consist of eleven (11) members. Actions by the committee shall require a majority vote (11 votes or more) of the total membership of the Committee. When there is no Quorum present at the scheduled start time of the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and agenda items will be discussed at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

All regular WDB meetings are held in-person quarterly on one Thursday of the month at 11:45 a.m. and locations are hosted at Industry/Employer/Training sites throughout the County.

Agenda		
1. Call to Order	<i>Roll Call of Members of the Board</i>	<i>Leslie Abasta, Chair</i>
2. Public Opportunity	<i>Public opportunity to speak on any matter of public interest within the Board's jurisdiction, including items on the Board's agenda</i>	<i>Leslie Abasta, Chair</i>
3. Host Welcome Statement	<i>Vallarta Supermarkets</i>	<i>Leslie Abasta, Chair</i>
4. Approval of Minutes	<i>Approval of WDB Meeting Minutes from March 26, 2026</i>	<i>Leslie Abasta, Chair</i>
5. Open Announcements	<i>Updates and announcements from members of the Workforce Development Board</i>	<i>Leslie Abasta, Chair</i>
6. Chair Comments	<i>Comments from the Chair of Prospero Workforce Development Board</i>	<i>Leslie Abasta, Chair</i>
7. Director's Comments	<i>Synopsis of Meeting Agenda, comment on non-Agenda items, legislative updates, and other areas of interest</i>	<i>Erick Serrato, Director</i>
Workforce System		
8. Prospero Brand and Job Center Transition	<i>Review of Prospero Brand Transition and Job Center Grand Opening Events on July 23, 2026</i>	<i>Erick Serrato, Director</i>
9. Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Proposed Budget	<i>Presentation of 2027 Budget (Fiscal Year July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027). Presentation to include impact of Federal formula allocations, facilities upgrades, proposed programming.</i> <i><u>Action:</u> Review and Approve 2027 Budget</i>	<i>Linda Gutierrez, Fiscal Manager</i>
Industry & Labor Market		
10. Local Board Determination of Non-ETPL Training: UC Merced Division of Professional and Continuing Education (PACE)	<i>Request to provide local approval of UC Merced Division of Professional and Continuing Education (PACE) for the 2026-2027 Program Year, with intent to make training available for incumbent human resources professionals and jobseekers.</i> <i><u>Action:</u> Approval of Non-ETPL Training</i>	<i>Erick Serrato, Director</i> <i>Michael Pierick, Director of Strategic Initiatives & Degree Completion Program</i>

11. Local Board Investment in Incumbent Worker Training (IWT) for Livingston Sensient operations	<i>Review of proposal by Alianza Workforce Strategy Partners for the training of current employees at Sensient (Livingston) in Vocational English-as-a-Second-Language and other relevant training.</i>	<i>Erick Serrato, Director Pedro Mendez, CEO/Owner Alianza Workforce Strategy Partners</i>
12. North Valley THRIVE Update	<i>Update on North Valley THRIVE Initiatives including progress on Catalyst investments and Cross Cutting Enabling Strategies.</i>	<i>Erick Serrato, Director</i>
Adult and Youth Career Services		
13. WIOA Youth Services Concept	<i>Presentation of proposed neighborhood-specific WIOA Youth Contracts to serve special local populations of youth. <u>Action:</u> Provide Staff with direction and support in further developing WIOA Youth Services Concept, including release of RFQ to interested partner organizations.</i>	<i>Valente Huitron, Program Manager</i>
Other Items for Discussion		
14. Adjournment	<i>Adjourning of the Workforce Development Board Meeting. Next Meeting: September 24, 2026 – TBD</i>	<i>Leslie Abasta, Chair</i>