

Fresno Business Council - Weekly Bulletin

Monday, December 18, 2000

Bulletin & Other Information Available on Website at fresnobc.org

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Message from the President—Dick Johanson

And the word for today is "transition". To all of those closely involved in our priceless democratic process of transferring elected authority (including our own Chief Executive Officer, Deborah Nankivell) we extend our best wishes for a smooth and effective change. To all of those who will undertake the tasks for which they campaigned so vigorously, we wish you well. Let the transition begin...

Virtual Collaboration Works—“The Challenge to Serve” Workshop Provided Tools & Insights For Elected Officials

In effective collaborations, a goal is set and all the partners contribute whatever they can to reach it. Last week the *Maddy Institute*, *Futures Institute* and *Business Council* sponsored a workshop for elected officials to share information and tools to help them be successful in their jobs and build on our foundation of public/private partnerships. The forum was made possible by a grant from the *James Irvine & William & Flora Hewlett Foundations* as part of their *California 2000 Project* and *Deloitte & Touche* provided the site. The *Kenneth L. Maddy Institute of Public Affairs* was created to provide a resource to elected officials and the community as we learn together how to make the tough policy decisions we face as we create our future. From stewardship and overcoming dysfunction to the New Economy and land use, we packed in a lot of content. In the toolkit were documents, reports and books covering the topics for ongoing reference. Thank you to the presenters: **Richard Kriegbaum**, **Tom Jones**, **Ashley Swearengin**, & **Dean Mischynski** (all outstanding) and the elected officials from Madera & Fresno who invested their time and their insights. And, thank you to the staff of all three organizations that brought a concept to fruition in record time.

C2K Project Announces On Line Dialogues

The *C2K Project* and the *Center for Governmental Studies* are pleased to announce the first C2K Project “On-Line Dialogue”. An innovative approach to working on some of the major issues affecting California, these "virtual roundtables" will involve experts, activists, policy makers and stakeholders discussing specific issues weekly. The public is also encouraged to join in on-going bulletin boards on each topic and has a chance to ask questions of the participants. The first Dialogue is on "Increasing Housing Density and Its Effect on Quality of Life in California."

To participate in the dialogue or view the discussion, visit: <http://cgs.c2kproject.net/issue.asp?id=1>

Great Valley Center Accepting Proposals for 2001 LEGACI Grants

Each year, the *Great Valley Center* awards well over one-half million dollars in monetary grants to non-profit groups, community organizations, and local governments that are working to improve the well being of the Great Central Valley through initiatives in the areas of Land Use, Economic development, Growth, Agriculture, Conservation and Investment. LEGACI grants support local actions and facilitate the development of sound public policy. To be eligible for support, projects must have an area of focus within at least one of the Valley's 19 counties. Proposals that incorporate collaboration with other local groups are viewed favorably by the Center's Board of Directors. Application forms, which must be submitted by January 31, 2001, are available on line at www.greatvalley.org.

Congratulations to City of Fresno for its “Idea\$ Pay Program”

The City of Fresno has recently initiated a program to reward employees for creative innovation. *The Idea\$ Pay Program* was created to encourage City employees to find innovative, efficient and cost-effective ways to deliver services. Two city employees recently received checks for their money-saving proposals. **Mike White**, chief pilot of the Skywatch Unit received a check for \$1,700 for his idea, which will save the city over \$17,000 per year on fuel purchases. **Ken Richert**, equipment operator for the Water Division, received a check for \$900 for designing a special wrench, which will save the City nearly \$9,000 a year in labor costs. Congratulations to both the recipients for their creativity and to the City for its entrepreneurial spirit!

Developing Successful Internship Programs

Businesses interested in learning more about developing successful internship programs with the schools are invited to attend a luncheon on January 17, 2001 at the CSUF Smittcamp Alumni House. The event, sponsored by the *Chamber, State Center Consortium, Fresno Pacific University* and *CSUF*, will help business partners recruit students for internships as well as help them direct interns into meaningful projects. Successful internships can help us keep local talent here in the Fresno area and avoid the “brain drain” we’re so concerned about. For more information on the luncheon, contact **Bobby Kahn** at 495-4800.

Upcoming Activities and Events:

Executive Committee – December 26th Meeting Canceled

Business Council Offices will be closed December 26th – 29th