

March 10, 2008

Message From the Chair Emeritus—Richard Johanson

One of the great truisms we are learning is the interconnectivity of most of our social and economic issues. We must find out how to eliminate root causes, not just address symptoms. Caring without acting is simply an emotional exercise. Acting without a integrated plan is wasted energy. “Strategy without tactics is the slowest route to success. Tactics without strategy is the noise before defeat.” - **Sun Tzu**.

As a region, we are making significant strides in addressing economic, social and infrastructure issues with the private sector’s involvement a critical component. Ultimately, effective solutions must comprise focused human and fiscal resources from the public sector. In the coming months we need to insure that those who are campaigning to become our elected leaders possess the skill sets and the commitment fundamental for alleviating these societal stresses. Tomorrow is at stake.

Compact Event to Celebrate School-Business Partnerships Outstanding

This year’s awards luncheon honored ten very different and very effective partnerships and **Chancellor Tom Crow**, for his transformative leadership at State Center Community College District. Dr. Crow is at the center of K-12 partnerships, partnerships with the clusters of the Regional Jobs Initiative and innovations in the delivery of work force preparation opportunities that dovetail with the needs of employers. Examples of employer commitment include: A 36 year training partnership between the Veterans Healthcare System and local schools, a public/private partnership between the Central Adult School, Fresno ROP, auto body shop owners, State Farm, AAA and Hertz, and a huge outdoor natural resource laboratory (Meyers Farming’s Water Bank and Wildlife Project) used by the Fresno County Office of Education’s students and teachers. Every caring adult that connects with a child sends a simple, empowering message—you matter and I want you to succeed. If your business is interested in a partnership, contact **Mike Wilhelm** at 495-4813 or **Angela Antenucci** at 433-1300.

Attaining Sustainable Growth Through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)

According to a recent report from IBM Global Business Services, corporate social responsibility (CSR) is no longer viewed as a cost of doing business, but rather an opportunity. The Internet has fundamentally shifted the relationship between business and its customers, employees, partners and communities. A survey of 250 business leaders worldwide discovered that while some may publicly speak in terms of philanthropy, 68 percent have embraced a more strategic view and see CSR as a platform for sustainable growth. In addition, an integrated CSR strategy is a magnet for talent. Forty-four percent of young professionals want to be part of a movement to create a better world from inside the business sector. Form more information email iibv.@us.ibm.com .

Clean Technology & California’s Economy: Understanding the Industry Value Chain

California leads the nation in innovation and investment in clean technology. The Governor has challenged all Californians to protect the environment and stimulate the economy through this personal responsibility and clean technology. On March 25 in San Jose, industry leaders, venture capitalists, government leaders and consumers will discuss how this value chain is defined and identify some of the growing trends. This bodes well for the Clean Energy Cluster of the RJI. The Economic Strategy Panel will discuss policy recommendations based upon this statewide forum. The bipartisan California Economic Strategy Panel was established in 1993 to develop an overall economic vision and strategy to guide public policy. The Panel engages in an objective and collaborative biennial planning process that examines economic regions, industry clusters, and cross-regional economic issues. For more information go to www.labor.ca.gov/panel .