



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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CAREER FAIR PROVIDES TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

Free event in North County offers resources, tools to promote self-sufficiency

Two years ago, Sanjuana Yamasaki was unemployed, struggling to make ends meet and worried about how to provide for her young family. Today, Yamasaki has obtained a good job in a promising career, and a month ago signed the papers to own her first home. Hard work, determination, and guidance from the staff of San Diego County's CalWORKs program have paid off. County employees work with clients like Yamasaki each day, helping local residents strive toward self-sufficiency.

On **Saturday, May 10, 2008**, the County's Health and Human Services Agency will host *Career Fair 2008* for its CalWORKs participants and other low-income individuals who are transitioning off welfare and into gainful employment. Held at the **California Center for the Arts in Escondido from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM**, the free event will feature workshops, resource booths and local employers ready to hire.

"Surviving in today's economy can be difficult for any individual or family," said Fifth District County Supervisor Bill Horn, whose district includes much of the North County. "We are bringing together our community partners to help participants address many of the obstacles they face in providing for their families."

Career Fair 2008 will provide first-time job seekers with skills such as completing job applications, resume preparation, and interviewing techniques. For those participants currently employed, the fair will provide labor market trends, information about available trainings, and career advancement information geared to finding new or better paying jobs.

"Given these uncertain economic times, this event provides a tremendous opportunity to our North County residents, including more than 1,000 families participating in the CalWORKs welfare-to-work program," said Third District County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price. "Experts at the Fair will teach the participants the skills they need to find a job to get themselves and their families on the road to self-sufficiency."

Career Fair 2008 is one in a series of free fairs hosted throughout the County by HHSA's CalWORKs program, which is celebrating its tenth year of success in helping participants expand skills, obtain resources and, like Yamasaki, move from dependency to self-sufficiency through employment.

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