



*Verdugo*

**Workforce**

**Investment**

*Board*

**2010/2011**

Putting people to work

and keeping our

economy strong





## A letter from Workforce Investment Board

*Chairman Rich Roche*

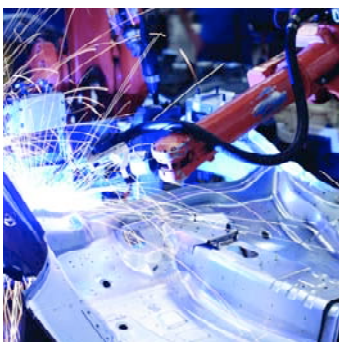
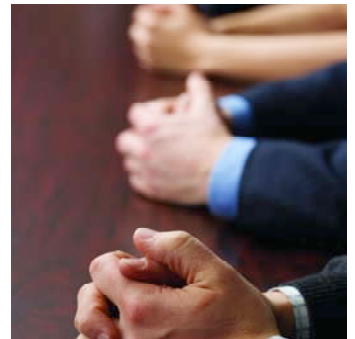
Faced with possibly the worst U.S. labor market in the past 80 years, the Verdugo Workforce Investment Board (WIB) responded by creating strategies and initiatives that put many people in our Burbank, Glendale and La Cañada Flintridge communities back to work. We also assisted hundreds of local businesses with their personnel and operational needs. Through the prudent decision-making by our board of directors and the hard work of our staff, we have made significant achievements that have led to accolades for the WIB throughout the country (see below). With national employment still lagging, 2011 and beyond will continue to provide challenges to the WIB to meet the workforce and economic needs of our community. But if the past year is any indication of the future, the Verdugo WIB will continue to excel in its mission to put people into jobs and strengthen our local economy.

A handwritten signature in white ink on a dark blue background, appearing to read "Rich Roche".

Rich Roche, Chairman

## 2010: A year of great achievement for the *Verdugo Workforce Investment Board*

- In the past year, the WIB's Verdugo Jobs Center placed into a job 1 out of the every 2 unemployed people that came through its doors. This statistic is even more impressive considering there are 4 official job seekers in the U.S. for every available job during the worst labor market since the Great Depression. Some economists believe the true figure is 8 job seekers for every available job. Verdugo Jobs Center staff has excelled despite a tripling of job seeking clients in the past few years to 110,000 client visits last year, including over 35,000 first-time visitors.



- The WIB's Verdugo Power Academy project to train people for utility industry jobs placed 82% of trainees into jobs from its first 2 classes of 40 students. The WIB made a presentation on the project to the U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor, who was reviewing some of the top green projects around the country. The WIB was named as Partnership of the Year along with Power Academy partners Glendale Community College and Glendale Water and Power by the California community college vocational education system.



- The WIB, in coordination with California Manufacturing Technology Consulting, was able to save 130 manufacturing jobs from layoff in the Burbank-Glendale area. For its years of work in the layoff aversion field, the WIB was nominated for the national Manufacturing Extension Partnership's "Manufacturing Advocate of the Year".
- The WIB has put 27 parolees through job training and has placed 15 of 78 clients into jobs so far. A state Department of Corrections official said the WIB's program is "a model for the state".
- The WIB helped place 60 registered nurses (RN) into jobs at our 4 local hospitals by subsidizing half of their salaries during their training period. RNs have had great difficulty obtaining work across the country due to the recession.



- With one of the top performing disability employment projects in the country, the WIB was singled out for an award of additional funds by the Social Security Administration based on its outstanding performance.
- The WIB met over a half-dozen spending and performance requirements for its stimulus funding and its regular formula funds. Many WIBs around the state did not meet the requirements.

## *What's New* **for 2011**

- The WIB has taken a leadership role with its 4 local hospitals, Glendale Community College and local school districts to launch a project to implement electronic medical records and retrain affected workers at doctors' offices, which have over 1,000 doctors in the region.
- The WIB will be developing a new project to create local jobs or save jobs from layoff.
- The WIB is helping to train new workers for "smart grid" jobs to computerize and upgrade the region's electricity transmission system.



## **Verdugo Workforce Investment Board:**

*A long history as a workforce and economic force*

- With the advent of digital technologies into the entertainment industry in the 1990's the WIB spent almost \$5 million to upgrade the skills of 2,000 top local entertainment workers to retain their jobs and to maintain the strength of the entertainment industry in the Burbank-Glendale region.
- During the early 2000's, with 400 to 500 unfilled nursing openings locally, the WIB spent \$1.5 million to train 100 new registered nurses, achieving a 98% training completion rate compared to a 76% state-wide rate. It also provided funding to 4 local hospitals so they could upgrade the skill of their existing workers to ensure the highest quality health care in our community.

**Rich Roche**, WIB Chairman, AT&T

**Don Nakamoto**, WIB Executive Director

# *Verdugo Workforce Investment Board*

## **Board of Directors**

**Rich Roche**

AT&T

**Jim Darcey**

Copy Central

**Tami Garcia**

Disney Imagineering

**Debbie Kukta**

KO Properties and Burbank USD School Board

**Gary Olson**

Burbank Chamber of Commerce

**Maria Mehranian**

Cordoba Corporation

**Nick Hacopian**

Glen West Realty and Management

**Gwen Matthews**

Glendale Adventist Medical Center

**Lucy Burghdorf**

Bob Hope Airport

**Yeimei Wang**

YW Consulting

**Paul Celuch**

Verdugo Hills Hospital

**Marko Swan**

Cygnets Stamping

**Mike Sevigny**

Chromatic Lithographics

**Ramon Abueg**

Glendale Water and Power

**Paul Moeller**

Alert One and Environmental Engineering

**Andre van Niekerk**

Woodbury University

**Scott Wildman**

Pacific Federal Insurance

**Joylene Wagner**

Glendale USD school board

**Kristin Bruno**

Glendale Community College

**Chris Lenz**

California State University Los Angeles

**Ken Hitts**

Economic Development, City of Glendale

**Mary Hamzoian**

Economic Development, City of Burbank

**Pat Morris**

L.A. County Department of Public Social Services

**Cynthia Banks**

L.A. County Community and Senior Services

**Gavin Koon**

Operating Engineers, Local 501

**George Palazzo**

International Alliance of Theatrical and Stage Employees, Local 726

**Monico Zamora**

National Union of Healthcare Workers

**Gary Holt**

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers,  
District 725

**Nancy Peera**

California Department of Rehabilitation

**Lillian Kirimlidis**

California Employment Development Department

**Jess Duran**

Community Services and Parks, City of Glendale