



COUNCILMEMBER SHERRI S. LIGHTNER

CITY OF SAN DIEGO – COUNCIL DISTRICT 1

Press Release

For Immediate Release
August 6, 2012

Contact: Jennifer Davies
(619) 405-2741

Connecting to Careers Training Fair Announced

Free event focuses on closing San Diego's workforce skills gap

SAN DIEGO – To help close San Diego's current skills gap and better prepare students and job seekers for the most in-demand jobs, Councilmember Sherri Lightner is partnering with the San Diego Workforce Partnership and the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation to sponsor the Connecting to Careers Training Fair on **Saturday, August 25 from 8 a.m. to noon** in Golden Hall at the San Diego Concourse located at 202 C St. in downtown San Diego.

The free event is open to the public and will feature an expo with exhibitors from some of San Diego's most well-known companies, staffing agencies, educational institutions and training providers. Career counselors will also be on hand to review résumés and give expert job advice to students, veterans and other job seekers. Informative workshops will drill down and detail San Diego's hottest jobs and how to land them. Among the topics: San Diego's Most Wanted Job Skills; How to Launch a New Career; and Job Hunting 101.

The event is part of Councilmember Lightner's larger Connecting to Careers initiative, which aims to improve San Diego's workforce development by ensuring that education and training programs more effectively match up with actual job demand.

"They say knowledge is power. This training fair is all about providing job seekers with the knowledge they need to find a meaningful, well-paying career," Lightner said. "It's also about partnering with our business community to ensure they have the workers they need now and in the future."

Mark Cafferty, president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, said "Events such as this one are critical in keeping government officials, businesses and training providers engaged in a meaningful dialogue to help close the skills gap and ensure a strong local economy."

Peter Callstrom, president and CEO of the San Diego Workforce Partnership, noted that the hiring crisis is not only about skills gaps, but also about limited access to employers who are actually hiring.

“We fund job training programs for our region that focus on people who are significantly challenged by the current employment realities – such as veterans and young people with limited exposure to the workplace,” said Callstrom. “This training event is critical in preparing these job seekers to get hired.”

Sherri Lightner is the Councilmember for Council District One of the City of San Diego, which includes the communities of Black Mountain Ranch, Carmel Valley, Del Mar Mesa, La Jolla, Pacific Highlands Ranch, Rancho Peñasquitos, Torrey Hills, Torrey Highlands, Torrey Pines, and University City. She took office December 8, 2008.

###