



## COACHELLA VALLEY ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP RECEIVES \$28,000 GRANT FROM ANDERSON CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

*Funds To Expand CVEP Careers-to-College Pipeline Education Project*

**Palm Desert, California (August 20, 2010)** – Local middle and high school students will soon have more educational opportunities to prepare them for higher paying jobs and college thanks to a \$28,000 grant awarded to the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP) from the Anderson Children's Foundation.

The grant will go toward developing two specific programs: Career Explorations and Higher Education Awareness. The Career Explorations program will provide in-class and field study sessions for middle school students that introduces them to emerging technologies and the renewable energy industry. The Higher Education Awareness program will consist of an eight-hour college awareness/readiness conference for first-generation college students from twelve high schools throughout the Coachella Valley.

"These funds will help us develop programs that can ultimately increase the Coachella Valley college-going culture," says Terry Green, Director, CVEP Pathways to Success. "The new programs will enhance our K-16 educational pipeline, and enable us to introduce hundreds of middle school students to high wage and high growth career opportunities right here in our region."

Approximately 1200 Coachella Valley students will benefit from the grant, with about 700 middle school students and 500 high school students participating in the programs. Through its Career Pathways and Pathways to Success initiatives, CVEP is actively working to create an educational pipeline to increase workforce excellence in the Coachella Valley, one of the goals of the CVEP Economic Blueprint.

The Blueprint is a forward-thinking and actionable roadmap for achieving future economic success in the Coachella Valley, and is in its first year of implementation. It provides regional stakeholders the opportunity to come together behind a comprehensive and proactive plan for future quality development.

"Expanding our educational pipeline opportunities is an important component of the Blueprint implementation, and we thank the Anderson Children's Foundation for their support, which will help us achieve our workforce excellence goals," says Wesley Ahlgren, CVEP Chief Operating Officer.

**For more information, contact CVEP at 760.340.1575 or go to [www.cvep.com](http://www.cvep.com).**

### **About CVEP:**

The Coachella Valley Economic Partnership is an economic organization devoted to attracting, retaining and expanding business and improving the quality of the workforce, in order to raise the overall economy and quality of life of the region. Established in 1994 as an action-oriented, non-profit corporation, CVEP has devoted attention to strategies of business attraction, expansion and retention during the past decade. Today, as part of the Coachella Valley Economic Blueprint, CVEP is focusing attention on planning and nurturing the growth of industry target sectors which include Healthcare & Life Sciences, Clean Technology/Energy, Supply Chain/Logistics and Creative Arts & Design.

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