



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Carey Riccitelli (760) 740-4130

MEDIA ADVISORY

NORTH COUNTY CONFERENCE GIVES RESIDENTS A CHANCE AT A DREAM

Second Annual Free Event to Provide Participants with Tools for Reaching Their Full Potential

WHO: Nick Macchione, Deputy Director, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA)
Dr. Tim Dong, President, MiraCosta College
More than 200 CalWORKs participants and low-income individuals

WHAT: "The Possible Dream: Making the Most of Your Future" is a free conference for CalWORKs participants and low-income individuals designed to expand their skills, obtain resources, and provide the best for their family. The event features keynote speakers Cecelia Blanks, college professor and former welfare recipient, and Larry Burns, trainer, author, and counselor.

This summit is the result of collaborative efforts to address barriers to self-sufficiency for residents of North County. Planning partners include HHSA, City of Oceanside Housing and Neighborhood Services, North County Lifeline, ACS State and Local Solutions, MiraCosta College, and Palomar College. Skill building workshops and resources centered on family, health, money, and work will be offered by numerous organizations, such as North County Transit District, North Coastal Career Center, San Diego Job Corps, American Red Cross WIC, and others. New this year is the Women's Resource Center fashion show featuring low-cost business attire from their thrift store.

WHEN: 8:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Saturday, April 17

WHERE: MiraCosta College
One Barnard Drive, Student Services Building, Oceanside

WHY: Surviving in today's economy can be difficult for individuals and families alike. Low-income individuals, CalWORKs participants (those on financial assistance), and Extended Opportunity Programs and Services students (educationally and socially disadvantaged students) face many barriers in obtaining ongoing employment and moving towards self-sufficiency. The HHSA Self-Sufficiency Strategic Planning Committee in North County engages County staff and community partners in addressing these barriers, which include transportation, housing, childcare and financial literacy.

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