



## Central Region Consortium

*“Vision accomplishes little without hard work, a get-it done attitude, and a passion for what you do. That is what our “team at COS/TCOE/BICS/CACT/CTE/CCCAOE/CENTRAL REGION CONSORTIUM” does. Even in these tough economic times, we are making some great progress.”*

*Larry Dutto, Ph.D.  
Dean of CTE, College of the Sequoias*

College of the Sequoias Center for Applied Competitive Technology Center (CACT) hosted the Central Region Consortium **“Listening to our Partners”** workshop on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at the COS CACT Training Center. Jim Anderson, Merced College CTE Dean and Central Region co-chair, welcomed nearly 40 participants from area colleges and industry representatives to the event.

**Dr. Louann Waldner**, Director, COS Business Industry and Community Service (BICS) and CACT Training Center, conducted the first panel discussion dealing with partnering with local businesses and workforce investment boards. **Jim Anderson** followed with an enlightening discussion on building partnerships with local businesses in the equipment industry at Merced College. He had his industry partners on the panel and how the program has strengthened their mechanized equipment curriculum and internship program.

**Terri Hicks**, Bakersfield College, Director, Business & Entrepreneurship Center, led an exciting discussion with local small business representatives who have partnered with community colleges to provide their group with services how marketing and exporting their products has expanded their businesses. **Lucy De Los Santos**, Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), explained how they work with local temp agencies to train and place students with local electrical and oil companies. **Randy Wallace**, Tulare County Office of Education, concluded the workshop, after a tour of the CACT Center, with a group discussion for using what participants learned for taking action steps with identifiable outcomes of how community colleges partner with businesses.

Early next year Merced College will be hosting a “Green Dean’s” workshop and other great activities for the Central Region Consortium. Check the website for details.

<http://www.crconsortium.com>