



Monterey Bay Educational Consortium in partnership with the Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning

Tri-County Teacher Workforce Initiative February 2005

MBEC's Teacher Workforce Initiative, in partnership with the Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning, continues to make progress establishing data-rich regional strategies and practices to strengthen our teacher workforce. This e-mail update is part of a series of updates that you will receive throughout the year to keep you informed.

Progress Report from the Affordable Housing Committee

Under the capable leadership of Santa Cruz County Office of Education Superintendent Diane Siri and Susan Midori Jones, CTA Chapter Consultant, the TWI Affordable Housing Committee has made considerable strides in efforts to identify affordable housing opportunities for teachers in the tri-county region. The committee boasts a wide range of community leaders from the three counties including representation from county boards of supervisors, district and county superintendents, city and county planners, housing authorities, local property developers, realtors, mortgage companies, redevelopment agencies, institutions of higher education, teacher's unions, school boards, and others. The participants on the committee understand the near crisis in our region when it comes to recruiting and retaining well qualified teachers. A major culprit in this crisis is the inability of teachers to find affordable housing.

To address this issue, the committee is using a three-pronged approach. The first is to develop a Resource Guide/Information Packet for affordable housing in the region and make it available to all teachers. The second is to develop and present homebuyer workshops to teachers that focus on affordable housing options and steps to home ownership, including financing. The third approach involves the identification of potential properties for housing development and a tax initiative to subsidize a teacher-housing program on identified properties. Included in this process will be strategies to garner support of local politicians.

This is a bold endeavor by the TWI Affordable Housing Committee that has already begun to reap benefits for local teachers. Through the homebuyer workshops, several teachers have successfully purchased homes. This is a success story that needs to be told across the region. As the committee moves forward with the implementation of their action plan, the excitement continues to build with each positive step in the march toward a high quality teacher in every classroom.

To access a recent news story in the *Register-Parjonian* about the work of the committee, please click on

<http://www.zwire.com/news/newsstory.cfm?newsid=13847376&BRD=1197&PAG=461&CATEGORYID=410>