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**Monterey County Promotes Workforce Resiliency During COVID-19
Pandemic with Free Job Training and Certification**

*The Monterey County Workforce Development Board Offers Free Access to
Online Job Training and In-demand Industry Certificates*

Thursday, July 9th, 2020, Salinas, CA – Monterey County’s unemployment rate shot up to an astounding 20.2% in April 2020, up from 12.2% in March 2020. This resulted in 41,800 unemployed individuals in April compared to 26,200 in March. The **Monterey County Workforce Development Board** / (MCWDB) is here to help job seekers and workers counter COVID-19 impacts and find resiliency, by providing free access to Metrix Learning (Metrix) – a dynamic online training platform that assesses job seeker interests and skills gaps, and then creates an individual Training Plan aligned with a targeted career pathway.

MCWDB’s “[SkillUp Monterey](#)” is an effort to encourage local area residents to take advantage of Metrix to develop new skills. More job seekers could be using Metrix to bolster their resiliency through the COVID-19 pandemic. The SkillUp Monterey training is free of charge to all Monterey County residents.

Christopher Donnelly, Executive Director of the Monterey County Workforce Development Board, (MCWDB) mentions the true value of the training platform. “Metrix has been a valuable resource for our clients. Their courses span the gamut from business writing skills to intermediate computer applications to high-level certification training. “We have had at least 500 clients use Metrix to prepare for industry wide certification and training in program year 2020. Employers can identify candidates on the platform with new badges earned on Metrix and connect with them about new employment opportunities.

With over 5,000 courses leading to over 180 industry certificates, Metrix is flexible and helpful to job seekers and workers looking to improve skills, earn industry certificates, launch into new careers, or promote into new career opportunities. Metrix allows participants to learn at self-pace, receive clear training milestones, and achieve industry certificates upon completion through customized badges.

Metrix is open to job seekers in MCWDB's local area (people residing in Monterey County). Job seekers can register at: [SkillUp / Metrix Self Directed Program - Register for Access](#). Job seekers interested in receiving career services, additional training, or support in using Metrix, may contact the Monterey County Workforce Development Board at <https://www.montereycountywdb.org/monterey-county-works/>

Monterey County Workforce Development Board

The Monterey County Workforce Development Board is a 23-member employer-led oversight body of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title I programs in Monterey County. WIOA is a federal program that strengthens workforce programs that serve adults, dislocated workers, youth, and young adults. MCWDB sets local program policies in alignment with the WIOA and ensures comprehensive WIOA services for job seekers, youth, and employers. MCWDB also develops strategic partnerships to address and remediate workforce issues. For more information please visit www.montereycountywdb.org.

America's Job Center of California

America's Job Center of California / (AJCC) works on the behalf of Monterey County Workforce Development Board to offer comprehensive career services to adult and dislocated workers and coordinates with several community partners. AJCC's mission is to serve as the focal point for local and regional workforce development activities and to integrate workforce preparation services to address the job, education, training, and employment needs in Monterey County. AJCC is one service provider for the MCWDB. Additional Career Services Providers are located sub-regionally throughout Monterey County to assist job seekers. For more information please visit: <http://www.montereycountywdb.org>

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