



**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
SUPERVISOR FEDERAL D. GLOVER
DISTRICT FIVE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Supervisors create Institute to upgrade industrial workers' skills

What: Institute of Industrial Training presented
Where: Board of Supervisors Chambers, 651 Pine Street, Martinez
When: 10 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 1
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MARTINEZ -- In an attempt to give local workers a better opportunity to higher-paying jobs in Bay Area industries, Contra Costa County Supervisors Federal Glover and John Gioia are proposing the creation of an initiative called the Institute of Industrial Training that would give workers the necessary skills and up-to-date education.

"Well-paying jobs are going to out-of-state workers because local residents don't have the necessary job skills for today's modern industries," said Supervisor Glover.

Heavy industry and major refineries are located in the supervisorial districts of Glover, who represents the northern shoreline of East Contra Costa County, and Gioia, who represents West Contra Costa County.

Educating the County's workforce has been a long-time priority for the two supervisors, who began discussing the creation of an institute when industry representatives acknowledged that local residents don't have the necessary job skills and training for the highly computerized industries.

"We know we've got the labor and workforce in our County," said Supervisor Gioia. "Now, we want to train that workforce so they can compete in today's high-tech market."

Gioia and Glover want the institute to provide continuing education for displaced workers, and post-secondary training for those workers who want to apply for industry jobs.

The initiative will be introduced at the Board of Supervisors' Nov. 1 meeting. Representatives from industry, the community college district, contractors and labor are expected to be present for interviews.

Curriculum will be developed by the Contra Costa Community College District and the Institute will be overseen by the County Health Services.

The Bay Area is home for a number of refineries including Chevron, Shell, Tesoro, Valero and Conoco as well as related industries and suppliers. Together, there are more than 5,000 job positions in refinery production and operations.

One of the most pressing needs by refineries is the hiring of process technicians. Bay Area refineries estimate more than 100 new operators will be needed over the next two years, and more than 2,000 operators will be needed nationally.