



AT-A-GLANCE PROFILES **Organized Labor**

Profiles of Can Do Approaches – Build on What Exists

The award-winning video documentary *Golden Lands, Working Hands* chronicles the history of California from the perspective of those who toiled to build it. With guidance from the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), *Golden Lands* and its accompanying materials have become regular parts of the curriculum for senior high school students in school districts throughout the state.

Profiles of Can Do Approaches – Solve an Organizational Need

In San Diego and San Mateo counties, union representatives make classroom presentations on the various educational and skill requirements of the local building trades as well as the qualifications for application to union apprenticeship programs. The San Mateo Central Labor Council and the San Mateo Building and Construction Trades Council, along with their School-to-Career partners, created a 75-page guide to their apprenticeship programs for students, parents, teachers, counselors and others in the community. Representatives in San Diego have likewise produced and distributed a comprehensive guide to apprenticeship opportunities for their area. These programs and guides inform and educate students about training and career choices and help union apprenticeship programs recruit qualified candidates.

Profiles of Can Do Approaches – Invest in Your Community

In Santa Maria, teachers participated in a summer program to familiarize educators with the construction trades. The following fall, one of the mathematics teachers from the group decided that her lesson plans should reflect some of the work-relevant math skills she had developed after observing the unionized building trades workers. She now has her students calculate a plan for a small house with the algebra and other math they have learned. Teachers report that students are more interested in their studies when they see a real application—and necessity—for their lessons in the classroom.

In northern California, representatives of the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW 558) visit junior and senior high school classrooms in their region. They teach students about labor history and the role of unions in the United States and discuss some of the career opportunities for union jobs in their industry. Since beginning the program in 1999, UFCW has received many requests from teachers interested in sharing with their students a view of the work world from a union perspective.