

EMPLOYER TIME RELEASE COMMITMENT FOR APPLICANT

The Institute for the Development of Emerging Area Leaders (IDEAL) is an investment that will return benefits indefinitely to participants, their organizations, and their communities. The IDEAL program is designed to further the knowledge and enhance the leadership skills of individuals who have already demonstrated an interest in community activities. **The program requires participants to commit to attend all seminars at the scheduled times. Absences are not permitted without advance discussion with program staff.** Each seminar will last two to three days, with one of the days being Saturday.

Employers of past IDEAL Fellows have described the many benefits of employee participation in the program. Participation is facilitated by employers through the granting of time necessary to engage in and complete the IDEAL program. Employees must obtain employer approval of this time commitment to be considered for the program. Employers may also make a donation of training funds to help offset the cost of program participation.

Your signature below indicates you have discussed with the applicant the time needed away from work and that you support his or her participation in the program. Please contact Manuel Alvarado at the Great Valley Center at (209) 522-5103 if you have any questions or would like to discuss supporting the IDEAL program in additional ways.

► (Employer) I understand _____ is a candidate for the Institute for the Development of Emerging Area Leaders and if chosen for the 2010 IDEAL program s/he must attend all seminars listed below. If participation requires work or schedule changes, I will accommodate the program or allow personal or vacation time as necessary. I understand an unexcused absence may be grounds for dismissal from the program, and the candidate and/or company may be invoiced for any displaced scholarship amount.

Signature of Employer	Name (printed)	Date
Organization		
Address		
Phone	Fax	

If you are willing to financially participate in your employee's training costs please check the appropriate box:

o Full cost (\$7,500) o Half the cost (\$3,750) o A quarter of the cost (\$1,875) o Other \$_____

Each finalist must attend an interview session on November 6th or 7th, 2009 in Modesto. IDEAL extended seminars begin at 12:00 p.m. on Thursdays and end on Saturday evenings at approximately 5:00 p.m. Two-day seminars begin at 8:00 a.m. on Fridays and end on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m.

January 7-9, 2010	- People and the Economy – Modesto
February 11-13, 2010	- Agriculture, Land Use, and Water – Tulare/Hanford
March 12-13, 2010	- Health Care and Education – Fresno
April 9-10, 2010	- Resources and the Environment – Redding
May 4-6, 2010	- GVC Conference/IDEAL Seminar - Sacramento
June 4-5, 2010	- Transportation/IDEAL Debrief – Chico
June 12, 2010	- Graduation - Modesto