

CONTACT:

Jill Workman
Director of Public Affairs
(949) 553-9500 ext. 120



**Orange County
Chapter**

Assemblymember Duvall Visits BIA/OC's BITA Program

ANAHEIM, CA – Assemblymember, Mike Duvall visited and toured the Building Industry Technology Academy (BITA) program at Katella High School in Anaheim on Friday May 15th. BITA is a four-year program (Freshman through Senior year) that teaches high school students in-depth construction knowledge and skills training in all facets of the residential construction industry. It provides unique hands-on assignments, mentoring, professional presentations and field trips to active construction sites.

This comprehensive program is a model for private-public partnerships working to better educate students. Developed by the Building Industry Association of Southern California, Orange County Chapter (BIA/OC) in the summer of 2003, they completed a \$250,000 remodel donated by members of the BIA/OC and turned the underutilized facility at Katella High School into a premiere construction program. With help from the education leaders at North Orange County Regional Occupation Program and the Anaheim Union High School District, the coalition has expanded the program to Western High School in Anaheim and Valencia High School in Placentia.

This visit was in partnership with ConnectEd -The California Center for College and Career and was prompted by the need of increasing K-12 vocational education as a greater part of the standard curriculum. The increase in funding for these essential programs will enable us to enhance curriculum and increase teacher recruitment and training so that we can improve career technical programs that prepare students for the 21st century economy.

Building Industry Association
of Southern California

17744 Sky Park Circle
Suite 170
Irvine, California 92614
949.553.9500
fax 949.553.9507
www.biaoc.com

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