

**Contact:**  
Jill Cagle  
Director of Public Affairs  
(949) 553-9500 x120



## **Building Industry Association, Orange County (BIA/OC) Presents Southern California Education Program with CHF Grant**

**Orange County  
Chapter**

IRVINE, CA – Usually when BIA/OC attends a board meeting it's to encourage members to lower fees. But last night at the Anaheim Union School District board meeting, Kristine Thalman, BIA/OC CEO, was on hand to present the North Orange County Regional Occupation Program with a check for \$10,825. The check was part of the California Housing Fund grant (CHF) that the BIA/OC had applied for on behalf of the BITA program.

The Building Industry Technology Academy (BITA) is a four-year high school program that exposes young people to diverse career paths within the building industry. Over 4,000 Southern California students have gone through the program since it's inception in 2002. The curriculum was developed by BIA/OC member companies, education leaders at North Orange County ROP and the Anaheim Union School District. The California state budget crisis has resulted in decreased education funds for woodshop, construction technology, and many other vocational classes on high school campuses. Unique opportunities offered through BITA have also benefited Special Education and at-risk/under-achieving students through the program's high level of applied hands-on learning. In addition, BITA students learn about giving back to their communities through volunteering with Paint Your Heart Out and Habitat for Humanity.

BIA/OC Chief Executive Officer, Kristine Thalman remarks, "BITA has been tremendously successful at changing student's attitude about the importance of education. One of the most positive aspects of the BITA program is that students can draw the correlation between their academic studies and their future careers. Our BITA instructors do a fantastic job at creating a learning environment that motivates our BITA students to excel at school. We are very proud of this program and are looking forward to continuing our support."

The Orange County Chapter of the Building Industry Association of Southern California (BIA/OC) is a non-profit trade association representing nearly 1,000 companies employing over 100,000 people affiliated with the home building industry. The BIA/OC mission is to promote proactive participation in the development of economic and community issues in Orange County. The BIA/OC is affiliated with the California BIA and the National Association of Home Builders.

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Building Industry Association  
of Southern California

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17744 Sky Park Circle  
Suite 170  
Irvine, California 92614  
949.553.9500  
fax 949.553.9507  
www.biaoc.com  
www.newhomesmatch.com  
Your industry's comprehensive online guide  
to new homes

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