

January 25, 2021

To Our Valued Leadership,

On behalf of the executive leadership of the 10 community colleges within San Diego and Imperial Counties, please accept the two enclosed reports highlighting the far-reaching, positive impact of Strong Workforce Program (SWP) funding on our students, faculty, employers, and K-12 institutions. *Stronger Together* details how our regional campuses, workforce development, and K-12 education agencies have formed a dynamic ecosystem of partnerships to develop a talent pipeline from early elementary education through to living wage employment. The report provides six specific tips for leaders looking to create similar partnerships, as well as examples of how engaged partners are gaining new perspectives, exchanging expertise, and committing resources that have directly impacted student and regional economic success.

Also attached, our second annual *Impact Report* presents 18 stories of positive learning outcomes enabled by SWP funding acting as a truly essential lifeline. In 2020, SWP funding was used to provide technology resources, expand access to hands-on learning tools, pay for tutors and counselors, and support enriching work-based learning opportunities. SWP funding also enabled students and faculty to address the needs of our community during this challenging time, supported K-12 counselors who are starting career planning as early as middle school, and empowered those that are homeless to find a rewarding path to a new career, as in the case of the partnership with the San Diego Rescue Mission that helped a formerly homeless man become a full-time plumber.

Our purpose in sharing these reports is to celebrate our collective successes and bring to your attention the transformational work we have accomplished due to receiving this significant investment. We are committed to continuing to drive improvement in access and infrastructure, expanding public-private partnerships, and the active support of our students, community, and economy.

We welcome the opportunity to speak with you about our regional work. Please feel free to contact us at careered@gcccd.edu if you would like to discuss this work further.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sunny Cooke

Superintendent/President, MiraCosta Community College District

Dr. Martha Garcia

Superintendent/President, Imperial Community College District