

MARK TAKANO

41ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
CHAIRMAN

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION & LABOR



DC OFFICE

420 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2305
FAX: (202) 225-7018

DISTRICT OFFICE

3403 10TH ST., SUITE 610
RIVERSIDE, CA 92501
(951) 222-0203
FAX: (951) 222-0217

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 21, 2022

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for RCCD IETTC Budget Line Item

Dear Governor Newsom:

I write to support the \$33 million line-item included in the budget deal agreed upon by the State Senate and Assembly for the Riverside Community College District Inland Empire Technical Trade Center (IETTC). As part of the FY22 federal appropriations process, my office was successful in garnering \$1.5 million in federal funds for the IETTC and I am encouraged by this move at the state level to continue our investments in regional job training.

The Inland Empire (IE) comprises Riverside and San Bernardino counties – the 10th and 12th largest counties in America by population, respectively, and among the fastest growing regions in the United States. While the IE enjoys a variety of traditional postsecondary institutions offering certificate and degree programs, there are only a handful of public technical training centers in southern California. In the IE, these centers are largely private and for-profit and are often expensive and inaccessible without students incurring significant debt to attend. These private and for-profit centers, while offering technical training in skilled trades, generally lack the necessary infrastructure, support systems and complementary academic offerings that California Community Colleges can holistically provide to the region's most at-risk populations.

Given the need for local technical training capacity to support the region's residents, current and emerging employers, and the strong commitment of the Riverside Community College District (RCCD) to build and scale pathways that offer residents the ability to move from poverty to self-sufficiency, RCCD and partners plan to establish the Inland Empire Technical Trade Center (IETTC). The IETTC is a response to the urgent need for good jobs for the region's residents, diversification of the regional economy, and for a locally available educated and skilled workforce for the region's current and future employers.

A central component of the IETTC will be an integrated "earn and learn" model providing students with industry-based opportunities for application and development of technical skills

through apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, and other potential work-based learning opportunities.

I strongly support the FY23 funds of \$33 million included in the State Senate and Assembly budget deal for the RCCD IETTC project as we build on other investments to work toward a groundbreaking timeline for 2025-2026.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Takano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress