



CITY OF PALM DESERT

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

March 26, 2024

RE: SUPPORT FOR CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO'S COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST

Dear Senator Padilla:

I am writing on behalf of the City of Palm Desert to express our support for California State University, San Bernardino's requests for \$1 million in Community Project Funding (CPF) to establish an Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Virtual Reality (VR) research and retraining center and \$430,445 to bolster the intersegmental nursing street medicine program in the Coachella Valley.

Recent studies underscore the pressing need for specialized skills in AI and VR, highlighting that these technologies could augment or replace more than 80% of workforce tasks. CSUSB's proposed center will build upon its esteemed Cybersecurity workforce development program, integrating AI-driven security solutions and VR-based training to cultivate a skilled workforce capable of addressing modern cybersecurity and supply chain challenges.

Moreover, data from the 2022 Point in Time report reveals alarming statistics regarding homelessness in the Coachella Valley, with 1,980 individuals considered homeless, a third of whom are unsheltered. CSUSB's Nursing Street Medicine Program expansion directly addresses this urgent issue by providing healthcare access to the growing homeless population. The program, staffed by qualified nurses and equipped with mobile medical units, will reach those unable to access traditional healthcare services, reducing burdens on emergency rooms and ensuring care for underinsured and uninsured individuals.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to consider CSUSB's congressional-directed spending requests of \$1 million for its AI and Virtual Reality research and retraining center and \$430,445 for the Nursing Street Medicine program equipment serving the Coachella Valley. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and advocacy for our community, and we believe that these investments will not only benefit our residents but also contribute to the overall prosperity of our region.

Sincerely,

Karina Quintanilla

Mayor, City of Palm Desert

¡Gracias por su apoyo!