

CITY OF PALM DESERT STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 10, 2025

PREPARED BY: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

SUBJECT: RATIFICATION OF LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN BERNARDINO FUNDING REQUESTS FOR AN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND VIRTUAL REALITY RESEARCH AND RETRAINING CENTER AND REGIONAL ENTREPRENEURIAL RESOURCE CENTERS PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

Ratify letters of support for California State University, San Bernardino's (CSUSB) Community Project Funding requests for the establishment of an Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Virtual Reality (VR) Research and Retraining Center and the Regional Entrepreneurial Resource Centers Program.

BACKGROUND/ANALYSIS:

At the request of CSUSB, the City Council Subcommittee on Governmental Affairs, comprised of Mayor Harnik and Mayor Pro Tem Trubee, approved the issuance of two letters of support on March 28, 2025. Letters were submitted to Senators Alex Padilla and Adam Schiff to support CSUSB's Community Project Funding (CPF) requests.

1. Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Reality Research and Retraining Center

This center will enhance CSUSB's nationally recognized Cybersecurity Workforce Development Program by integrating AI-driven security solutions and virtual reality-based training. The center aims to address the pressing need for retraining and upskilling the regional workforce.

2. Regional Entrepreneurial Resource Centers Program

The Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship (IECE) at CSUSB is the largest entrepreneurial support organization in the region. The additional CPF funds will expand resource centers in Palm Desert, Temecula, and San Bernardino.

Legal Review:

This report has been reviewed by the City Attorney's Office.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There is no financial impact associated with this action

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter of Support-Padilla
2. Letter of Support-Schiff