



CITY OF PALM DESERT

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June 30, 2025

THRIVE Inland SoCal
Catalyst Grant Program

Subject: Support for the Randall W. Lewis Center for Entrepreneurship and School of Entrepreneurship Application – THRIVE Inland SoCal Catalyst Grant Program

Dear Thrive Inland SoCal Review Committee:

On behalf of the City of Palm Desert, this letter serves as a statement of strong support for the Randall W. Lewis Center for Entrepreneurship (RLCE) and the School of Entrepreneurship in their application for funding through the THRIVE Inland SoCal Catalyst Grant Program.

The City of Palm Desert currently funds and supports the Inland Empire Center for Entrepreneurship (IECE) and the School to operate the Palm Desert Entrepreneurial Resource Center (ERC), in partnership with the County of Riverside. The Catalyst Grant will help sustain and expand these impactful programs, addressing critical needs in the City and the greater Coachella Valley.

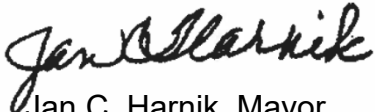
Small businesses in our community consistently cite challenges accessing mentorship, counseling, education, and capital. The programs delivered in 2024 by the RLCE and the School in Palm Desert have made measurable strides in overcoming these barriers. To date, they have assisted more than 1,700 small business owners, resulting in over \$11 million in increased access to capital and sales, the launch of 22 new startups, and support for more than 300 jobs created or retained.

We are particularly enthusiastic about new initiatives planned through the ERC, such as the Cybersecurity Entrepreneurship Academy, which will provide valuable training and resources to further strengthen our local economy.

The services provided through this partnership have been critical to the economic development of Palm Desert. We strongly support additional investment in this program, as it will expand service offerings and deliver even greater impact to our residents and businesses.

Thank you for your consideration of this important proposal. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jan C. Harnik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jan C. Harnik, Mayor
City of Palm Desert