



CITY OF PALM DESERT

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October 24, 2025

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office
1102 Q Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811

RE: Letter of Support – Proposed Bachelor of Arts Degree in Casino and Integrated Resort Management

Dear Chancellor Sonya Christian and Members of the Review Committee:

On behalf of the City of Palm Desert, I am pleased to express our strong support for College of the Desert's proposal to establish a Bachelor of Arts degree in Casino and Integrated Resort Management.

This innovative baccalaureate program directly addresses one of the Coachella Valley's most significant workforce needs. As the region's hospitality and resort industries continue to grow, there remains a critical shortage of qualified professionals prepared to assume leadership and management roles within the casino and integrated resort sectors. By offering a locally accessible four-year degree, College of the Desert will provide residents with new opportunities for career advancement and upward mobility in a field that anchors our regional economy.

The City recognizes that this program will:

- Strengthen workforce development pipelines for tourism, hospitality, and gaming enterprises across the Coachella Valley.
- Support employers' needs for skilled, customer-oriented managers with relevant regional expertise.
- Advance local and regional economic resilience through education that aligns with high-growth, high-wage industries.

We commend College of the Desert for developing a program that reflects the unique character and needs of our community. The City of Palm Desert proudly supports this initiative and respectfully urges the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to approve this important degree proposal.

Sincerely,

Jan C. Harnik
Mayor, City of Palm Desert