

Equity in Success



Inland Empire Technical Trade Center

ISSUE

The Inland Empire has a variety of traditional postsecondary institutions offering certificate and degree programs. While these institutions provide career education opportunities for Inland Empire residents, there are only a handful of highly focused technical training centers in the region. These centers, while offering technical training in skilled trades, often lack the necessary infrastructure, support systems, and complementary academic offerings that the California Community Colleges system offers.

The Inland Empire Technical Trade Center will be able to holistically

provide trade training to the region's marginalized and underserved populations. These populations are disproportionately impacted by the region's reliance on low-skill and low-wage labor in various sectors, including supply chain, logistics and hospitality. The individuals are also most likely to suffer from climate change impacts caused by pollution from the logistics and transportation sector across southern California. Given the need for education and training that provides residents with good jobs, the District is working to develop the Inland Empire Technical Trade Center, an accessible and equitable regional training center that focuses on short-term training. A key component is providing

students with opportunities to earn while they learn through registered apprenticeship programs. The Inland Empire Technical Trade Center is a response to the urgent need for good jobs for the region's residents, diversification of the regional economy, and for an educated and skilled workforce for the region's current and future employers.

BACKGROUND

Government and private sector leaders across the Inland Empire agree that a locally educated and skilled workforce is critical for competitiveness in the global economy. The Inland Empire, while providing a variety of traditional educational options for individuals



into and through the university level, suffers from persistently low rates of degree attainment and high rates of multi-generational poverty in marginalized communities in the region. Approximately 54 percent of the region's current workforce, or just under 350,000 residents (pre-pandemic statistic) is neither formally trained nor skilled and earn insufficient pay and/or benefits in jobs with "no viable career pathway to a good job" (Brookings, 2019).

Economic development in the region will be driven by a need to "...increase the competitiveness and diversity of those sectors of its economy that concentrate good jobs" (Brookings, 2019), including industries that sell goods and services outside the Inland Empire region. Industries, including logistics, wholesale and manufacturing, provide approximately 28 percent of the region's middle skill good jobs -

which don't require a bachelor's degree - with the potential of earning a family-sustaining income within ten years.

"Advancing the competitiveness of these industries can help ensure they continue to provide opportunities to local workers as the region diversifies into other tradable industries that can expand the number of good jobs and the promising jobs that provide pathways to them" (Brookings, 2019).

A vital component of the Inland Empire Technical Trade Center will be an integrated earn-and-learn model providing students with industry-based opportunities for apprenticeship, pre-apprenticeship, and other paid work-based learning opportunities. The Inland Empire Technical Trade Center is broadly connected to the region's key partners and is well-positioned to offer critical education, training

and supportive services necessary for the region's most at-risk residents to achieve prosperity. Without this crucial resource, persistent economic and educational gaps will grow as workforce demands of a diversifying and technologically advancing economy will require ever-increasing technical knowledge and skills.

REQUEST

- The District is seeking financial resources for the establishment of facilities and programs to meet the region's current and future workforce development needs. To date, the District has received over \$37.5 million to begin the process of planning, land acquisition, land improvements, and program development. Early estimates indicate a need for \$50 million for facility construction in Jurupa Valley.