

**MONDAY MORNING GROUP OF WESTERN RIVERSIDE COUNTY
ANNUAL ADVOCACY TRIP – WASHINGTON, DC
APRIL 7 – 10, 2025**

INLAND EMPIRE TECHNICAL TRADE CENTER

ISSUE: The Inland Southern California region has a variety of traditional postsecondary institutions offering certificate and degree programs. While these institutions provide career education opportunities for 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.

ACTION: The Riverside Community College District's (RCCD) Inland Empire Technical Trade Center (IETTC) will be able to holistically provide trade training to the region's marginalized and underserved populations. RCCD is seeking resources for the establishment of facilities and programs to meet the region's workforce development needs.

BACKGROUND: Government and private sector leaders across the region agree that local availability of an educated and skilled workforce is critical for competitiveness in the global economy. The Inland Southern California region, while providing a variety of traditional educational options for students into and through the university level, suffers from persistently low rates of degree attainment and high rates of multi-generational poverty in marginalized communities throughout the region. In 2019, almost 54% of the region's workforce was neither formally trained nor skilled and earned insufficient pay and/or benefits in jobs with "no viable career pathway to a good job" (Brookings). Since 2019, inflation and skyrocketing housing costs, coupled with burgeoning and continued development in the logistics sector in the region, have continued to proliferate low skill, low wage jobs for people without postsecondary training, making upward mobility an impossible dream.

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. The IETTC 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

A vital component of the IETTC will be an integrated "earn and learn" model providing students with access to industry-based state and federal registered apprenticeship programs. The IETTC 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.

To date, RCCD has received over \$38 million dollars used to purchase and improve the identified Jurupa Valley IETTC site and to conduct extensive planning with the region's residents and key stakeholder groups. In addition, RCCD successfully passed a bond in November 2024, that will provide roughly \$141 million dollars to build out the first lab and classroom facilities onsite. Planning efforts for the IETTC include a multi-phased site plan with facilities organized to maximize flexibility as the region's needs for training change. A final comprehensive education and facilities plan will be presented to RCCD's Board of Trustees for approval in June 2025.