

**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 lacks the high-quality technical training centers needed to meet current and future workforce demand. While traditional postsecondary institutions do provide career education opportunities, there is a gap between the technical education provided and the workforce demands. The Riverside Community College District's (RCCD) Inland Empire Technical Trade Center (IETTC) will address this gap by expanding advanced technical education and workforce development in the region.

ACTION: The Monday Morning Group urges congress to appropriate \$3 million annually through the State General Fund or workforce development programs such as the IETTC to cover operations, maintenance, and instructional continuity. Sustainable operations keep training facilities up to date and align with evolving workforce needs, supporting high-demand sectors in climate, healthcare, and infrastructure.

BACKGROUND: 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 then, inflation, skyrocketing housing costs, and the continued development of the logistics sector, have continued to proliferate low-skill, low-wage jobs for individuals without postsecondary training, making upward mobility increasing unattainable. These individuals are disproportionately impacted by the region's reliance on low-skill and low-wage labor in various sectors, including supply chain, logistics and hospitality. These same individuals are also most likely to suffer from climate change impacts caused by pollution generated by logistics and transportation activities across the region.

The IETTC is a response to the urgent need for good jobs, economic diversification, and a workforce equipped with the technical skills that meet the demands of a continuously evolving economy. A vital component of the IETTC is an integrated "earn and learn" model, which provides 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. Without this crucial resource, persistent economic and educational gaps will grow as workforce demands of a diversifying and technologically advancing economy will require increasing technical knowledge and skills.

To date, RCCD has received \$33 million to purchase and improve the identified Jurupa Valley 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 was approved in June 2025 by RCCD's Board of Trustees, paving the way for building on the purchased site in Jurupa Valley. In Fall 2025, a regional workgroup agreed on initial program areas, emphasizing the need for flexibility. Guided by labor market data and faculty input, the identified focus areas include Building and Trades/Advanced Manufacturing/Utilities, Healthcare, Agriculture, and Entrepreneurship/Technology.