



MANUFACTURERS' COUNCIL of the INLAND EMPIRE

April 7, 2016

Re: **Support for the Strong Workforce Program**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Manufacturers' Council of the Inland Empire (MCIE) would like to voice support of the full funding of \$200 million for the Strong Workforce Program as well as the \$48 million annual commitment to the Career Technical Education Pathways Program outlined in the Governor's proposed January Budget.

The MCIE, www.mfgcouncilie.com, is a 501(c)3 organization founded in 2005 by a group of manufacturers with Chaffey College, San Bernardino Community College District and San Bernardino Workforce Investment/Development Board. Over the last ten years, the MCIE has grown to 50 core manufacturers and implemented 20+ new training programs ranging from 8 hours to 460 hours providing training to hundreds of businesses and thousands of residents in the Inland Empire.

The MCIE relies on our college partners to train and develop our new entrants and our incumbent workforce. In the past, some of our members resorted to recruiting technical positions from other states and even other countries. Today, we recruit students straight from the colleges for-credit programs, hire them (at approximately \$22.00/hr.) and enroll them into customized short-term intensive training through the contract education units of the community colleges. We rely on our college partners to provide highly-skilled, credentialed trainers and faculty with industry experience to provide technical training to our workforce. This long-standing regional collaboration has been so successful that six weeks ago we opened a **regional training facility called the InTech Center** (Industrial Technical Learning Center) on site at a MCIE manufacturer's location...the first ever of its kind in California.

There are several plans to sustain the regional training center. We will braid funding from multiple agencies and encourage revenue through industry supported fee-based re-certification courses required for employed workers. Additionally, we plan to develop programs for other in-demand industry sectors that provide good paying jobs to our region. It is projected that the InTech center will have over a billion dollar economic impact to the Inland Empire region.

Additionally, we also rely on our college partners to work with the K-12 system to introduce the world of advanced manufacturing to junior high and high school students. As the grey tsunami continues to take effect, it is critical to the regional economy that students and their parents are well-informed about the good paying jobs in advanced manufacturing that require only a certificate or two year degree.

In closing, the MCIE strongly supports the full funding of \$200 million for the Strong Workforce Program as well as the \$48 million annual commitment to the Career Technical Education Pathways Program outlined in the Governor's proposed January Budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

Rod Hoover, Vice President/Treasurer MCIE
620 S. Rancho Avenue, Colton, CA 92324



MFGCouncilie.com