**Memorandum**

To: Frank Kobayashi, Associate Vice President, Workforce & Economic Development, American River College (ARC)

From: Aaron Wilcher, Director, Center of Excellence (COE), North-Far North region

Attached: COE draft study, “Trends and Emerging Technology in Sacramento’s Transportation Cluster”

Date: April 27, 2018

Re: Program endorsement requests for diesel technology and automotive technology

**Background**

In March, 2018 Frank Kobayashi submitted program endorsement requests to the COE for diesel and automotive technology.

**Response**

The Los Rios Community College district CTE Leadership Council (CTEL) commissioned a study for several program areas and emerging technology in the Sacramento Region. This memo summarizes areas of the resulting study relevant to the present request. The study is attached to the email containing this memo.

Based on the study’s findings, I recommend that ARC move forward with proposed program changes and investments in diesel technology and automotive technology. Specifically, the regional consortium and ARC should reference the following sections and findings:

* Section I, Sacramento Regional Transportation Cluster, provides industry data on automotive, logistics, trucking, and other industry subclusters that show employment levels for industries where vehicle technicians are concentrated. Section IV, Alternative Vehicle Technicians Workforce Analysis, provides labor market data for the primary vehicle technician occupations, including regional occupational employment counts and projections, and regional education and training awards data.
* Section I shows that the Sacramento region has significant employment levels in Automotive Wholesale, Logistics Services, Auto Repair and Maintenance, Trucking, Transportation Systems, and trucking Logistics. These industry subclusters have thousands of jobs in the Sacramento region.
* Section IV finds that there will be 680 annual openings for automotive service technicians over the next five years in the Sacramento region, and nearly 300 supervisors of mechanics, installers, and repairers. There are more than 850 annual awards in the automotive technician space. A sizeable gap was not identified—awards and openings are relatively similar. However, partner engagement and other research suggests there are other considerations for program development given the large number of awards from a private training provider, Universal Technical Institute (UTI). The findings also note that ARC and other regional programs have long-standing programs with robust enrollments, and strong industry partnerships.
* Section IV shows that the demand for diesel technicians is lower, but significant, with more than 170 projected annual openings. The supply of diesel technicians is also dominated by UTI. ARC has robust enrollment and the only community college diesel program in the region. The data shows a slight gap when comparing annual openings to average awards.
* The scan of regional programs suggests that ARC is the leading education and training provider for alternative fuel vehicle technician (AFV) coursework in both automotive and diesel, passenger and heavy-duty vehicles. The research did not definitively identify demand for AFV technicians, but estimates and market data suggest the technology is ubiquitous and has strong historical growth. The extent to which these technology are impacting technicians, the likelihood that education and training for AFV technicians means that ARC would be a candidate to lead the regional charge to meet employer technician training needs.

Please contact Aaron Wilcher, COE director, for further information at [wilchea@losrios.edu](mailto:wilchea@losrios.edu) or 916-563-3233.