

Memorandum

To: Judy Beachler, Cosumnes River College (CRC)

CC: Torence Powell, Associate Vice President, Cosumnes River College

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

Date: February 8, 2019

Re: Program endorsement request for Allied Health: Pre-Allied Health Occupations

Background

Cosumnes River College requested a program endorsement report from the COE regarding Allied Health. The COE provided a related report for Sierra College in June, 2018 for a pathway program that should accompany the present memo as supporting documentation for the program endorsement process for the NFN regional consortium.

Findings

- Allied health is an expanding industry with expected job growth that far exceeds general economic growth predictions over the next five years. The North/Far North region job growth projections also mirror those of the state with employment expected to increase by 14% between 2017-2022.
- Allied health employment has consistently grown during the last 10 years. Unlike most industries, there was no dip in demand for workers with health care training during the recession.
- An aging population will require more health care services in the coming decades, resulting in continued demand for allied health occupations to service those needs. From an economics perspective, health care is an inelastic good since an individual cannot substitute their need for care if they are sick or injured.
- Median wages for allied health occupations generally exceed the living wage in the Sacramento region. Six of the eight occupations studied had median wages above \$30.00 per hour, which compare favorably to the \$25.90 per hour Sacramento living wage for one adult one child household. The North region also tends to have slightly higher wages than the state as a whole, likely due to a smaller supply of medical providers especially in specialized areas, than in other parts of the state.

Recommendations

- There is broad demand for a range of allied health positions. A majority are middle-skill jobs that pay well.
- The COE recommends moving forward with the program.

Please contact Aaron Wilcher, COE director, for further information at wilchea@losrios.edu or 916-563-3233.