To Whom it May Concern:

On behalf of the California State University Bakersfield (CSUB), I submit this letter in support of the High Roads Training Partnership (HRTP) project under the leadership of the Kern Community College District (KCCD). CSU Bakersfield and the KCCD have developed an unprecedented partnership, garnering local, regional, statewide, and even national attention in the past few years. In particular, CSUB and Bakersfield College (BC), one of the KCCD's three colleges, have been trailblazers in advancing baccalaureate completion to meet the state’s rising demand for bachelor-degree qualified workers.

The HRTP project will provide another opportunity for collaboration as CSUB engages its research programs to help support the development of a Workforce Strategy for Kern County. CSUB recognizes the strength of coalition building to advance our communities. Our institutions have a long history of working together to ensure student and community success. Our partnership has not only improved student transfer and completion, it has led to the historic establishment of Bakersfield College’s SouthWest (BCSW) campus, a hub for CSUB transfer-bound students located on the perimeter of CSUB’s campus. Currently under construction, the BCSW campus brings to life the visionary foresight, bold innovation, and effective coalition-building KCCD has become known for in our community and throughout the state.

Our partnership has also brought millions in funding to grow our programs to our region. Notably, our work to prepare the teaching workforce and the healthcare workforce recently earned our institutions $7.5 million in federal funding over summer 2020.

The KCCD’s proven track record in utilizing grant funding to scale its programs to meet regional demands make them an excellent candidate for this funding. Our community needs the leadership of the KCCD and we are committed to the success of the HRTP project.

Sincerely,

Lynnette Zelezny, Ph.D., M.B.A.
President