MEMORANDUM

Date: December 20, 2016

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: **December 14, 2016 Letter from the Sunnyside Unified School District Superintendent Regarding Career and Technical Education Programs**

The Sunnyside Unified School District (SUSD) has made major strides in preparing their students for technical careers. This is particularly important as the County continues to develop the Aerospace Corridor, as well as our Aerospace, Defense and Technology Business and Research Park. It important for our employers in this region have highly qualified, technically trained individuals to employ. SUSD is meeting this important goal through their Career and Technical Education programs and the iStem Academy.

I have communicated these technical workforce training programs to the executive teams of Raytheon, World View and Vector Space. In the coming month and years, they may require trained employees educated in SUSD.

Attached for your review is the December 14, 2016 letter I received from the Superintendent of SUSD after discussing his programs and the need to expand these programs to meet our future workforce training needs. The SUSD graduates of these programs are very employable at wages significantly above the regional average.

CHH/anc

Attachment

c: Jan Lesher, Deputy County Administrator for Community and Health Services
Steve Holmes, Superintendent, Sunnyside Unified School District

SUNNYSIDE Unified School District
EVERY CHILD College & Career Ready

Office of the Superintendent
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Tucson, Arizona 85706
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December 14, 2016

Chuck Huckelberry
County Administrator
Pima County Administrator's Office
130 W. Congress, 10th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Mr. Huckelberry:

In the heart of the Pima County Aerospace Corridor, Sunnyside Unified School District is developing world class Career and Technical Education programs as part of their College and Career Academies. These programs are transforming high school and are key to a strong workforce development pipeline. The development of these academies is in partnership with local business and industry members. The iSTEM Academy at Desert View High School and the Medical and Allied Health Careers Academy at Sunnyside High School are just two of the district's six college and career academies which provide students the opportunity to develop technical skills, earn nationally-recognized industry credentials, obtain dual college credits and engage in rigorous academics.

The students in the iSTEM Academy Manufacturing Program are currently able to earn up to 13 dual Pima Community College Credits, a number likely to increase with the addition of a Mechatronics Engineering program aligned with Pima Community College. In addition, students are able to earn nationally-recognized industry credentials from SolidWorks, NIMS and Mastercam. Over 100 students have earned industry certifications in the last two years and the program also was the first in Southern Arizona to receive national accreditation from NIMS and designation as an "M List" Best Practices program by the Manufacturing Institute. The program uses state-of-the-art CNC machining equipment and recently added Quality Control and Prototyping Rooms. The iSTEM Academy has strong involvement from members of the Southern Arizona Manufacturing Partnership (www.sazmp.com) and is a recipient of support from the Pima County Youth Career Connect Federal Grant. In May of 2106, the program received the national Excellence in Action Manufacturing Cluster Award from Advance CTE in Washington, D.C. Due to the program's national NIMS accreditation and the individual industry certifications students are earning, the students are able to raise funds for national conferences and competitions by producing parts for local manufacturing companies.

The following is a CNN story that includes information about the Desert View High School students' real-world manufacturing projects:

http://money.cnn.com/2016/07/18/news/economy/high-school-manufacturers/index.html

The following is a link to a story that KOLD-TV ran regarding the manufacturing program:
http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/story/31820233/desert-view-high-students-building-airplane-parts-launching-their-careers

The following is a link to a video about the Desert View High School iSTEM Academy:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I2h2xpluAFQ&t=76s

At Sunnyside High School, students in the Academy of Medical and Allied Health Careers are able to earn nationally-recognized Emergency Medical Responder industry credentials in the Emergency Medical Services program and are able to participate in DNA Barcoding research for non-profit clients in the community including Native Seeds SEARCH and the Kino Heritage Trees Project at the Arizona Sonora Desert Museum. Ten students from the Sunnyside High School BioScience program participated in the Biotech Academy during the last two summers at the Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Plant.

The following is a video providing a peek into the exciting projects the students are working on in the BioScience class that produced by the Arizona Daily Star:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qUVrnoN5FxA

The Sunnyside USD College and Career Academies are not only transforming high school education but are transforming our community in partnership with local business and industry members.

In closing, I would like to extend an invitation to you and Ms. Lesher to attend the National Institute for Metalworking Skills (NIMS) Accreditation Event at Desert View High School, 4101 East Valencia Road on January 11th at 8:30 a.m. (see attachment).

Sincerely,

Steve Holmes
Superintendent

Attachment

SAMP

SOUTHERN ARIZONA MANUFACTURING PARTNERS

*The members of **SAMP (Southern Arizona Manufacturing Partnership)** invite you to a special event recognizing **Desert View High School, Pima Community College and Tucson High Magnet School** in achieving **NIMS (National Institute for Metalworking Skills)** national program accreditation in Precision Machining,*

Wednesday, January 11th, 2016, 8:30 a.m.,

Desert View High School iSTEM Academy Manufacturing Classrooms,

4101 E. Valencia Road, Tucson, AZ 85706

*Please join us to celebrate the national recognition of these three educational institutions and the strong community partnership of **SAMP**, facilitated by the **Pima County One-Stop, a proud partner of Arizona@Work***

Please RSVP by Monday, January 9th to:
Martha Guzman at marthag@susd12.org or 520-545-2168