

April 26, 2022

The Honorable Chad Mayes
Member, California State Assembly
1021 "O" Street – Room 4710
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: FUNDING FOR STAND-ALONE CAL-STATE PALM DESERT CAMPUS (SUPPORT)

Dear Assemblymember Mayes:

The Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce is one of the largest regional chambers in California, representing over 1,300 business member organizations in the Greater Coachella Valley. Our Chamber supports businesses and workforce development through our advocacy work at all levels of government.

We are writing in support of the funding request to secure \$80 million to further develop a Cal State University (CSU) stand-alone campus in Palm Desert. We recognize Assemblymember Mayes and your work in obtaining previous funds and appreciate your diligence to secure more.

Securing additional funding will help ensure the independent campus can begin to have an even greater impact in several key areas, including supporting the growth of our business community and developing our local workforce in both industries that are cornerstones of our local economy, and those emerging opportunities yet to be realized.

To date, only a fraction of the physical capacity at the Palm Desert site has been utilized. The budget request that you are pursuing can reinvigorate and expand both the opportunities and benefits for students wishing to enter a wide range of professions that are key to our region's long-term workforce demands.

Finally, it is important to remember that future students attending from minority, under-served and under-represented communities will also benefit from having expanded access to higher education through a larger and more robust CSU campus closer to home.

For these reasons, we strongly support a state budget request to provide \$80M or more in funding toward expanding a stand-alone CSU Palm Desert to serve local residents for generations to come. Thank you for the consideration of our views on these important issues.

Sincerely,



Emily Falappino
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce, President/CEO