

Rosy Millan

From: Rocque Perez <rocque@metedu.org>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 4:15 PM
To: Jan Leshner; COB_mail
Subject: MEC in Memorandum on Service Duplication

REC'D
APR 15 2024 10:46 AM

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Dear Administrator Leshner and COB,

I greatly appreciated your recent memorandum to the Board regarding service duplication across Pima County. As your team prepares the next Board packet, I wanted to emphasize the unique role MEC plays as a joint city-county commission and not an Outside Agency, with programs not replicated elsewhere. Additionally, I wanted to share some of MEC's recent achievements:

- **City Funding Increase:** For the current fiscal year, at the direction of City Manager Ortega, MEC received its first funding increase in several years, from \$19K to \$25K, with the potential for additional funding through competitive processes. With great interest from Council Member Santa Cruz, whose joined the Commission, we're hopeful of other opportunities this may afford.
- **College Access Center:** This year, our Center reached over 4,800 students, families, and counselors through direct support at high schools and at our office in the Santa Rosa Center. Notably, our 22 high school senior AmeriCorps staff were integrated into counseling teams at eight key Pima County high schools including Tucson High Magnet, Rincon High, Sabino High, Sunnyside High, Desert View High, Empire High, Andrada High, and Saint Augustine Catholic High. These Peer Coaches delivered more than 7,000 hours of service, received stipends, and underwent extensive training in areas like college readiness, personal finance, and mental health first aid, which they then relayed to their peers.
 - These coaches received numerous certifications for diverse array of trainings they underwent and the completion of the program, are set to graduate high school, and have secured placements in higher education institutions in Tucson and beyond.
- **Quarterly College Support Network Meetings:** These meetings have successfully connected school counselors, community partners, and higher education representatives to discuss strategies to support college-bound students across the region.

MEC's many programs, particularly through the College Access Center, has filled critical support gaps emerging due to local and national challenges, such as the University of Arizona's budget cuts affecting student access services and the unprecedented update to the FAFSA form. These initiatives have become indispensable, particularly for students facing special circumstances. Ahead of the meeting between you and I on April 29, our commission will be finalizing its strategy for the 2024/25 Fiscal and Academic year.

I am committed to enhancing our impact reporting and look forward to discussing how we can further align MEC's work with Pima County's goals to maximize our impact. Thank you for your support and leadership!

Best regards,

Rocque Perez
Executive Director

April 12, 2024

Pima County Board of Supervisors

Re: JobPath's Vital Role in our Community

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing today to show my support of JobPath and how critical they've been for me during my time as an LPN student at Pima Community College.

Before enrolling in JobPath, I was working 46 hours a week to pay my bills and tuition owed after my financial aid ran out. I was either at work or school and money for gas, tuition, and daily life were slim to none once my monthly bills were paid. Once I found JobPath, the stress was eased. They helped pay my tuition, helped me meet a group of women that provided a grant for school, gave a monthly gas stipend that made all my commute miles less worrisome because I knew I could afford a tank of gas. I was able to cut my work hours to 32 hours a week because of the financial support they gave and that had a positive impact on my grades. They not only give financial support, but emotional support as well. My monthly check-ins with my success coach have been a bright spot for me. Like having a pen pal, I write to her once a month and give an update about my life and how I'm doing overall, and she is always trying to help find new ways to relieve more stress or give encouragement when school just doesn't seem worth the hassle.

JobPath offers financial and emotional support. Whether it is a gas stipend or an encouraging email at midterm, they continue to help me strive to finish my LPN program. If the Board of Supervisors cuts JobPath funding, I know the support I receive from them will be cut and that jeopardizes my success in completing my program. I encourage you to vote to continue funding JobPath at the same level at the very least. The future success of students like me is at stake. The ability to achieve our goals is at stake if funding is cut.

Sincerely,

Alix Gamble

Supervisor District 2

April 14th, 2024

Pima County Board of Supervisors

Re: JobPath's Vital Role in our Community

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing/here today to show my support of JobPath and how critical they've been for me during my time as a Nursing student.

Before enrolling with JobPath I did not know how I was going to pay for school and thought I would have to defer my dream of becoming a Registered Nurse. I was unemployed during this time due the pandemic and was facing various financial struggles.

As a JobPath student, I've received assistance for rent, utilities, school, and supplies needed for school during the pandemic. JobPath was also gracious enough to provide gas cards and other resources. They even offered school supplies among other tools to help me succeed as a student This allowed me to go to school worry free and debt free.

The support I receive from JobPath goes above and beyond that of Pima County OneStop, which was also introduced to me by the wonderful help of JobPath.

If the Board of Supervisors cuts JobPath funding, I know the support I received from them will be cut jeopardizing those who are in various programs such as mine. I encourage you to vote to continue funding JobPath at the same level at the very least. The future success of students just like me are at stake.

Sincerely,

Karla Aceves

Your District # 6

APR 15 24 AM 9:09 PM CLK OF BO

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Rosy Millan

From: Barbara Kelly [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 10:06 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: JobPath Support

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Dear Mr. Scott and other County Supervisors,

I hope you will vote to continue or even increase support for JobPath, which helps move motivated and underserved people into good jobs and a better future. JobPath reports that over 90% of their students complete their program and 85% of those find jobs in their field within 6 months. In addition, JobPath says they boost their annual salaries by an average of \$42k a year.

The fields that JobPath students pursue are those identified as in-demand at good pay, so graduates benefit the overall economy as well as themselves and their families.

There is no question that the County has a lot of worthy and important ways to spend our money. This seems to me to be one of them.

Thank you.

Barbara Kelly
District 1

APR 15 2 41 06 PM '24
RM

Rosy Millan

From: Susan Leader [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 10:29 AM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Re: JobPath Funding - please read my letter

CAUTION: This message and sender come from outside Pima County. If you did not expect this message, proceed with caution. Verify the sender's identity before performing any action, such as clicking on a link or opening an attachment.

Please note that this email is in reference to Item 10 on the Addendum to the Agenda. Thank you.
Susan Leader

On Mon, Apr 15, 2024 at 10:23 AM Susan Leader <[REDACTED]>
Susan M Leader
6861 N Deone Lane
Tucson, Arizona 85704
[REDACTED]

APR 15 24 10:00 POC/KCF:BD
RM

Re: JobPath's Vital Role in our Community

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to show my support for the JobPath program and the vital role they play in creating equitable access to education, job training, and economic opportunity in Pima County.

I am a longtime supporter of JobPath and would like to tell you about two people I know who have benefitted from their programs:

Zahraa came to the US as a refugee from Iraq with her family when she was a senior in high school. With the help of JobPath she went through the Pharmacy Tech Program at Pima College, which was the launching point for her to go on to get a bachelor's degree at the University of Arizona followed by Pharmacy School. She now is a licensed Pharmacist here in Tucson.

Suzi went through the Pima College Aircraft Mechanic program thanks to JobPath. She recently completed her certification exams and is now a fully licensed Aircraft mechanic, keeping planes safely maintained right here at the Tucson Airport.

Neither of these women would have had the financial ability to complete these programs without the support of JobPath. The Tucson and Pima County Communities are benefitting from our investment in their education.

JobPath has played a crucial role in economic development for the Southern Arizona region since it was founded in 1998 and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. JobPath has a strong reputation for helping students succeed in our community:

- Over 90% of students supported by JobPath complete their program
- 85% of those find employment in their field within 6 months of their graduation
- Those who complete their program increase their annual salaries by an average of
- \$42,000/year

Because JobPath supports students in specific careers fields that Pima County identifies as in-demand and high wage, their impact goes far beyond the students they serve to create a healthier economy through increased tax revenue, buying power, and healthier families. This is what makes them different from other agencies and government programs.

I encourage you to vote to continue JobPath's general funds at the same or increased level.

With the rising cost of housing, groceries, gas and so much more, JobPath's support is needed now more than ever!

Sincerely,
Susan M Leader
District #1



April 15, 2024

Pima County Board of Supervisors
130 West Congress Street
Tucson, AZ 85701

Re: Fully Funding JopPath Request

Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I want to express my gratitude to each of you for your selfless service and commitment to our community as Supervisors. As you make important judgements and decisions regarding the next budget cycle, I want to highly encourage you to once again fully fund JobPath. Pima County has been a visionary role model for other counties in our state and nation with respect to providing vital support for adults seeking to improve their family and personal lives and that of our region as a result. Now is the critical time to double down on previous gains and not role back in this vital area that helps improve our regional economy. This item is in reference to Item 10 on the addendum to the board agenda.

As a new board member of JobPath, I am excited to add my contributions to this important organization in our community given that it makes a vital difference at the individual and family level that adds up to a thriving region and state with a strong and well qualified talent pool available for in-demand roles. We need more working adults to move from the sidelines to the arena, from low income dead-end jobs to high wage long term careers; and the bridge that helps adult individuals make it happen is JobPath!

JobPath has played a vital role in economic development for the Southern Arizona region since it was founded in 1998 and especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. JobPath has a strong reputation for helping students succeed in our community:

- Over 90% of students supported by JobPath complete their program
- 85% of those find employment in their field within 6 months of their graduation
- Those who complete their program increase their annual salaries by an average of \$42,000/year

I highly encourage each board member to help secure critical funding that will allow JobPath to improve equity and access to education and job training programs. Investing in JobPath changes the destiny of individuals and transforms our region and state one graduate at a time!

All My Best,

Alex Rodriguez
Alex Rodriguez
President & CEO
District 4 Resident

APR 15 2024 11:27 AM CLK/CFB
RM

April 17, 2024

Pima County Board of Supervisors

Re: JobPath's Vital Role in our Community

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing today to show my support of JobPath and how critical they've been for me during my time as an Aviation Technology student.

Before enrolling with JobPath - I struggled supporting my family financially. I am 39 years old and have two kids. I was working full time and I was ready for a career change. I was employed with the same company for 11 years and had not seen a meaningful pay increase in several years. Despite being in a Supervisor position I was struggling. Prior to going back to college I had no degree or certifications and no prospects of better pay.

As a JobPath student, I've received financial support that allowed me to attend college full time while still supporting my family. JobPath made it possible for me to not have to work a full/part time job while going to school. I fully intended on working atleast part time but I did not have to and JobPath was a hug part of that. My coach also was great in helping me with job prep and other support along the way as I prepared for testing and job interviews. My coach also checked in with me frequently to ask me how my classes and personal life was.

The support I receive from JobPath goes above and beyond that of Earn to Learn and H1B programs. H1B is great but doesnt provide the same level of support. Earn to Learn did not help me financially the way they said they would. It is very easy to communicate with my JobPath coach which I can't say H1B was as good about that either.

If the Board of Supervisors cuts JobPath funding, I know the support I receive from them will be cut jeopardizing my success in my program. Being an older individual that failed to complete college at a younger age and struggling to support my family JobPath made returning to school and completing my degree a reality. I encourage you to vote to continue funding JobPath at the same level at the very least. The future success of students just like me is at stake.

Sincerely,

Adam Lovett

Congressional District 7

Legislative District 21

APR 15 2024 11:27 PM CLK/CF BD

RM