

May 3, 2021

AGENDA MATERIAL

DATE 5-4-21

ITEM NO. RA 9

Pima County Board of Supervisors

Dear Chair Bronson, Supervisors Scott, Heinz, Christy, and Grijalva,

I am writing to support an increase in funding for Job Path, of one million dollars, for a total of \$1.7 million dollars. I am a deacon serving at St Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church, Tucson, Arizona, and a leader with Pima County Interfaith, which has worked to establish and ensure funding for JobPath for 25 years. I am a resident of District 1.

JobPath's mission is to improve the economic status of underserved adults, by removing barriers to educational achievement, so that they can lead healthier and more prosperous lives. JobPath partners with colleges and job-training centers, providing students with individualized financial support for school and non-school related expenses as well as personalized coaching and career counseling. This support helps them succeed in their programs of study, such as programs like nursing, or aviation technology. In 2019:

- 90% of JobPath students graduated from their programs;
- 85% got a job in their field within 6 months of graduating; and,
- JobPath graduates increased their annual salaries by \$42,200.

In addition, estimates indicate that JobPath's total economic impact in Pima County was \$17.6 million for fiscal year 2019, driven by an increase in annual direct wages of \$3.4 million for JobPath graduates placed in jobs.

In 2020, JobPath leadership saw the need for new programs to create economic opportunity for women and parents displaced from the workforce because of COVID-19. Even during the pandemic, JobPath placed 81% of their 2020 graduates. JobPath students will satisfy the need for new skilled workers, bolstering the county's economic recovery.

The workforce is changing; we need flexible educational and training programs to prepare folks for these new careers. JobPath is one organization that can provide those programs. I respectfully request your support for the increased funding for this program.

Leah Sandwell-Weiss

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Deacon, St Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Leader, Pima County Interfaith

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