

Jessica Kopfmann

From: Bart Smith <bart@stmarksaz.org>
Sent: Monday, May 3, 2021 12:43 PM
To: COB_mail
Subject: Support JobPath

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Dear Pima Supervisors,

I'm writing today as a pastor of a church in District 1 and a resident and voter in District 2 to express my strong support of an increase in funding for JobPath. JobPath is a vital program in our community, a boon for the local economy, and a crucial intervention in the cycles of generational poverty.

The total economic impact for fiscal year 2019 was estimated at \$17.6 million, driven by an increase in annual direct wages of \$3.4 million for JobPath graduates placed in jobs. This program helps low-income adults overcome barriers to succeed in degree and certification programs. It is also a resounding success according to several metrics: JobPath participants boast a 90% graduation rate; 85% of JobPath students get a job in their field within six months of graduation; and in 2019, JobPath graduates earned an average starting salary of nearly \$50,000.

Those are just some of the numbers, economically speaking. What cannot be measured, however, is the ripple effect of JobPath on individuals and families in Pima County. I have heard firsthand from several graduates how their success has improved their quality of life, but also their confidence as they step out into the job market. The emotional and spiritual benefits to participants are incalculable.

I urge you to consider an increase in funding for this outstanding point of pride for Pima County.

Grateful for your service,
 The Rev. Bart Smith



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"Jesus Christ calls us to be a joyful community that celebrates God's love, transforms lives, and is a force for justice in the world."

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