



WEST VALLEY-MISSION COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RESOLUTION NO. 26072101

**ENDORSEMENT OF THE SUPPORTING KNOWLEDGE THROUGH INDUSTRY-
LED LEARNING ACT (SKILL ACT)**

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the West Valley-Mission Community College District affirms that preparing students for high-demand careers is central to its “Student First” mission and to the continued economic vitality of Santa Clara County; and

WHEREAS, community colleges are uniquely positioned to connect education, workforce development, and regional opportunity through accessible, tuition-free programs that lead to credentials, family-sustaining wages, and durable economic mobility, particularly for students from historically underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, the value of this model is already evident on the District’s campuses, where Mission College’s Mechatronic Technology program prepares students for careers in industrial automation through hands-on instruction across electrical, mechanical, computer, and software systems, training that maps directly to occupations carrying strong regional demand, with Santa Clara County labor-market data identifying approximately 7,925 workers employed in the field, a median salary of \$99,854, and 782 recent job postings; and

WHEREAS, West Valley College was recently awarded a \$3.9 million federal grant through the U.S. Department of Education’s Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to develop a new semiconductor certificate program, becoming the only California community college selected in a competitive cycle, and will build a semiconductor fabrication lab designed to certify at least 120 students per year for entry into high-skill cleanroom and fabrication roles; and

WHEREAS, employers increasingly depend on skilled workers in advanced manufacturing, automation, semiconductors, the skilled trades, health care, public safety, and other essential fields that sustain both local communities and the innovation economy, and that these programs are most effective when developed in partnership with the employers who hire their graduates; and

WHEREAS, the principal barrier to expanding these pathways is not student capacity but the gap between the skills that employers require and those any single institution can develop independently, a gap that narrows through sustained employer partnership and adequate incentives to support it; and

WHEREAS, the Supporting Knowledge through Industry-Led Learning Act (SKILL Act), introduced by U.S. Representative Sam Liccardo, would amend the Internal Revenue Code to establish a federal tax credit, available to participating employers, of \$2,500 for each student who earns a degree, certificate, or credential from a qualifying program the employer has supported, and an additional \$2,500 for each such graduate the employer subsequently hires on a full-time basis; and

WHEREAS, the Act limits eligibility to programs offered by community and technical colleges that can be completed in two years or less, and extends the credit to employers that contribute through curriculum development, skills assessment, apprenticeships, applied learning, laboratory access, or donations of equipment and services; and

WHEREAS, the Act authorizes up to \$500 million in credits nationally for each of calendar years 2027 through 2031, allocated competitively among the states in proportion to population, directing private investment toward two-year programs at public colleges; and

WHEREAS, the SKILL Act builds upon precisely the partnership model already established at West Valley-Mission Community College District, positioning districts with mature workforce infrastructure to serve as visible, early examples of effective implementation; and

WHEREAS, supporting the SKILL Act aligns squarely with the District's commitment to educational access, economic mobility, equity, innovation, and durable partnership with the communities it serves; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the West Valley-Mission Community College District hereby endorses the SKILL Act, and urges its passage as a measure that strengthens employer partnerships, expands apprenticeship and applied-learning opportunities, and widens the path from the classroom to a meaningful career for community college students; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board authorizes the Chancellor to transmit this resolution to U.S. Representative Sam Liccardo, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, and other pertinent stakeholders, and to advocate actively in support of the SKILL Act on behalf of the District.

Dated:

July 21, 2021

Signed:

Adrienne Grey
Adrienne Grey, Board President, WVMCCD

Signed:

Bradley J. Davis
Bradley J. Davis, Chancellor, WVMCCD

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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