



RAUL RUIZ, M.D.
Member of Congress
36th District of California

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3605

Washington, D.C. Office:

2342 Rayburn House
Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515
Phone: [202-225-5330](tel:202-225-5330)

June 11, 2021

The Honorable Dr. Miguel Cardona
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue SW, Room 2B159
Washington, DC 20202-4260

RE: CSUSB Hispanic-Serving Institution's STEM and Articulation Program Grant

Dear Secretary Cardona:

I write in support of California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) and their application for funding under the Hispanic-Serving Institution's (HSI) Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) and Articulation Program. This grant funding would allow CSUSB to provide exceptional STEM opportunities for Hispanic and low-income students in our communities.

CSUSB's HSI STEM and Articulation Program Grant would invest in developing a Science Success Center with Guided Pathway Transfer and Articulation agreements. The Center would ensure community college students have the resources and support they need to transfer to the CSUSB San Bernardino Campus or Palm Desert Campus in order to complete a four-year STEM degree.

As the Representative of California's 36th Congressional District, I understand the difference the HSI STEM and Articulation Program grant would make in the lives of the individuals I serve and represent. Nationwide, Hispanic and low-income communities are significantly underrepresented in the STEM workplace. Hispanic students are the least likely to graduate on time within colleges and universities and are even less likely to earn a four-year STEM degree. As a predominately Hispanic school, CSUSB would work to guarantee its Hispanic and low-income students not only receive a diploma, but that they thrive in the major of their choice.

With this grant, CSUSB would dramatically increase Hispanic graduates entering the STEM workforce in our region. This minor investment in the future of Hispanic and low-income students would provide a major boost in the development of the STEM workforce and our local economy. By collaborating with the local community colleges, CSUSB and its Science Success Center would streamline the transfer process, connect students to internships, provide career planning and job training, and deliver a competitive edge for students as they apply for jobs and post-graduate programs.

With this funding under the HSI STEM and Articulation Program, CSUSB would have the capacity to invest in the success of its students and the excellence of its four-year STEM degree programs. By supporting our Hispanic and low-income students' futures, CSUSB would exponentially contribute to diversity in the workforce, high economic growth, and job creation in the Inland Southern California region.

I believe that California State University, San Bernardino (CSUSB) has the capacity to ensure this program exceeds performance standards while guaranteeing the success of Hispanic and low-income students in our communities. For this reason, I support their application for the Hispanic-Serving Institutions STEM and Articulation Program Grant and urge full and fair consideration, consistent with all relevant program rules and regulations. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact my office at (760) 424-8888.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raul Ruiz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Raul" and last name "Ruiz" clearly distinguishable.

Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress