

**DOCKETED**

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**Letter of Support for SDSU Brawley Expansion - Central Union High School District**

*Additional submitted attachment is included below.*

**DISTRICT LEADERSHIP**

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The Honorable Governor Gavin Newsom  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom:

We are pleased to provide this letter in support of San Diego State University’s expansion plan for an Innovation District and STEM programs on the Brawley campus. We urge you to include SDSU’s \$80M request for a STEM building to support workforce needs related to lithium extraction in the Lithium Valley Budget Package.

Central Union High School District’s proximity to the Salton Sea and the lithium extraction operations create an ideal location for STEM research and curriculum. Educational programming that can support the alternative fuel industries interested in investing in the Imperial Valley would have a significant economic impact on the city and region. This type of project supports the vision outlined in the Imperial County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that calls for training and job opportunities that help bolster economic growth in the region. A dedicated pipeline for our students to receive the training to fulfill the workforce needs would have a transformative effect. And expanding STEM capabilities at the Brawley campus would allow for students to complete their education without commuting to the San Diego campus.

Central Union High School has recently embarked on a new STEM curriculum (Project Lead the Way) by providing math and science education as the school prepares students for 21st century careers such as robotics, bio-medical sciences and engineering so the news for San Diego State University’s expansion plan for an Innovation District goes hand in hand to begin preparing our students and our workforce here in Imperial County. We made a \$38M investment in a new classroom building including 13 science labs, an engineering lab and a computer integrated manufacturing lab.

As we have been actively working to increase investment in educational opportunities. We know that this project will be a catalyst for future growth and development in the region. We strongly support San Diego State University and look forward to strengthening our community partnership for the betterment of the Central Union High School District.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ward Andrus, Superintendent

Cc: Senator Ben Hueso, Senator Nancy Skinner, Asm. Eduardo Garcia, Asm Phil Ting, Senator Nancy Skinner

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