



March 17, 2016

Van Ton-Quinlivan, Vice Chancellor
Division of Workforce and Economic Development
California Community College Chancellor's Office
1102 Q Street, Suite 4554
Sacramento, CA 95811-6549

Vice Chancellor Ton-Quinlivan,

I am writing this letter of interest in response to your solicitation of interest in identifying and networking together ten or more colleges interested in participating in and/or leading a community of practice committed to exploring, setting up, and/or building out their connections to the Maker movement.

Skyline College is poised to build on what we have learned in our partnership with Base 11, a workforce development and entrepreneurial innovation company focused on creating the next generation of leaders in STEM. Base 11 specifically partners with community colleges to provide under-resourced students with hands on training in STEM entrepreneurialism and exclusive access to competitive internships.

Using this partnership as a framework, engaged community colleges could have the opportunity to create a new innovation center, called a Fabrication Lab, inspired by the MIT fab lab that would provide a dedicated space for providing STEM students to gain a foundation in what it takes to create a start-up venture using their STEM ideas and innovation. Students would be provided with the instruction and tools to take their ideas and develop them into a STEM related business enterprise. Additionally, Fab labs would be available as a community resource, offering open access for individuals as well as scheduled access for programs by interested business and organizations in the community.

Finally, selected students can also gain access to incredible paid internship opportunities at institutions like USC, The Smithsonian, UC Irvine, and CalTech. Right now there are clear opportunities for employment in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, commonly referred to as STEM, but not enough students are studying these crucial subjects. Community colleges across the nation, face the unique challenge of building awareness of these opportunities within our student body, and to give students the tools and skills they need to

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pursue them, succeed in STEM, and help to close the skills gap between education and employment.

At its root, this effort would strive to help create a sustainable middle class in America. Education and entrepreneurship in the STEM field is one of the most viable ways to help do just that. As a measure of their success, Base 11 has established the Base 11 Victory Circle with the goal of empowering 11,000 high potential, low-resource students by 2020, aligning nicely with the mission, vision and values of California's community colleges and our workforce and economic development mission.

We would like the opportunity to take a leading role in the "maker movement" grant. Thank you in advance for the opportunity to submit this letter of interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Regina Stanback Stroud". The signature is written in a cursive style with some loops and flourishes.

Regina Stanback Stroud, Ed.D.

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