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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0520

August 15, 2024

Ms. Amy Costa, President
California Community Colleges (CCC) Board of Governors
1102 Q Street, 6th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95811

Dear President Costa:

I am writing to express my support for Cerro Coso Community College and its proposed baccalaureate program in Cyber Security Technology. This program would help Cerro Coso Community College, located in Ridgecrest, California, which I represent, address the rapid growth in demand for skilled workers in the information technology, cyber security, and defense industries in the Central Valley. The Cerro Coso IT/Cyber Security Advisory Committee, comprised of local employers in this industry, have shown strong support for this degree, noting the shortage of trained professionals in this field and a need to develop a strong talent pipeline. Offered as an online program, the Cyber Security Technology baccalaureate program has the potential to reach students across California, including rural and remote locations, giving them an opportunity to pursue their education and career advancement.

As more of our country's infrastructure is shifted to the cloud, Cyber Security professionals are in critical demand to protect our individual security, business security, and national security. As the home of Edwards Air Force Base, Naval Air Weapons Station China Lake, and other critical Federal facilities, Kern County must be especially prepared to defend against cyberattacks. Cerro Coso's new baccalaureate program can expand the cybersecurity workforce in Kern County and across the state, ensuring more thorough protection for the brave men and women who dedicate their lives to defending the United States.

Again, I express my support for Cerro Coso Community College's proposed baccalaureate degree in Cyber Security Technology and believe that communities across the Central Valley and California will greatly benefit from having an affordable and rigorous higher education option. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



VINCE FONG
Member of Congress