**Memorandum**

To: Planning Team, Master Plan for Career Education

From: Ivan Guillen, Chair, State Rehabilitation Council

Cc: Joe Xavier, Director, Department of Rehabilitation

Victor Duron, Chief Deputy Director, Department of Rehabilitation

Jessica Grove, Deputy Director, Department of Rehabilitation, VR Policy and Resources Division

SRC Members

Date: July xx, 2024

**Subject: Input on the Master Plan for Career Education**

The State Rehabilitation Council (SRC) is an advisory body that partners with the California Department of Rehabilitation (DOR) with the shared goal of maximizing the employment and independence of people with disabilities. SRC members are appointed by the Governor and represent employers, businesses, educators, workforce development boards, parents, disability advocates, service providers, independent living centers, consumers, tribal programs, and counselors. The SRC ensures that the community stakeholder voice is heard as policies that directly impact individuals with disabilities are developed and implemented. Over the past several months, the SRC has reviewed the Master Plan for Career Education core concepts and submits the following input for the Planning Team’s consideration.

**Core Concept 1: Create state and regional coordinating bodies that make it easier to access information, funding, and support.**

* SRC Input: To increase awareness and coordination, it would be beneficial to develop a standard referral policy and process that is consistent throughout the numerous agencies and departments that offer education and training programs.
* SRC Input: Existing Local Partnership Agreements (LPAs) could be leveraged, utilized, and expanded when creating regional coordinating bodies. Provide the regional coordinating bodies with guidance, a uniform set of goals, and define the membership composition to ensure diversity and representation. Identify facilitators to lead and manage the development of regional coordinating bodies. Increasing access to benefits planning for individuals with disabilities should be a priority action item for the regional coordinating bodies.
* SRC Input: Have the statewide entity that will be responsible for providing information on regional labor markets also provide details on 1) how local job markets have changed, 2) how to increase and access training for current, in-demand jobs, 3) encourage sector-based programs, and 4) identify funding opportunities to support schools and training programs that need to obtain accreditation and/or licensure.

**Core Concept 3: Create incentives and improve coordination to provide work-based learning opportunities for K12 students and adult learners.**

* SRC Input: Ensure that employers offering work-based learning opportunities have the information and resources needed to provide reasonable accommodations. Increase access and awareness about reasonable accommodation and disability etiquette training that is available to employers.
* SRC Input: When designing work-based learning opportunities, encourage employers and agencies to look to model programs for best practices. These programs include DOR’s Demand Side Employment Initiative, the State of California’s State Internship Program, the Individual Placement and Support model, and apprenticeships.

If there are questions regarding this input or additional information is needed, please contact SRC staff by email at SRC@dor.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 558-5897.