

Date: June 27, 2019

Oregon Department of Education

Dear CTE Program of Study Reviewer:

It is my pleasure to write a letter in support of the proposal being submitted to the Oregon Department of Education - Career and Technical Education program of study application committee. Tigard-Tualatin School District is doing tremendous work to revitalize CTE programming and is positioned to develop a Sustainable Agriculture program of study at Creekside Community High School. Sustainable Agriculture is a growing field in Oregon and we know that high school introduction to this career pathway and hands on learning assists students in becoming a productive member of this employment field.

Tigard Tualatin School District and Creekside High School are requesting the sustainable agriculture program of study to strengthen and diversify their CTE offerings to the student's in the Tigard community. We, Vibrant Valley Farms, support and recognize the need to get more students involved and exposed to our industry practices.

In order to support Tigard Tualatin School District's vision for the program, we are committed to providing the following:

- *We/I will provide mentorship to the program of study instructor.*
- *We/I will provide 3 career-related experiences.*
- *We/I will serve on an advisory committee to support the overall growth of the program*

In the past we have participated with the Tigard Tualatin School District and/or Creekside Community High School by engaging with Supa Fresh Youth Farm, HUB, and TTOA through field trips to our farm, workshops, work experiences, and as a consultant and collaborator.

We are deeply committed to partnering with the Tigard Tualatin School District as they seek approval to develop a best in class graphic design CTE program. We know the program will support the development of career pathways that lead to high wage and high demand occupations. Through meaningful and relevant learning, underserved students will develop skills and motivation to increase test scores, vocational skills, food literacy, healthy eating habits, and community bonds.

Any programs that can help our students gain access to CTE courses of study to increase employability skills, awareness of career opportunities through exposure to our industry, and helps meet workforce needs in our region has our full support and commitment to partner in order to realize the vision.

Sincerely,

Kara Gilbert

Owner of Vibrant Valley Farms