



Stephen Williams, Owner/Operator

Barbering With Stephen

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To: The members of the San Diego & Imperial Counties Consortium,

I have been a San Diego barbershop owner since 2015. I am pleased to lend my complete support to the proposed 1000-hour Barber program at San Diego City College. Currently, I own and operate “Barbering with Stephen” located in downtown San Diego. I also volunteer two days a week at “Fresh Kutz”, the barbershop located on the campus of San Diego City College. Having my own business has allowed me to network and take the opportunity to volunteer my services at City College. This collaboration is a project started by Dr. Rickey Shabazz, President. He identified the connection between student counseling, mental health, and personal grooming while creating a safe space for students to manage life issues and the challenges of attending college.

I decided to help to out because I have the privilege of being a business owner in San Diego and I do make well above “living wage” stated in the LMI report share with me.

Additionally, my business is in close proximity to the campus which makes volunteering easy. I was asked to share that most barber professionals make above San Diego’s “living wage.” As a business owner, I am always looking for professionally trained barbers, estheticians, and manicurists to hire.

At Barbering with Stephen, the average service list item is \$50.00. However, I curate packages for the clients so on average the cost a client can expect to pay is around \$140.00 if they use specialty services.

The business model that I use is designed to help the new barbers get started, but I also provide seasoned barbers with the opportunity to rent a chair from me which creates additional income for myself.

Finally, I think this is a great opportunity to expand the purpose of the campus barbershop. From this effort, an in-house apprenticeship program could give students an opportunity to fine tune their skills before they start to look for employment.

Approval of this program will make a difference in our community because this program can help a person obtain a skill and open the gateway to an education. The possibility of earning an associate degree and a skill without acquiring an enormous amount of debt is the goal. As you know there are a lot of people looking to take advantage of people of color so, starting this program at San Diego City College could help in closing some of the equity gaps that exist.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts. I highly recommend and hope that hearing from real industry professionals instead of bias reports will help this effort move forward.

Sincerely,

Stephen Williams, Owner

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