



Louie Garnet, Owner

Louie's BarberChop

1475 Garnet Ave.

San Diego, CA 92109

Ph: 619.961.3501

email:louiesbarberchop@gmail.com

To: San Diego & Imperial Counties Regional Consortium

C/O Centers of Excellence (COE)

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Dear Members of the San Diego & Imperial Counties Regional Consortium,

My name is Louie "Elias" Garnet, and I am the owner of Louie's BarberChop in Pacific Beach. I've been a member of the barber profession since 2006 and a San Diego City College Alum.

I am writing this letter to not only express my support for proposed barber program at San Diego City College, but I'd like to share my success as a barber and entrepreneur.

Recently, I earned the title of "Best Barber Shop" in San Diego by a poll conducted by Business Rate. Com. Over the years, I have employed many barbers, and some have moved on to create their own businesses. Currently, I have six chair business, and I am

always searching for bright and ambitious individuals to help grow into barber entrepreneurship.

Opportunities within my establishment allow barbers to make well above the living wage as haircutting services start at \$65.00, which is about \$520.00 a day. This is not inclusive of additional specialty services, for example, shaving treatments or hair loss/replacement services that start at \$500 per session.

The barber industry creates opportunity and flexibility for most barbers, and for this reason we can perform services away from our business, travel, be a product representative, or provide training on behalf of a product company. These opportunities create additional income, hence why the labor market index does not accurately reflect my earnings or the earnings of the many other barber professionals working today.

Personally, my income exceeds what has been reported and as a 3rd generation barber and business owner, I establish my rates, manage my schedule, and create generational wealth for my 90-year-old family-owned business. Hard work and professional training, from an institution such as San Diego City College has contributed to my success and I am helping others close equity gaps while building good business practices.

In closing, I think it's important to create skill-based opportunities; those who develop a passion for what they do will far exceed what the reports say. Please vote in favor of establishing this program because aspiring barber professionals should have good training and the opportunity to take this career path at a low-cost institution like San Diego City College.

Sincerely,

Louie Garnet, Owner

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