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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Juan Vargas
52nd District, California

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CAPITAL MARKETS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS AND MONETARY POLICY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL SECURITY,
ILLICIT FINANCE, AND INTERNATIONAL
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

May 9, 2024

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting funding for the “Discover UC San Diego - Equitable, Online Dual Enrollment” project in fiscal year 2025, in the amount of \$2,160,000. The entity to receive the funding is the University of California San Diego Division of Extended Studies, located at 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92092.

Discover UC San Diego (Discover) offers high school students the opportunity to explore and earn college credit in STEM-related majors at UC San Diego. The requested funding will be used to develop three additional STEM-related courses to help prepare students for the growing workforce demand for STEM skills, including skills aligned with NASA's space- and earth-oriented missions and objectives.

This unique program allows high-school students to get a head start on their road to a college degree, explore and find interest in a college major, and prove to themselves that they can succeed at a world-class college. By providing online courses at no/low cost, offering wraparound supports, and focusing outreach on under-resourced schools, Discover expands access to college-level courses throughout San Diego and Imperial County. The requested funding will greatly expand Discover's impact, allowing the program to reach around 1,000 students a year and add three additional STEM-related courses.

This project is a good use of taxpayer resources because the funding will greatly expand equitable access to college-level STEM courses while preparing students for their prospective major and helping them graduate on time. Discover courses will be offered online to high school students in California at no/low cost to the learner. The course curriculum aligns with actual required major courses at UCSD and are fully transferrable to any university accepting UC San Diego credit. Discover students will be able to complete up to three courses, earning 12 to 15 major-specific course credits that jump starts their progress towards earning a degree.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by 20102 of title 51, United States Code. In particular, the project will offer high school students the opportunity to explore and earn college credit in STEM-related majors at UC San Diego, with a focus on coursework aligned with NASA's mission and objectives, including coursework focused on astronomy, the planet, climate change, as well as applied skills in engineering, technology, healthcare, and international cooperation, all

of which serve to advance NASA's core priorities under the Safety, Security, and Mission Services (SSMS) initiative.

This project has broad support from a large network of partners and stakeholders, including Urban Discovery Academy, Sweetwater Union High School District, and the San Diego Unified School District.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juan Vargas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

JUAN VARGAS
Member of Congress