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A Message from the Director

by Patricia Virgen, Executive Director

As we close out 2025, I am deeply grateful for the remarkable progress we have achieved this year and inspired by the strong partnerships that continue to propel our work forward. The dedication of our staff, community partners, and local stakeholders has enabled the Employment and Economic Development Department (EEDD) to strengthen programs, expand essential services, and support the economic well-being of residents across San Joaquin County (SJC).

This year, our National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) has continued to contribute significantly to our workforce development efforts. Through this program, we provide farmworkers and their families with training, supportive services, job placement assistance, and pathways to more stable, higher-wage careers. Looking toward 2026, community engagement will be critical. NFJP's success depends on ongoing collaboration with growers, agricultural employers, community organizations, and advocates who share our commitment to uplifting the workers who form the backbone of our region's agricultural economy. We invite partners to help us raise awareness of the program, connect families who may qualify, and strengthen the network of resources to ensure farmworker households thrive.

We are also excited to share updates regarding our Lodi office, which has officially relocated from the Lodi Chamber of Commerce to Community Partnership for Families of San Joaquin at 100 E. Pine Street. This new space allows us to better integrate services and provide a more accessible location for job seekers and employers. We are grateful for our collaboration with Community Partnership for Families and look forward to continuing to deliver high-quality workforce services in the Lodi community.

Our partnership with the Go San Joaquin (GoSJ) Initiative, your online go-to source for local career education and training opportunities, continues to make a meaningful impact by strengthening community resources and streamlining countywide career and training opportunities. Through outreach, employer engagement, and collaboration with local organizations, GoSJ has helped residents, businesses, and entities alike with providing valuable information on training opportunities, low to no-cost education, where to go to upskill, and what our county has to offer to current businesses or those looking to expand into SJC that can enhance the workforce. Moving forward, the initiative will continue aligning efforts across sectors to ensure that regional economic growth benefits reach all communities in SJC.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of 2025, our goal remains clear: supporting the local workforce and businesses, enhancing employment opportunities, and strengthening economic prosperity across every community in San Joaquin County. With a shared purpose, I am confident that 2026 will bring even greater opportunities for growth and success. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to our community.