



A Message from the Director

by Patricia Virgen, Executive Director

As we approach the midpoint of 2026, I am proud to reflect on the strong momentum our department has built. Through expanded workforce initiatives and meaningful community engagement, we continue to make steady progress toward strengthening the economic vitality of San Joaquin County.

We are especially excited to share that our Economic Development Association (EDA) has secured additional funding through the Employment Training Panel (ETP). This investment allows us to deepen our partnerships with local employers and expand access to impactful training programs. Through ETP funding, businesses can upskill their workforce and create pathways to well-paying, long-term careers—supporting not only individual success, but the long-term growth and resilience of our regional economy.

Our connection to the community remains at the heart of this work. From January through April, we hosted four job fairs that welcomed 774 attendees from across the county. These events are more than just numbers—they represent real opportunities, meaningful connections, and forward movement for job seekers and businesses alike. We are grateful to our partners and employers who continue to show up, invest, and make these efforts possible.

On March 11, I had the privilege of speaking at the Tracy State of the City alongside leaders from across the region. It was an important opportunity to highlight the progress being made in workforce development and to reaffirm the value of collaboration as we work together to expand opportunity throughout San Joaquin County.

As we look ahead, our commitment remains strong. We will continue to deliver accessible, high-quality services, strengthen partnerships, and create opportunities that make a lasting impact. Together, we are building a more resilient, inclusive, and thriving economy for all who call this county home.

Thank you for your continued support, partnership, and trust.