

# Central Mother Lode Regional Consortium

California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office  
1102 Q Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95811

27 March 2023

Dear Deputy Chancellor Gonzales:

As regional chair for the Central/Mother Lode Regional Consortium (CRC), I am writing this letter of support on behalf of the consortium, which unanimously voted to support Cerro Coso Community College's application for a baccalaureate degree in Cybersecurity.

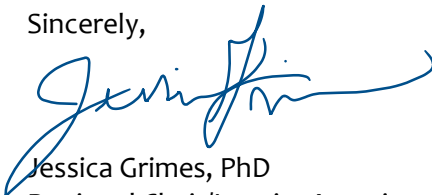
The CRC focuses on growing the regional economy by facilitating development and growth of college training and educational programs to meet the needs of identified high-growth industry sectors. Our mission articulates this goal as follows:

*The CRC facilitates and supports regional initiatives for its member colleges and key stakeholders. Through professional development, curriculum development, and collaborative communication and implementation, we collectively provide education and training to create a highly skilled workforce. The Consortium enhances workforce development in priority industry sectors by facilitating discussions and providing leadership.*

Cerro Coso is located within the Southern subregion of the Central/Mother Lode and is considered a high-poverty, highly diverse region with shortages in the Information Technology/Digital Media industry sectors. Educational attainment rates are also some of the lowest in the state. According to Compare Communities (powered by Geographic Solutions), the district area serves regions with bachelor degree attainment as low as 9% compared to the state's average of 22%. This gap is even more pronounced among racial groups.

Since Cerro Coso's proposal to offer a baccalaureate degree in Cybersecurity is a step towards increasing economic diversity and economic equity in the region, the Central/Mother Lode Regional Consortium fully supports its application under SB 927.

Sincerely,



Jessica Grimes, PhD  
Regional Chair/Interim Associate Vice Chancellor, Career Education & Workforce Development