

## CSU Fullerton High School Equivalency Program

California State University, Fullerton (CSUF), is proposing to serve 400 eligible migrant students from seasonal agricultural backgrounds (80 each year through Year 5) with a comprehensive educational program to promote higher education, enhanced employment skills and vocational training, as well as a career in the military. This effort has the goal of disrupting a generational cycle of poverty, and will be strengthened by a comprehensive, student-centered, and culturally appropriate socio-emotional and mental health component designed to support each participant throughout their educational journey in our program. The region's migrant families are historically mired in a low-wage, low-education subsistence, now exacerbated by the COVID 19 pandemic, which has dramatically impacted the local migrant community. CSUF, the leading Hispanic-serving institution in our region, is located at the crossroads of the contrasting realities between *the haves and the have-nots* of Southern California, meeting the education and job-skills needs of Orange County, North San Diego, San Bernardino, and Riverside counties. Our service area includes over 900,000 acres of farmland, nurseries, field crops and dairy farms, tendered by 65,800 *Jornaleros* and *Jornaleras*/Spanish for migrant seasonal farmworkers (EDD, 2019). 78% of mainly Latino/a migrant workers lack a high school diploma, and 70% have low literacy and English language proficiency. Poor education, economic, health, and work conditions contribute to higher dropout rates and lower academic achievement. By the time a migrant child is 12, he/she works the fields 16-18 hours per week, leaving little time for schoolwork. 91% of these students are not meeting state standards, with 66% scoring below standards in Math, Reading and Writing, while 76% lack knowledge of the Mathematical concepts needed for in-demand jobs and to enroll in college (MEP, 2017). Our CSUF-HEP will maximize online/hybrid instruction, increasing participants' academic proficiency towards career-and-college-ready activities.