



# Los Banos Unified School District

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www.losbanosusd.org

March 19, 2024

To Whom it May Concern:

The Los Banos Unified School District (LBUSD) would like to express our continued support of the Teacher Preparation Program (TPP) in University Extension at the University of California, Merced. LBUSD is a growing district that educates over 10,000 students in grades TK-8. The district is comprised of a Transitional Kindergarten Center, nine elementary schools, two junior highs, two comprehensive high schools, and two alternative education campuses. As a growing district, we anticipate a need to hire additional teachers in order to meet our students' educational needs. With a continued shortage of credentialed/qualified teachers across the state, access to the TPP through the University of California, Merced provides a distinct advantage to LBUSD and surrounding districts. While most districts in California are suffering from declining enrollment, LBUSD has anticipated growth for the next several years. Projected growth coupled with an aging workforce looking to retire within the next five years, will influence our teacher workforce needs as well.

We have had a partnership with the TPP for the past 5 years since its inception in 2017. It is important for the Central Valley Region to have a credential program at UC Merced. We look forward to fulfilling our teacher needs with credentialed candidates from their program and pursuing future educator opportunities that may come about through mutual collaboration.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (209) 386-2801, extension 7034 or via email at [tcalzadillas@losbanosusd.k12.ca.us](mailto:tcalzadillas@losbanosusd.k12.ca.us) if I can provide further information or support for UC Merced's Teacher Preparation Program.

Sincerely,

Tammie Calzadillas, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent Human Resources  
Los Banos Unified School District

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