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Contact: Ricky Choi
(626) 319-5050 / rchoi@sgvcog.org

PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SAN GABRIEL VALLEY LAUDED, UNDERSCORING IMPACTFUL INITIATIVE

First Cohort of Inspiring Students Recognized for Completing SGV Works

Monrovia, CA – Last Thursday, the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) honored the first cohort of nine students who successfully completed SGV Works, the SGVCOG's trailblazing and transformative workforce development program for at-risk transitional-age youth. During their monthly governing board meeting, the SGVCOG Governing Board recognized and celebrated the accomplishments of these exceptional individuals.

"We are immensely proud of these graduates," said Becky Shevlin, SGVCOG President and City of Monrovia Mayor. "The dedication and hard work of each individual will aid in transforming their lives, and their success stories will serve as a source of inspiration for others around them. The SGVCOG will remain steadfast in its commitment to empowering people through innovative and effective programs like SGV Works."

SGV Works is a groundbreaking and comprehensive initiative designed to provide paid job training and supportive services, equipping participants with the necessary skills and resources for long-term economic security. The program, facilitated by God's Pantry in Pomona, a non-profit organization and service provider for the SGVCOG, delivered tailored employment training, credential and certification attainment, and guidance on furthering education to these deserving individuals. These graduates, demonstrating their commitment to dedicating 20 hours per week, successfully completed the rigorous 18-week program.

"It has been a privilege to witness the transformative journey of these exceptional individuals," said Augusto "Goose" Dolce, Executive Director of God's Pantry. "The SGV Works program has provided the necessary tools, training, and support for each student to thrive in their chosen career path and build a brighter future."

In 2022, the SGVCOG launched SGV Works to help connect participants with stable employment that will help lead to long-term economic security. This program would not be possible without the support of our state and federal legislators. In FY 2021-2022, the SGVCOG received \$1,000,000 from the California Workforce Development Board, secured by California State Senator Rubio, to launch the program. The Senator was on hand to commend the students.

"Providing opportunities to young individuals is critically important to me, especially for those struggling to find jobs," said State Senator Susan Rubio, who honored the cohort graduates with certificates of recognition. "Collaborating with the COG and funding the workforce development

program to help individuals gain useful work skills was rewarding and a reminder of what is possible when we come together.”

The positive impact of SGV Works on individuals seeking long-term economic security will continue to flourish, thanks to additional funding received from the FY 2022-2023 federal spending bill. Congresswomen Grace Napolitano, Linda Sanchez, and U.S. Senator Alex Padilla played pivotal roles in championing and acquiring this funding. With increased financial resources, SGV Works is poised to extend and enhance its efforts, empowering more individuals across the San Gabriel Valley to access sustainable employment and attain long-term economic stability.

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The San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments (SGVCOG) is a regional government planning agency that aims to maximize the quality of life in the San Gabriel Valley. The SGVCOG operates as a joint powers authority that is consisted of 31 incorporated cities and unincorporated communities in Los Angeles County Supervisorial Districts 1 and 5 and three San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water Districts (San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, Three Valleys Municipal Water District, and Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District). The SGVCOG is the largest and most diverse sub-regional council of governments.