Meeting of the
Council of Business Sponsors
February 21, 2020
12:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
Central Valley Community Foundation
5260 N. Palm Avenue, Suite 122 - Fresno, CA

~ Agenda ~

I. Gathering, Welcome, and Introductions
12:00 p.m. - 12:10 p.m.
Ashley Swearengin – Central Valley Community Foundation
D.R.I.V.E. Video: “Forty Folks from Fresno”

II. CA Office of Business & Economic Development - Central Valley Focus
12:10 p.m. – 12:20 p.m.
Lenny Mendonca – Chief Economic and Business Advisor for Governor Newsom

III. Fresno Future of Food (F3) Innovation Corridor
12:20 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Dr. Joseph Castro – CSU Fresno
Dean Ram Nunna - CSU Fresno
Josh Viers – UC Merced
Marek Gootman – The Brookings Institution

On January 10th, Governor Gavin Newsom proposed $65 million in funding for Fresno D.R.I.V.E related projects of which, $33 million was proposed as a down payment of the F3 partnership between CSU Fresno and UC Merced. This new public/private partnership would build a world-class “precision food systems” industry cluster that supports advanced, sustainable agricultural production and food manufacturing, focused on cross-disciplinary engineering capabilities in digitalization and data science, mechatronics, equipment and systems integration.

IV. PRO Neighborhoods /
Betting Big on Small Businesses Owned by Women and People of Color
1:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Tate Hill – Intern CEO of Access Plus Capital

The Partnerships for Raising Opportunities in (PRO) neighborhoods is a national initiative funded by JP Morgan Chase’s corporate foundation. CVCF is a lead agency for a collaborative involving eleven community based organizations and three community development financial institutions (CDFI).

Tara Lynn Gray – CEO of Fresno Metro Black Chamber of Commerce
Betting Big is a “best in class” small business support initiative including a $102 million fund impacting 2,500 small businesses owned by women and people of color, creating 6,000 jobs.

V. Summary of Discussion, Next Steps
1:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.
Ashley Swearengin

VI. Adjournment
1:45 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 1, 2020