Our names are Jenn, Shartelle, Kristen, and Heather. We are career counselors at Mt. San Jacinto Community College. As recipients of a grant designed to bring career awareness to community college students, we are on a mission to find new and impactful ways to connect students to their future. We want to empower students to see the possibilities, to “dream big.” To that end, we intend to seek out Leaders in a variety of occupations who will share with us their inspirational journeys, words of wisdom, and passion for doing what they love. By exploring career opportunities through the eyes of those who have followed their interests, we feel we can help students develop a bridge that leads from education to meaningful employment.

We are sponsored by California SB70, California Career Café’s “Connecting Students to Careers Initiative,” in conjunction with Roadtrip Nation, an organization whose mission is to help individuals define their own Roads in life. With their support, we will film conversations with individuals who have followed their passions, and will use these stories as a guide to motivate and empower our students to follow their own dreams as they reach for success.

Mt. San Jacinto College is located in Riverside County, an area which currently ranks in the top 5 counties for unemployment nationwide. As career counselors, we want to bring hope, direction, and opportunity to our students. We want to explore success stories within our state, share that motivation and passion with our students, and encourage them to connect their career aspirations and values with their unique interests.

We want to use this experience to develop Leaders of the future—students who are ready to take on the global economy of the 21st century as vibrant participants in shaping the future of California. We also want to gain a personal and hands-on understanding of a variety of career and employment opportunities available so that we are better prepared to guide students in this ever-changing, dynamic world. We invite you to be a part of our journey!

Thank you for your time, and we hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,

Jenn Burleson, Kristen Ekman, Heather Tibbetts and Shartelle Fears

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**About Roadtrip Nation**

Roadtrip Nation is a Movement that empowers young people everywhere to define their own Roads by building meaningful lives around what inspires them. With innovative resources for self-discovery—including an annual documentary series on public television, an Interview Archive of hundreds of Leaders, three books, an online community, and a student network on more than 350 college campuses—Roadtrip Nation gives individuals the confidence to identify their interests and go after what inspires them.

In 2009, the Movement expanded into secondary education with RoadtripNation.org and the creation of The Roadtrip Nation Experience curriculum. Today, RoadtripNation.org continues to re-contextualize education by developing experiential programs that enable students to connect their education to their interests, values, and aspirations.

The grassroots Movement of Roadtrip Nation has been featured in *The Huffington Post, Esquire, USA Today, The Today Show*, and beyond.

To learn more about the Movement, go to roadtripnation.com.
To learn more about Roadtrip Nation in education, go to roadtripnation.org.