

January 3, 2019

The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chair
House Committee on Education and Labor
2176 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the nation's postsecondary career colleges and universities, I write to extend our very best wishes to you and the new Democrat majority in this Congress. As you assume this important new leadership role, please know that we stand ready to work with you and your majority in ways that best serve the interests of those students seeking career skills that will lead to real jobs, real wages, and a real chance at a better life.

We believe there are many reasons we can, and should, work together over the next two years. You represent a district in Virginia served by good examples of the quality career education provided by our schools. Certainly, ECPI and the Centura College/Aviation Institute of Maintenance in your district are examples of those schools providing high quality outcomes to their students.

Your commitment to a bi-partisan Higher Education Reauthorization combined with Senator Alexander's desire to complete this process gives us a unique opportunity to modernize the current act. This is so important. Everything has changed in the past ten years – the student demographics; the academic delivery technologies; and the growing focus on workforce skills – except the current law.

We look forward to working with you to complete the reauthorization process. In doing so, we know that you will focus your priorities on both better access for low-income students; and, better outcomes for all students. Our colleges and universities share these commitments. Today's Higher Education Act must recognize that it now serves as the nation's workforce investment strategy.

The recent news of abrupt school closures demands that we move quickly to change both federal statutes and federal regulations guiding this process. We must put the priority focus on "keeping students in school" during such closures/transitions. Current policy does not protect the students and their education needs. Nor does it allow high quality, financially stable schools to take over such institutions and continue the academic programs.

Together, we can accomplish much over the next two years. We can establish a bi-partisan higher education policy that will serve the nation for many years to come. We look forward to working with you in constructive ways to make this possible. Please know we stand ready to be of help to you, your colleagues and your committee staff at any time.

Sincerely,



Steve Gunderson
President & CEO
Career Education Colleges & Universities