

January 31, 2018

The Honorable Donald Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Alex Acosta  
Secretary of Labor  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20210

The Honorable Betsy DeVos  
Secretary of Education  
U.S. Department of Education  
400 Maryland Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20202

Re: State of the Union address call to “Invest in Workforce Development and Job Training”

Dear President Donald Trump, Secretary Alex Acosta, Secretary Betsy DeVos and Members of Congress:

As the nation’s postsecondary career education association, we are excited to hear President Trump’s remarks in last night’s State of the Union call to invest in workforce development and job training.

Today, the Higher Education Act has become our nation’s workforce investment strategy. It is imperative to update our higher education policies in ways that produce future skilled workers enhancing U.S. competitiveness, and ultimately, our nation’s economy.

By 2024, America will need 46.5 million new workers. This number from the Bureau of Labor Statistics looks at both replacement needs and new jobs that do not yet exist today, but will tomorrow. At the same time, 65 percent of all replacement jobs and 85 percent of all new jobs will require some level of postsecondary education. We call upon Congress to reauthorize the Higher Education Act in this session to recognize the impact that this law has on the developing and expanding workforce, which increasingly requires trained workers to fill the job demand of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Postsecondary career education institutions train workers for high-demand careers in allied health, nursing, information technology, maintenance, and many more vocational professions. In 2016, the sector launched a long-term commitment to create five million career professionals in

the decade ahead. This campaign reflects the goal to connect students and skills to job demand in fields that are in need of trained career professionals in the coming decade.

America's career education colleges and universities have an important role to play in workforce development and job training. We look forward to working with the Administration, the Congress and the American people in a bipartisan way to advance policies that provide career skills for students that lead to real jobs, with real salaries and a real chance at a place in America's middle class.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Gunderson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Steve Gunderson  
CECU President and CEO