

September 12, 2017

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

We want to commend you on your upcoming “Rethink School” tour. In doing so, you emphasize an important foundation of America’s education. We know every student learns in a different way; and, we’ve designed an education delivery system that can respond to these diverse student needs in the best possible way.

As you finalize your tour, I want to invite you to also include a visit to one of our nation’s post-secondary career education schools. Today, this sector serves over 2.3 million students annually in a combination of lectures and laboratory experience that prepare students for careers! We are especially proud of our two-year and less programs where our graduation rates are at 60 percent, far exceeding those of other sectors.

By 2024, the Bureau of Labor Statistics projects our nation will need 46.5 million new workers. Our sector has committed to providing over 5 million new career professionals in the decade. Many of our schools represent multi-generation family investments in the education of their communities around priority skills. You would find our students inspiring and our schools reflective of an accelerated academic program resulting in real jobs with real wages for our graduates.

Whether it is Wyoming, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska or any other state on your tour, please let us know if you might have two hours to include a visit to one of our schools. And don’t worry about any advanced notice. Our schools are always ready for such a visit. All we ask is that you plan your visit in the morning or evening because most of our students still hold full-time jobs while attending schools, so the afternoons are usually the quiet time.

With the results of the recent hurricanes, we encourage you to visit some of our schools preparing students in the construction trades. We are working to help meet the nation’s immediate needs!

Have your staff give me a call. I can be reached at 703-567-1685. We’ll have a school ready to welcome you as soon as you arrive!

Sincerely,



Steve Gunderson
President & CEO