



June 25, 2013

The Honorable Al Franken  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Franken:

On behalf of the nation's 1,132 community colleges and their CEOs and trustees, the American Association of Community Colleges and the Association of Community College Trustees are writing to express our gratitude and support for the Community College to Career Fund Act.

As the economy continues to recover this bill represents an excellent opportunity to train workers in high need occupational sectors such as health care, advanced manufacturing, or information technology. Through strategic business partnerships community colleges can better align the educational and skills training necessary to meet employer demand. This proposal greatly supports the needs of students by also providing access to on-the-job training and internship programs. Notably, under this bill a projected 2 million students will be able to gain the credentials necessary to obtain a well-paying job that can lead to a long-term career.

Additionally, the Community College to Career Fund supports the development of consortia that can better address the standardization of industry credentials, and formulate a strategy to identify and address local workforce demands. This comprehensive approach will not only benefit our institutions and students, but also the economy.

These types of educational and training partnerships represent a proven strategy of success, and reinforce the work that has been done through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant (TAACCCTG) program which is set to expire in 2014. It is also important to note that when the TAACCCTG program was implemented, funding for the Community-Based Job Training Grants program was eliminated. Hence after 2014, there will be a dearth of federal funding to support this type of activity at community colleges.

We thank you for your work on the Community College to Career Fund Act, and look forward to working with you to advance this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

Walter G. Bumphus  
AACC President and CEO

J. Noah Brown  
ACCT President and CEO