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August 31, 2010

Dear Trustees Association of Community and Technical Colleges:

I understand that you are meeting today as part of a Legislative Action Retreat. I regret that I cannot join you today, but I appreciate this opportunity to share with you some of the hard work happening on your behalf in Washington, DC.

In any industry, education is the key to creating a strong workforce. It is imperative that we invest in education, and at this critical juncture for the economic future of our nation, I firmly believe that community and technical colleges are at the forefront of creating a new and dynamic economy. To this end, I voted for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which included \$106 billion for our most effective education and worker training programs. On March 30, 2010, the Student Aid & Fiscal Responsibility Act was signed into law, making the largest investment in college aid in history, including an investment of \$2 billion for a competitive grant program for community colleges to develop and improve educational or career training programs. On May 28, 2010, the House passed the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act. This bill, among other research and development provisions, will strengthen math and science education to prepare students for the jobs of the 21st Century.

I am proud to note that my own district is home to several outstanding institutions that are making great strides towards ensuring that our students are trained to be competitive in the global economy of the 21st century, including:

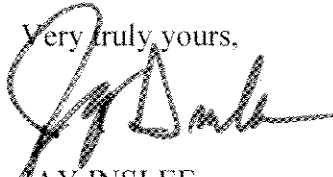
- Shoreline Community College, whose Zero Energy curriculum will train the solar technicians that will design and install solar panel systems on the roofs of homes and businesses;
- Edmonds Community College, for whom I secured \$600,000 last year for their Washington Aerospace Training and Research Center. The Center is developing career pathways and cooperative K-20 education and training projects while working with entrepreneurial and scientific communities. I have requested an additional \$1 million in support of this initiative;
- And Everett Community College, which recently received \$4,844,998 to fund the Healthcare Education-to-Career Opportunities (HECO) project to help improve the ability of community colleges and other healthcare organizations around the Puget Sound region to prepare workers for employment in the high-growth, high-skill healthcare field.

Community and technical colleges are on the front lines of preparing a hard-working and well-trained workforce to meet the needs of a new economy. I am always interested in hearing your thoughts and ideas on how to continue building a strong and vital workforce. I encourage you to contact my staff assistant, Kelly Marquardt, at 206-361-0233 or

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kelly.marquardt@mail.house.gov to further discuss these important issues. I look forward to working with you, and send my best wishes for a fruitful meeting.

Very truly yours,



JAY INSLEE
Member of Congress