

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 7, 2006

Senator Judd Gregg
Chairman
Senate Budget Committee
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Kent Conrad
Ranking Member
Senate Budget Committee
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Gregg and Senator Conrad:

As you begin work on the education section of the Fiscal Year 2007 budget we urge you to preserve funding for the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education program.

The Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education program currently provides \$1.3 billion to prepare more than 10 million Americans across the country for post-secondary life. These funds are used to serve students in traditional high schools, vocational-technical high schools, and in post-secondary institutions providing technical programs such as community colleges, technical institutes, skills centers, and other public and private two and four year colleges.

The Perkins Career and Technical Education program is the single largest federal investment in the nation's high schools. The school-based programs supported through Perkins provide a foundation for our nation's workforce development system by teaching technical skills based on industry standards, workplace skills and employability skills common to all occupations. Students engaged in Perkins-supported programs are better prepared to transition into post-secondary education and the workplace. Students leaving high school need the technical skills afforded through the Perkins program to compete in the 21st Century economy.

We strongly support the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education program and stand ready to work with you to ensure its continued support from Congress.

Sincerely,
