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Macias, Wendy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 8:59 AM
To: neareq09
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Houston - US Dept of Ed letter
Attachments: 6-23-DeVry Houston Letter to Dept of Ed.doc

Attached - the letter from Houston to the US Dept of Ed.

[REDACTED]

DeVry University

[REDACTED]

DeVry 
University
We major in careers:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
DeVry University-Houston Campus
[REDACTED]

June 23, 2009

Ms. Wendy Macias
U.S. Department of Education
1990 K Street, N.W. Room 8017
Washington, DC 20006

Sent via Electronic Mail: negreg09@ed.gov

Dear Ms. Macias:

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of DeVry University – Houston, Texas, thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments concerning the forthcoming negotiated rulemaking process.

DeVry University focuses on creating value for students, employees and society. We have a long and proud history of producing graduates that are prepared to enter the workforce and hit the ground running into their careers. Our steadfast commitment to quality, integrity and innovation has held firms for over 77 years. Our practitioner-oriented faculty delivers industry-relevant education through DeVry's Colleges of Business & Management, Engineering & Information Sciences, Media Arts & Technology and Health Sciences. Creating value, especially for our students and graduates, is intrinsic to our institutional culture and guides everything that we do.

We strongly support that students attending all accredited institutions of higher education, regardless of an institution's public, private not-for-profit or proprietary status, be availed the resources and equal opportunity to attend the institution of their choice. If the United States is to emerge from the current economic downturn, it will require all sectors of education and multiple access and engagement points for a diverse array of students.

DeVry also heeds the Department's and Obama Administration's call to address the academic progress of American students from cradle to career. For most, but especially first time, first-generation students, discovering tangible college pathways is key to attaining educational success. DeVry University's Advantage Academy provides such a pathway by enabling high school students to

simultaneously earn an associate degree from DeVry University while completing their high school education. Programs like Advantage Academy embody the kind of public-private partnership and innovation necessary to launch our P-20 educational system into the 21st century.

In Houston, we have the opportunity to serve many first generation college students. Our students come from high schools such as Houston Independent School District and Aldine Independent School District with 80% of their student population at poverty level or below. Although we don't have Advantage Academy in Houston, as of yet, the Houston campus has implemented a program called StartNow where we provide High School students who are Juniors an opportunity to earn 6 free college credit hours prior to graduating high school. Over the last year, DeVry-Houston had 100+ students from many area high schools participating in the program.

In addition, DeVry Houston collaborated with a local high school, Sam Houston High School, to ensure the school would be successful in a reopening. Texas Education Agency (TEA) closed Sam Houston for failing grades. As Sam Houston prepared to re-open in July 2008 after closing its doors due to academically unacceptable ratings, DeVry University made a commitment to the Houston Independent School District to help ensure the Center would meet its state education targets.

Since then, DeVry University has provided more than \$14,000 in free ongoing tutorial help to students, donated 120 license agreements to support its math lab, as well as needed computers and electronic teaching devices. DeVry University students also helped design the school's Web site and installed new technologies in the school's computer lab. The university also hosted a special luncheon in August to welcome teachers back.

Dr. Claude Toland, DeVry Houston Metro President sits on a P-16 committee for some local school districts and works on projects to keep kids in school. He also works with the Greater Houston Partnership on the Education and Workforce committee, identifying projects to prepare kids for college and the workforce.

DeVry University in Houston helps individuals change their life, no matter what age group. For example, here is a story of [REDACTED]:

- John had worked in the automotive repair industry for over 26 years and attended at least 20 various workshops over a six- year period to improve his car repair skills. Nevertheless, his dream of earning a college degree remained unfulfilled. After evaluating programs at several schools, John decided only DeVry University would give him the solid foundation in electronics he was seeking. He enrolled in the Electronics Computer Technology (ECT) program at the Houston Campus in 2005. He successfully completed about 6 months ago, and influenced his son Andrew to follow in his steps.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]