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Macias, Wendy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 11:51 AM
To: [REDACTED] negreg09
Subject: Higher Education Act
Attachments: [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 – Missouri, 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 firm 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.

St. Louis student [REDACTED] is a wonderful example of the opportunity provided to DeVry students for lifelong learning and career advancement. At age 16 Will dropped out of high school and took a

factory stocking position. After a few years he decided that he had potential he was not using. Will earned his GED and then returned to school for a BS in business administration and an MBA. He is employed by the Boeing Company where he works on quality issues and maintains the quality metrics for the Boeing Operations Leadership Team (BOLT).

Further demonstrating his commitment to the benefits of continuing education, Will is currently enrolled in both DeVry University's electronic engineering technology degree program as well as its Keller Graduate School of Management's master's degree program in project management. In tribute to his achievements, Will was recently recognized as "Student of the Year" by the Missouri Association of Private Career Colleges and Schools.

Having personally had a career that spans public and private education, I can attest to the positive impact a career-oriented, practitioner focused program delivers to students not only entering the workforce, but also continued advancement due to creating value with their new knowledge and skills.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.