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Macias, Wendy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2009 4:40 PM
To: negreg09
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Written Comment Letter to Ms. Macias
Attachments: DeVryUniv Pomona Calif.docx

Dear Ms. Macias,

Attached are our written comments concerning the forthcoming negotiated rulemaking process from the DeVry University – Pomona California campus.

Thank you for this opportunity.



Pomona Campus
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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 – Pomona California Campus, 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.



The Pomona Campus serves an extremely diverse community, with nearly 40% of our students coming from the Hispanic community, 20% from African-American community, and 10% from the Asian community and the remainder from other ethnic groups. Nearly all of our students who start college out of high school are first generation college students. So we understand the importance of reaching out to those in the surrounding community. Based upon this need, we have initiated a number of programs, including an agreement with the Pomona Unified School District to partner with them to teach our courses to the high school students on their campuses in a program called Passport 2 College. This program offers qualifying seniors the opportunity to take one of several introductory courses on a tuition free basis during their senior year. In this way, we allow high school students to experience college without the cost of tuition. We also provide used computers and offer technical support for local high schools in utilizing those computers. We also offer a partial scholarship to a qualify student from every local high school within driving distance of our campus.

In addition, the Pomona Campus' College of Health Sciences has worked extensively to create relationships with eight facilities in our community to provide our students with practical work experience through two required practicum courses in which we place them at a local facility. We have forged relationships with such facilities as Cedar Sinai in Los Angeles, Patient Pro in Hawthorn, Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center in Pomona and LAC-USC Medical Center in Los Angeles.

In all of our outreach activities, we take pride knowing we are helping a new generation of students take their first step into college and ensuring that the education they receive can meet the needs of today's most demanding employers. DeVry University is changing lives one student at a time.

Sincerely,

