

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 27, 2014

The Honorable Thomas E. Perez
Secretary
U. S. Department of Labor
Employment & Training Administration
200 Constitution Avenue NW - Room N-4716
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Perez:

I write to express my support for the New Hampshire Technical Institute (NHTI) and the Community College System of New Hampshire in their application for \$10 million through the Department of Labor's TAACCCT IV grant program.

The Community College System of New Hampshire (CCSNH) currently operates seven colleges, including NHTI, and multiple local academic centers that offer over 200 associate degree and short-term certificate programs to more than 27,000 students annually. While CCSNH consistently provides strong opportunities for TAA-eligible workers and other adults through teaching and training in information technology (IT) skills, further federal support is critical to maintain current programs and to build on their success.

With funding from the Department of Labor's TAACCCTIV grant, CCSNH will create Common Core Curriculum certificate and associate degree programs in IT for all seven colleges in fields including cyber security, networking and game programming. These programs would then be stackable into baccalaureate degree programs at other colleges and universities throughout New Hampshire. Additionally, Department of Labor funding will allow CCSNH to collaborate with the Southern New Hampshire University to create a competency-based model for these programs. This Common Core Curriculum will also "lattice" into similar fields, so that learners can benefit from an IT foundation in fields such as insurance, advanced manufacturing, and health informatics.

I support the Community College System of New Hampshire in their application for funding from the TAACCCTIV grant program and urge serious consideration of their proposal. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate