

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2102

COMMITTEES:
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One Bowdoin Square, 10th Floor
Boston, MA 02114

April 28, 2011

The Honorable Arne Duncan
Secretary
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

Dear Secretary Duncan:

I write in support of Quinsigamond Community College's proposal for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant (CFDA # 17.282), titled *Massachusetts Community College and Workforce Development Transformation Agenda*.

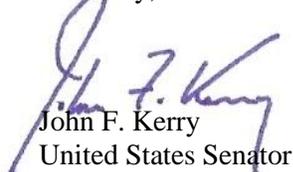
The proposal, submitted by Quinsigamond Community College on behalf of the Massachusetts Community Colleges' Consortium, would partner the 15 member colleges of the consortium with state and national leaders in the fields of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, Information Technology, Health Care, Clean Energy, Advanced Manufacturing, and Financial Services and Entrepreneurship. Through these partnerships, the Consortium would develop comprehensive, accelerated training programs geared towards training adult learners, eligible under the TAA program, to transition into a new field.

Massachusetts Community Colleges are leaders in workforce training, providing more than 23,000 individuals with training or retraining through workforce development courses and programs this past year. With support from the Department of Education and the Department of Labor, the consortium would be able to build off of its successful workforce development programming to create a statewide jobs training program, serving adult learners across the Commonwealth.

The Consortium's proposal outlines specific goals to ensure program success. The proposed industry-specific training programs would be founded on a reputable statewide and standardized curriculum for each career pathway. The educational aspect of the program would accelerate degree or accreditation programs for low-skilled workers by offering training in a specific skill set for a chosen industry, providing flexible scheduling options, and awarding credit for previous courses or experiences. The accelerated and focused nature of the program would also improve retention and achievement rates.

If awarded, the grant would provide direction to many hardworking residents of Massachusetts towards developing new skill sets for growing industries in the Commonwealth. I support *Massachusetts Community College and Workforce Development Transformation Agenda*, and I respectfully request that you give their application your utmost consideration.

Sincerely,


John F. Kerry
United States Senator

JFK/cmc