



Office of the President
540-423-9087

2130 Germanna Highway
Locust Grove, VA 22508

March 8, 2013

The Honorable Eric Cantor
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cantor:

Germanna Community College appreciates your support of workforce training at community colleges through H.R. 803, the Supporting Knowledge and Investing in Lifelong Skills (SKILLS) Act. In general, any effort to provide community colleges with the resources needed to increase workforce development efforts is a good thing for our communities, for our Commonwealth and for our nation.

Too often, programs to provide training for dislocated workers or general improvement of the workforce compete with one another and resources are scattered. We support your efforts and those of Representatives Brooks and Kline to streamline these programs to make it easier for us to respond rapidly to the needs of individuals and businesses with minimal bureaucracy, and with appropriate but not onerous reporting requirements.

There is a national consensus that community colleges should be in the vanguard of helping our nation respond to changes in workforce needs and in being proactive in seeking to teach and train for future careers. Such funding and streamlining as in H. R. 803 will improve our ability to pivot quickly to meet the needs of local companies.

One example is Continental AG in Culpeper, which needs quick training of machinist apprentices as a generation retires. Another is Euro-Composites, which develops new products and new technologies as it competes in the global economy, and often needs workers to rapidly learn new skills. I am in favor of directing workers to America's community colleges for such training and education.

Under current law, community colleges must apply multiple times to be on every eligible training provider list in each local area. Simplifying this process, and allowing community and technical colleges to apply once to be included on the list of eligible providers, would be a welcome improvement. So would more easily allowing community and technical colleges to contract with local workforce investment boards to provide group training.

Eliminating roadblocks that slow workers in their efforts to access job training immediately would be a major step forward. Under the current system, individuals must first go through a process that includes résumé assistance and career counseling. Not all job-seekers require this. Some only need quick retraining to update skills. Ensuring that support is tailored to the specific needs of individual workers and is focused on in-demand industries would also be steps in the right direction.

Such actions as envisioned in this legislation would strengthen community colleges as we work to help the roughly 20 million Americans who are unemployed or underemployed, assist those Americans who are hoping to change careers to compete in a global marketplace, and those businesses that are looking for employees, but are having trouble finding individuals with the skills they need.

We at Germanna Community College applaud your leadership of this effort and support H. R. 803 including the “Pay for Performance” amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Sam", written in a cursive style.

David Anthony Sam
President