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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

March 18, 2019

The Honorable Alexander Acosta
Secretary of Labor
United States Department of Labor
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Acosta,

I write in support of the application submitted by the Research Foundation for The State University of New York on behalf of The State University of New York (SUNY) for funding from the Scaling Apprenticeship Through Sector-Based Strategies program through the U.S. Department of Labor. The requested funding will support SUNY's efforts in creating 3,200 apprenticeships in the advanced manufacturing sector.

Founded in 1948, The State University of New York (SUNY) is the nation's largest, comprehensive public university system. The SUNY system is comprised of 64 colleges and universities throughout New York State, including 30 community colleges. Together, SUNY grants more than 96,000 degrees each year and employs 88,000 faculty and staff. The Research Foundation for The State University of New York is the largest, comprehensive university-associated research foundation in the United States. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 through 2018, the Research Foundation supported more than \$900 million in total research activity, and in FY 2016, it managed more than \$900 million in research expenditures for more than 7,000 projects leading to 300 new inventions.

The requested funding will be used to create the SUNY New York College Apprenticeship Network (NYCAN), which will help unemployed New Yorkers attain the basic technical and math skills needed to succeed in advanced manufacturing. The 3,200 apprenticeships created by NYCAN will incorporate cutting-edge training that merges on-line instruction with hands-on experience and targets key sub-sectors that are growing the fastest across New York. This initiative will also include pre-apprenticeship support to connect New Yorkers to apprenticeships and pathways to good-paying jobs. This initiative will prioritize services for unemployed and underemployed New Yorkers, with a focus on veterans, women, communities of color, and historically underrepresented populations in advanced manufacturing. The project will achieve national replication through employer partnerships throughout 25 states. To date, 56 employers are part of the NYCAN project, along with all of SUNY's 30 community colleges. This initiative will help connect New Yorkers in underrepresented populations with good-paying jobs and provide employers with much-needed potential hires with the skills necessary to succeed.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member, Jon Cardinal, at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator