



January 27, 2010

Ms. Patty Cantu, Director
Office of Career and Technical Education
Michigan Department of Education
Post Office Box 30712
Lansing, MI 48909

Subject: Michigan NCRC Advocates Resolution to use the National Career Readiness Certificate as Michigan's Perkins Accountability Measure

Dear Ms. Cantu;

The Advocates board passed a resolution to "... encourage and support the Department of Education of the State of Michigan to file all appropriate documents to seek and obtain approval for the NCRC to be our statewide accountability measure for all Perkins funded programs." in the January 21, 2010 meeting. A copy of the full resolution is enclosed.

The NCRC is more than an indicator of Reading for Information, Locating Information, and Applied Math. The NCRC is performance based, its content is workplace relevant, and the competencies – critical thinking and problem solving – cross skill category lines. In summary, the NCRC is a reliable measure of applied critical thinking and problem solving competencies across a set of workplace relevant skills.

We feel the time is right to fully explore the opportunity to align Michigan's Perkins accountability measures to the NCRC. President Obama's address to joint session of Congress, February 24, 2009 included the following comments on his education goal: "It is our responsibility as lawmakers and educators to make this system work. But it is the responsibility of every citizen to participate in it. And so tonight, I ask every American to commit to at least one year or more of higher education or career training. This can be community college or a four-year school; vocational training or an apprenticeship. But whatever the training may be, every American will need to get more than a high school diploma. And dropping out of high school is no longer an option. It's not just quitting on yourself, it's quitting on your country – and this country needs and values the talents of every American. That is why we will provide the support necessary for you to complete college and meet a new goal: by 2020, America will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world." Our resolution aligns with and is in support of the President's goal for America.

We shared a draft copy of our resolution with the Michigan Career Education Program Directors via their association. Their executive board reports that they are in strong support of this resolution.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we might be helpful going forward.

Sincerely,

Bill Guest

Bill Guest, Chairman
Michigan NCRC Advocates
www.michigancrc.org