

SACS COC

SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS
COMMISSION ON COLLEGES

March 9, 2015

The Honorable Nathan Deal, Governor
State of Georgia
State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30301

Dear Governor Deal:

I am writing to ask you not to change the name of the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG) to a name associated with 'career colleges.' As President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges, the regional accrediting body for the Technical Colleges, I believe the name change will not accurately reflect the mission of the institutions and the very positive relationship they have with the colleges and universities that comprise the University System of Georgia.

Throughout the United States, there is a hierarchy of institutions that are recognized by the general public ranging from the elite Ivy League Institutions to State Colleges and Universities to Community and Technical Colleges. Career Colleges are generally not included in that recognized hierarchy and if the name of the TCSG were changed, I believe it would not only cause confusion but would significantly change the perception of the quality of the educational offerings that the System's institutions have worked years to earn.

Additionally, the cost that would be incurred to change legal documents, stationary, campus signage, etc., would be prohibitive and those dollars better spent reinvesting in the institutions' programs and services. Business and industry all across the State have been working with these institutions and depending upon them to train their entry level employees. They are familiar with them and respect the quality of the students they produce. Unless there have been complaints about the System's name, I see no value in doing so. Students who graduate from our fine senior institutions also end up with careers and I doubt that consideration is being given to changing their names to career universities.

While the Commission does not dictate what an institution calls itself, in this case I believe it would cause unnecessary harm to the perception and reputation of the colleges within the System for such a change to be made. I respectfully request that you NOT make this change.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Belle S. Wheelan, Ph.D.
President

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