



**TULSA REGIONAL CHAMBER**

August 18, 2015

Dear Superintendent Hofmeister:

On behalf of the Tulsa Regional Chamber, I am pleased to offer our organization's full support for a state-funded program allowing all Oklahoma high school juniors to take the ACT. The Chamber steadfastly believes in and will continue to work towards removing barriers to higher education and expanding the opportunities available to our state's future workforce.

As a business leadership organization working to improve the quality of life in northeast Oklahoma, our membership understands the fundamental relationship between degree completion, workforce development and economic prosperity. Through our regional OneVoice legislative agenda, education programs and workforce initiatives, the Chamber has long advocated for increased college degree attainment. This pilot program affords students more choices as they transition into the workforce, particularly the 25 percent that do not currently take the ACT. With a projected 62 percent of jobs requiring a post-secondary degree by 2020, our state must take bold steps to increase college enrollment. Oklahoma stands to benefit substantially from an increase in the number of prospective college graduates.

This initiative provides an opportunity for our state to make a serious investment in the educational attainment of its citizens. I applaud you for your leadership on this issue and look forward to continuing our united efforts of securing bright futures for Oklahoma's students.

Sincerely,



Michael S. Neal, CCE, CCD, HLM  
President & CEO