



November 12, 2010

Office of the President

The Honorable Richard G. Lugar
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Lugar:

On behalf of the students, faculty, and trustees of Calumet College of St. Joseph, I am pleased to offer our support for passage of the DREAM Act. We congratulate you and Senator Durbin for thoughtfully proposing an answer to at least some of the many issues related to the immigration challenges facing the United States of America.

As the most diverse college or university in the Midwest, we are pleased with our own efforts at providing advanced education opportunity to those who have been disadvantaged. That includes the substantial Hispanic population that resides in the greater Calumet Region. This semester our Hispanic enrollment is 28% of our student population.

As a private institution, receiving no federal or state aid, we have provided educational opportunity to all who meet our admission requirements, regardless of status. Some of these students were brought to this country as young children and identify themselves fully as Americans with no real ties to their country of origin. Many of them have distinguished themselves, not only as students, but also as graduates of our college. Lamentably, they are not eligible for employment. While we applaud their personal commitment to advancing their education, we understand how discouraged they become, when after residing in our country and participating in our educational system, they are still not eligible to be employed. This is both unfair and unjust.

Therefore, we commend you again on your foresight and your personal commitment to help resolve this complex issue.

Best wishes, and please let us know if there is anything that we can do additionally to help move the DREAM Act forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis C. Rittenmeyer".

Dennis C. Rittenmeyer, Ph.D.
President

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