

November 1, 2013

Representative Paul Ryan  
Committee on the Budget  
United States House of Representatives  
207 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Patty Murray  
Senate Budget Committee  
United States Senate  
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Ryan and Murray,

As you begin your discussions on a budget agreement for FY14, the higher education associations listed below encourage you to pursue two key goals: 1) eliminating the FY14 sequester reductions; and 2) placing a high priority on the investments that will build our economy in both the short and long term. The cuts imposed by the blunt instrument of sequestration have already negatively impacted the very programs on which the American economy depends. Scientific research, student aid and workforce training programs have all been cut at the expense of the competitive advantage our nation seeks to maintain.

The strength of our country's economy is linked directly to federal investments in science, technology and human capital. Innovation drives the American economy, and higher education and research and development drive innovation. Any solution to the nation's long-term fiscal challenges will require strong and sustained economic growth. That growth depends upon a renewed federal investment in scientific research combined with a robust effort to prepare the high-skilled workforce our nation needs.

Recommitting to these investments is vitally important if our nation is to resolve its fiscal challenges and remain the world's leading economy. Currently, the United States is falling behind other countries' efforts to increase funding for new technologies and investments in human capital. Recently, the United States' percentage of world R&D has been dropping by roughly one percent per year. China's percentage of global R&D has been growing by one percent per year.<sup>1</sup>

This slow growth rate leads to an increasing innovation deficit, the gap between what we are spending and what we should be spending to stay ahead of our major international competitors. Over the last 10 years, R&D expenditures as a share of economic output have remained almost constant in the United States, but have increased by nearly 50 percent in South Korea and nearly 90 percent in China.<sup>2</sup> At the same time, the number of engineering

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<sup>1</sup> Source: [www.abqjournal.com/249149/opinion/lower-investment-in-rampd-puts-us-in-danger.html](http://www.abqjournal.com/249149/opinion/lower-investment-in-rampd-puts-us-in-danger.html) and [www.rdmag.com/sites/rdmag.com/files/GFF2013Final2013\\_reduced.pdf](http://www.rdmag.com/sites/rdmag.com/files/GFF2013Final2013_reduced.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Source: NSF Science and Engineering Indicators 2012, Figure O-3


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doctorates awarded in China more than tripled to 15,000, nearly double the 8,100 awarded in the United States. What's more, of the 8,100 American doctorates in engineering, only about 3,200 went to U.S. citizens and permanent residents.<sup>3</sup>

These patterns of disinvestment in research are mirrored in federal student aid programs. Since 2011, more than \$23 billion in financial aid has been eliminated, despite rapidly growing enrollment at colleges and universities and a demand for highly educated and trained workers that is greater than ever. Prospective graduate students particularly have been hard hit by these cuts, which in many cases prevent them from pursuing the advanced degrees employers are desperately seeking.

Our nation's leadership in innovation is eroding as our competitors emulate the model we have so successfully followed in the past. As you meet to resolve the FY14 budget, we urge you to eliminate the irresponsible policy of sequestration and reaffirm the federal commitment to higher education and research that placed the United States at the top of the global economy.

Sincerely,



Molly Corbett Broad  
President

MCB/ldw

On behalf of:

ACPA - College Student Educators International  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Association of University Professors  
American Council on Education  
American Dental Education Association  
American Indian Higher Education Consortium  
American Society for Engineering Education  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Community College Trustees  
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities

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<sup>3</sup> Source: NSF Science and Engineering Indicators 2012, Figure O-10

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Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education  
Council for Higher Education Accreditation  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Independent Colleges  
Council On Governmental Relations  
EDUCAUSE  
Educational Testing Service  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association For Equal Opportunity in Higher Education  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
Thurgood Marshall College Fund  
University Professional and Continuing Education Association