



April 14, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chair  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Ranking Member Burr,

On behalf of the undersigned higher education associations, I write to express our enthusiastic support for James Kvaal, who has been nominated to serve as Under Secretary in the U.S. Department of Education. Our endorsement reflects the profound respect our members have for Mr. Kvaal's judgement, expertise, and professionalism, qualities he has consistently demonstrated in and out of government.

Throughout an accomplished career in the public and private sectors, Mr. Kvaal has distinguished himself through his deep knowledge of higher education and federal postsecondary policy. With his extensive experience working in the Senate, the House of Representatives, the White House, the Department of Education, and as a professor, Mr. Kvaal will bring comprehensive knowledge of the design, implementation, and management of federal programs to the role of Under Secretary.

Perhaps more importantly, this wealth of skill and experience has always been focused first and foremost on elevating the needs of students and their families to the center of policymaking. In his current role as president of The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS), Mr. Kvaal has continued this dedication to ensuring that all students have an equal opportunity to succeed in postsecondary education.

Considering the importance of the federal role in higher education, it is critical that the position of Under Secretary be filled by someone with the judgement, experience, personal commitment, and vision necessary to succeed in this role. For this reason, we strongly urge your members to support Mr. Kvaal's nomination when he comes before the Committee for a hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ted Mitchell".

Ted Mitchell  
President

On behalf of:

Achieving the Dream  
ACPA-College Student Educators International  
ACT  
American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education  
American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers  
American Association of Community Colleges  
American Association of State Colleges and Universities  
American Association of University Professors  
American Council on Education  
APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities"  
Association of American Medical Colleges  
Association of American Universities  
Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities  
Association of Community College Trustees  
Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges  
Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in Pennsylvania  
Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities  
Association of Public and Land-grant Universities  
Association of Research Libraries  
Association of Schools Advancing Health Professions  
College Board  
Council for Advancement and Support of Education  
Council for Christian Colleges & Universities  
Council for Higher Education Accreditation  
Council for Opportunity in Education  
Council of Graduate Schools  
Council of Independent Colleges  
EDUCAUSE  
ETS  
Higher Education Consultants Association  
Higher Education Loan Coalition  
International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators  
NASPA-Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education  
National Association for College Admission Counseling  
National Association of College and University Business Officers  
National Association of Colleges and Employers  
National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities  
National Association of System Heads  
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships  
State Higher Education Executive Officers Association  
TMC  
UPCEA