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34 Participating

Universities

Baylor University
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University
Rice University
Sam Houston State
University
SMU
St. Mary's University
SFA State University
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Texas A & M - Commerce
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JT Austin
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JT San Antonio
JT Tyler
West Texas A & M

May 17, 2007

Dear Chairwoman Shapiro, Vice Chairman Janek and members of the Senate Committee on Education:

In 2001, recognizing the impact of engineering and computer science related industries on the economy, Governor Rick Perry and a bi-partisan group of legislators passed Senate Bill 353, the *Technology Workforce Development Act*, creating the Texas Engineering and Technical Consortium (TETC). TETC is a consortium of industry, higher education, and government, formed with the purpose of increasing both the quantity and quality of baccalaureate-level engineers and computer scientists, as well as fostering cooperative relationships involving industry and universities that offer engineering and computer science degrees.

Senate Bill 1029 and House Bill 3828 will establish incentive funding for higher education institutions and is a big step in the right direction to fulfill TETC's mission. By increasing state money flowing to universities and rewarding academic achievement, more students will have incentives to graduate and pursue high-demand engineering and computer degrees. Rewarding universities for developing and implementing proven successful practices to increase graduation rates of engineering and computer science students are effective education policies.

Increasing the number of top quality graduates in technology fields helps companies meet the rising demand for computer scientists and engineers in Texas while driving economic competitiveness and growth for the state. In Texas, the total technology workforce is more than 435,400 with a payroll of \$31.5 billion a year. This means that 57 out of every 1,000 private sector employees in the state work for a technology company.

TETC is encouraged by SB 1029 and HB 3828 will ensure that the right steps are being taken to reform the higher education funding formula.

Sincerely,

Ray Almgren
Chairman
TETC