



Joint Committee on Appropriations
SENATOR DEB PETERS, CO-CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE JUSTIN CRONIN, CO-CHAIR

June 10, 2016

Dr. Melody Schopp, Secretary
Department of Education
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501

Letter of Intent Regarding Legislation Approved in the 2016 Session

Dear Dr. Schopp:

This Letter of Intent sets forth a particular view held by the Joint Committee on Appropriations relating to your appropriation approved in the FY2017 General Appropriations Act (SB172). As such, it supplements that appropriation with a specific policy guideline as approved on June 10, 2016. While the guideline does not have the direct force of statutory law, it rests solidly on a long-standing tradition of Legislative-Executive relationships in South Dakota and it will be used by the Joint Committee as one basis for the fiscal oversight of your agency.

SB172 provided \$3 million in general funds for the purpose of increasing instructor salaries to competitive levels at the postsecondary technical institutes. It is the intent of the Committee that these funds are to only be used for instructors' salaries and benefits and that the technical institutes are allowed to use these funds for differential pay, based on performance, in high need areas and highly difficult areas to recruit and retain instructors.

The Committee also requests that the Department of Education provide a report by December 6, 2016. The report should outline the effect of the additional funding on instructor salaries and retention by program at each technical institute.

Thank you for your cooperation.

/S/ Senator Deb Peters

/S/ Representative Justin Cronin

Senator Deb Peters
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

Representative Justin Cronin
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Appropriations

cc: Marty Guindon, Auditor General
Jason Dilges, Commissioner, Bureau of Finance and Management
Mike Cartney, Lake Area Technical Institute
Mark Wilson, Mitchell Area Technical Institute
Jeff Holcomb, Southeast Technical Institute
Dr. Ann Bolman, Western Dakota Technical Institute