



June 4, 2025

Dear Chair Cirino, Vice Chair Chavez, Ranking Member Hicks-Hudson and members of the Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of Edison State Community College, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of restoring funding for the Tech Prep Regional Centers under the Career Technical Enhancements line item 200545. Edison State is a long-standing post-secondary partner to our Ohio College Tech Prep West Regional Center, and we have seen firsthand the critical role these centers play in aligning secondary and post-secondary education to meet the needs of students and employers across Ohio. We respectfully ask the committee to restore the full \$9.6 million in funding for the Tech Prep Regional Centers, as introduced in the Executive Budget and as passed by the House.

Tech Prep Regional Centers are a cornerstone of Ohio's CTE infrastructure, serving as connectors, conveners, and collaborators across sectors. At the community college level, Tech Prep plays a vital role in:

- Supporting articulation and dual credit agreements
- Facilitating CTAG and career pathway alignment
- Encouraging student transitions from high school to college
- Coordinating work-based learning and employer engagement
- Helping us respond to emerging workforce needs with greater speed and cohesion

Tech Prep's proven record of building high-quality partnerships and adapting to the evolving education and workforce landscape has made them an indispensable asset to Edison State. Their support strengthens our ability to enroll, retain, and graduate students who are better prepared for careers in high-demand fields.

Please know that we support the vision and growth of the budget bill's proposal to expand the responsibilities of the Tech Prep Network, including the realignment to a 7th region to match the JobsOhio structure. We only ask that the Senate Finance Committee restore the full \$9.6 million in funding for the Tech Prep Regional Centers in order to support this expanded mission without compromising the high-quality services already being delivered. We look forward to continuing to work with the Tech Prep in providing Ohio students with clear and successful transitions into higher education and the workforce.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued investment in Ohio's future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Chris Spradlin', written in dark ink.

Chris Spradlin  
President