



**Office of Enrollment Management
Launch UC**
University of Cincinnati
PO BOX 210202
Cincinnati, OH 45221-0202

June 4, 2025

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the University of Cincinnati, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of restoring funding for Tech Prep Regional Centers under the Career Technical Enhancements line item 200545.

As a long-standing partner to our Southwest Region Tech Prep Center, we rely upon the support these centers provide in aligning secondary and post-secondary education to meet the needs of students and employers in Ohio, especially in rural, Appalachian and urban school districts most at need. We respectfully urge the committee to restore full funding to \$9.6 million, as introduced in the Executive Budget and passed by the House.

Tech Prep regional centers are a cornerstone of Ohio's CTE infrastructure, serving as connectors, conveners, and collaborators across all sectors. At the four-year University level, Tech Prep plays a vital role in supporting articulation and dual credit agreements, facilitating CTAG and career pathway alignment, and assisting our Colleges respond to emerging workforce needs with greater speed and cohesion.

Tech Prep has a proven track record of building high-quality partnerships, adapting to evolving education and workforce needs, making them an indispensable asset to our institution. Their support strengthens our ability to enroll, retain, and graduate students who are better prepared for careers in Ohio's in-demand workforce.

If we hope to continue to build seamless, student-centered pathways that lead from high school to college to career, Tech Prep must be properly resourced to do this work. We urge the Senate Finance Committee to restore the full \$9.6 million in funding for the Tech Prep Regional Centers so we can continue to provide Ohio students with clear, supported, and successful transitions into higher education and the workforce.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lorrie Bishop', written over a horizontal line.

Lorrie Bishop
Director, Secondary Enrollment Partnerships - Launch UC College
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