

RICHARD J. DURBIN

ILLINOIS

ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

COMMITTEE ON RULES  
AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1304

December 8, 2011

Dr. Gary R. Carlson  
Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools  
750 First Street NE  
Suite 980  
Washington, DC 20002-4223

Dear Dr. Carlson:

The Career Education Corporation's (CECO) recent admission to inflating job placement rates is in direct violation of your accrediting requirements. While I appreciate the Accrediting Council for Independent Colleges and Schools' (ACICS) commitment to educational quality at the schools it accredits, I am deeply concerned for the approximately 100,000 students attending schools owned by CECO.

It is my understanding that ACICS intends to review CECO's accreditation status for the programs that are in violation of your job placement requirements. While certainly an appropriate step, I would urge ACICS to audit other programs operated by the school to ensure that all of CECO's students are working with accurate information about their post-secondary education.

Students and families rely on accreditors for the seal of approval you provide. Given the baseless job placement numbers provided by one of the programs with ACICS accreditation, the Council should re-evaluate current methodology, documentation and reporting requirements for job placement. Strengthening and expanding the standards that are already in place will ensure that schools are providing the most meaningful information.

Many of us in Congress are working to make it easier for students and families to have good, clear information about their higher education choices. ACICS can be an effective partner in this effort by taking further steps to ensure that CECO programs are appropriately accredited and to ensure meaningful job placement standards.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Richard J. Durbin  
U.S. Senator