

February 6, 2009

The Honorable Henry E. Brown Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
1124 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, District of Columbia 20515-4001

Dear Representative Brown,

Thank you so much for your continued support for Trident Technical College. We are so fortunate to have a representative like you who understands the needs of this district and who will fight for our "fair share" of federal funding.

As you know, our nursing and other allied health programs are critical for the health care industry in our community. You also know TTC is in desperate need of a new nursing building, but until we can get the funding for a nursing building, we must continue to find ways to prepare nursing and allied health professionals within the confines of our existing facilities.

Therefore, TTC is requesting \$696,000 to fund a **Nursing and Allied Health Simulation Laboratory** which will greatly enhance the educational experience for students in these critical fields. Human patient simulation provides opportunities for all students to develop critical skills in a safe environment and one that is available for educational activities as is needed by students rather than being tied to appropriate opportunities in hospitals or other medical facilities. The simulation lab will also provide education for faculty members to fully integrate quality simulation into every nursing and allied health programs in the college. Allied Health programs include: Dental Assistant, Dental Hygienist, Medical Lab Technician, Radiologic Technician, Pharmacy Technician, Occupational Therapy Assistant, Physical Therapy Assistant, Massage Therapist, Paramedic, Medical Records Coder, Respiratory Care Technician, and a series of courses for Allied Health Preparation.

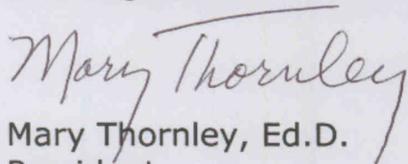
The quality of student clinical experiences in nursing and allied health programs is largely dependent on the types of patients they can be exposed to and the facilities accessible to our students each semester.

Exposure to certain patient conditions is often restricted by hospitals and other clinical settings due to the critical nature of the patient's condition and the number of students needing a similar experience. TTC has over 800 students in its nursing and allied health programs with over 1000 additional students ready to come into the programs. Benefits of the simulation laboratory include: Giving students the opportunity to repeat clinical experiences to enhance proficiency with more opportunities to develop critical thinking and decision-making skills; Expanded numbers of simulation-proficient faculty; Enhanced teaching efficiency with the expectation of increasing enrollments and retention of students; Integration of simulation into the nursing and allied health program curricula; and anticipated increases in pass rates for licensing exams.

I'm sure you remember when the allied health building was new (1989) and when we had sufficient space of these programs. Those days are gone—we are bursting at the seams and have no place to grow until we can fund the new Nursing building. In the meantime, the **Nursing and Allied Health Simulation Laboratory** will be enormously helpful to improve our nursing and allied health programs and expand the experiences available to our students.

Thank you again for your support and interest in technical education. We hope you will have an opportunity to visit the campus soon. We appreciate all you do for TTC and South Carolina.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Thornley". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mary Thornley, Ed.D.
President