

Senator Sherrod Brown
712 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

First of all, I would like to say that I am a concerned voter. My reason for contacting you today is to address my concerns and interests about my college education. I am a constituent and hold you in high regards. I currently attend Daymar College, which is a small career college located in new Boston, Ohio. I, as a student, benefit greatly from the small class sizes that Daymar College has to offer. There is more time for one on one instruction. This allows the students a great understanding of the material and perhaps room to concentrate on information that may be a little harder to grasp for some students.

Instructors and faculty alike are very caring people. They are genuinely interested in the success of each and every student who may enter Daymar College. Daymar College presents a family atmosphere, and this makes students feel as if they belong somewhere. A healthy environment exudes from Daymar College. There is always an event scheduled to bring the students and faculty together. Fundraisers are a large influence on community involvement and Daymar College participates on a regular basis.

I have attended a state university in the past. The faculty there were very impersonal. The instructors had an "I could care less" attitude about attendance. Most of them would let you know up front that it did not matter to them if the student showed up for class or not; they received a paycheck regardless. This attitude was carried out in their class instruction, as well. Instructors simply took no extra time to spend with any students that may have been struggling. They basically said if you do not pass, then you will just have to repeat the course. In fact, a former instructor from that very college has said they (the instructors) were encouraged and applauded for a high failure rate. Not success, but failure. The apathetic attitude seemed to be carried out by all faculty including financial aid, student services, and advisors.

My career college education is extremely important to me. I am a single mother of two and in need of a stable career. Daymar College allows me to have a flexible schedule for my classes, thus allowing me to continue working as well as attend my classes. It is necessary for me to receive my Associate Degree in Medical Assisting, so I will achieve my goals in life. This will provide a concrete future for my children and myself. Without Daymar College, my career college, being available to me, I would not be a success.

Financial aid has been a great asset to me while attending Daymar College. It has helped cover the costs of my text books, and tuition, which has helped tremendously. Financial aid is vital in

the success of many students who attend Daymar College. It provides a means for those of us who want a better future for ourselves and our families. If financial aid was not available to provide this means for us, we would not be able to achieve our goals and secure our futures.

The federal government is a big player in the funding of federal student aid. If they would increase the funding, many more people would be able to attend college. Also, if career college credits would transfer to other schools, then many students would succeed at furthering their education. The federal government needs to amend the Higher Education Act defining career schools to the same section of the law that defines other post-secondary education institutions. Career colleges, like Daymar College, should have a common "Institutional Report Card" the same as all post-secondary institutions.

I would like to thank you for your time. I am hopeful and confident that we, the students at Daymar College and other career colleges alike, will see positive outcomes due to our concerns that have been addressed. Our education and our futures are extremely important to us. Our livelihoods depend on our available resources that help us attain our goals.

Sincerely,

Melissa Keeton