

Representative Marsha Blackburn
217 Cannon House Office Building
District of Columbia 20515-4207

Dear Mrs. Blackburn:

While considering the pros and cons of being a student at Daymar Institute, the end result revealed my appreciation for choosing a career college over a traditional college, expressing how important my education is to me. It also motivated me to support ideas that may help assist in its continuous reformation, for example, how our Federal Government can help improve the educational goals of current and future career college students. The objective of my letter is to discuss these topics, in hopes of displaying how important my education from Daymar Institute is to me.

With the smaller classrooms and low student-teacher ratios being a major factor, attending Daymar Institute has allowed me to achieve a better educational experience on a more personal level. This helps me gain better comprehension of the material learned, resulting in acquiring the skills needed for the workforce. There are also fewer prerequisites than a traditional college, allowing me to go directly into my area of interest. This is critical because each class session acts as a reminder of my purpose in advancing my education, and steadily increases my level of interest. The transition from being just a single parent in the workforce to going back to the classroom was also important. My fear, of not being able to excel as a student, started to ruin my confidence and question my ability to do well. Thankfully, Daymar Institute has made this transition extremely easy and comfortable for me. To gain the skills needed in a rapid but comprehensive manner, also played a major role in acquiring an education from a career college. Not only am I taking courses that focus directly on my field of interest, I am able to complete my course of study faster than I would have in a traditional college. The benefit is that I get to work in the field of my dreams with a college degree, and it allows me to provide for my family a lot sooner. All of these factors were carefully thought out, to ensure that I would be placed in the best suitable environment when receiving my education and ultimately reaching my career goals.

Receiving financial aid has been another reason for my appreciation of Daymar Institute. It has allowed me to move toward my career goal, by providing the funds needed to pay tuition and purchase materials that assist in the success of my educational accomplishments. Coming from a background of destitution, money wasn't always available. Getting married and starting a family was thought to be a way to escape poverty. This only worsened my situation, now causing me to become a single mother of three children, working for minimum wage. Having to provide for my family alone, in addition to paying for school, would have been impossible. With employment opportunities declining, possessing only a high school diploma automatically eliminated "decent paying" jobs. Without financial aid, I would have never been able to put a grasp on my dream of entering the legal field as a paralegal. The ability to utilize the financial aid program has allowed me to find the path that I put aside for so long. I am ultimately the role model I felt my children needed for so long, and someone that I could now be proud of when looking in the mirror.

Lastly, I want to discuss what would be a possible improvement for Daymar and other career colleges nationally. Our Federal Government has done a number of things to improve the quality of career colleges all over, for example, Congress' recent increase of the maximum Pell Grant amount from \$5,350 to \$5,550 taking effect July 1, 2010. While we greatly applaud Congress' support with Pell Grant funding, one thing our Federal Government can do to ultimately improve the educational goals for our current and future career college students, is giving nationally accredited schools the same credit as regionally accredited schools.

According to the Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-7-202, Tennessee is required to “establish and ensure that all postsecondary institutions in Tennessee cooperatively provide for an integrated system of postsecondary education.” How can this be true if students are continuously restricted from transferring their credits, when they have devotedly earned the right to do so? This obstacle causes many students to have to repeat courses, creating financial hardship for both students and taxpayers. Devastatingly, this also sets the student back from reaching their educational goals and/or providing a stable life for their families. If we are to become one nation that is built on individuals working together, striving to bring families out of poverty, and to not allow discrimination overcome one's choice of when and where they receive their postsecondary education, then we must give credit where credit is earned and due. As a constituent, not only is my career college education important to me, it is also important that hardworking students of career colleges everywhere, are to be exposed in the same positive light as hardworking students in traditional colleges.

Respectfully Yours,

Traci L. Mozee