

February 1, 2021

The Hon. Michael Bennet
U.S. Senator
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Todd Young
U.S. Senator
400 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet and Senator Young:

As local, state, and national organizations committed to investing in what works, we are writing to express our support for the Fund for Innovation and Success in Higher Education (FINISH) Act.

American colleges and universities have great untapped potential to increase economic opportunity and strengthen our democracy. Yet despite the fact that a growing number of higher education institutions and their partners have developed an increasing number of evidence-based solutions, we must accelerate this progress more broadly across the country.

We commend you for introducing the FINISH Act, which would leverage the power of evidence and innovation to improve outcomes in higher education. Specifically, we appreciate the inclusion of provisions in your legislation that would:

- create a tiered-evidence innovation fund that would test, replicate, and scale up successful approaches to improving access to and completion in higher education, including partnerships among states, nonprofits, K-12 institutions, and institutions of higher education;
- encourage institutions of higher education to create open educational resources;
- authorize 5 pilot Pay for Success initiatives that would invest federal funds in proven solutions once they demonstrate results; and
- authorize the U.S. Department of Education and Institute of Education Sciences to invest up to 1 percent of federal funds in evaluations to continuously improve their impact and results.

We believe that strategic investments in innovation, evidence-based practices, and evaluations have the potential to help many more students access and succeed in higher education.

Thank you for your continued efforts to ensure that federal taxpayer dollars are invested in what works in higher education.

Sincerely,

A+ Colorado
 Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors
 Alliance for Excellent Education
 America Forward
 America's Promise
 AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)
 Bard College
 Bay Path University
 Boston Plan for Excellence
 Bottom Line
 BPC Action
 Braven
 California Association for Bilingual Education
 Cascade Philanthropy Advisors, Inc.
 Center for Research and Reform in Education, Johns Hopkins University
 Center for the Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University
 Chiefs for Change
 Citizen Schools
 City Year
 Civic Enterprises
 College Forward
 College Possible
 Colorado Succeeds
 Communities In Schools National
 Community Training and Assistance Center (CTAC)
 Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)
 Delta State University
 Democracy Builders
 Diverse Charter Schools Coalition
 EDGE Consulting
 Educate Texas
 Education Analytics
 Education Northwest
 Education Research & Development Institute
 EdVoice
 EFFICACITY, LLC
 Everyone Graduates Center
 Eye to Eye National
 FareStart
 Farmingdale State College SUNY
 Forum for Youth Investment
 Friends of the Children
 GreenLight Fund
 Higher Learning Advocates
 Hunger Task Force
 IDEA Public Schools
 iMentor
 Institute for Child Success
 Institute for Higher Education Policy (IHEP)
 Jobs for the Future
 Juma Ventures
 JVS-Boston
 KIPP
 Knowledge Alliance
 KnowledgeWorks
 LIFT
 Literacy Design Collaborative
 Local Initiatives Support Corporation
 Marzano Research
 Maycomb Capital
 McREL International
 MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership
 Millionaire Club Charity
 Montgomery County Schools (NC)
 New America Higher Education Program
 New Classrooms
 New Leaders
 New Profit
 Nonprofit Finance Fund
 Project Evident
 Quantified Ventures
 RecycleForce
 Reinvestment Fund
 Research Institute for Key Indicators LLC
 Results for America
 RMC Research
 Roca
 Root Cause
 Service Year Alliance
 Social Finance
 Sorenson Impact Center
 Stand for Children
 Stand for Children Colorado
 Stand for Children Washington
 Success for All Foundation
 Teach For America
 Teach Plus Colorado
 Tennessee SCORE
 Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
 The College of New Rochelle
 The Dibble Institute
 The Education Trust
 The Institute for College Access and Success (TICAS)
 The Policy & Research Group
 Third Sector
 Third Way
 TNTP
 uAspire
 University System of Maryland

Venture Philanthropy Partners
Wake Technical Community College
Western Interstate Commission for Higher
Education
Year Up

Brian Merritt, Vice President, Learning &
Workforce Development, and Chief Academic
Officer, Central Carolina Community College
Diane Schanzenbach, Director, Institute for
Policy Research, Northwestern University
Doug Harris, Professor of Economics, Tulane
University
Jennifer Wade-Berg, Associate Professor,
Kennesaw State University
John Bridgeland, former Director of the White
House Domestic Policy Council (Pres. G.W.
Bush), and CEO, Civic, LLC
Joshua Ogburn, Director, University of
Virginia Pay for Success Lab
Joshua Powers, Professor of Higher
Education Leadership, Indiana State
University
Kathryn Stack, former Deputy Associate
Director and Senior Advisor, U.S. Office of
Management and Budget
Lynn Cominsky, Professor and Chair, School
of Education, Sonoma State University
Martin R. West, Professor of Education,
Harvard Graduate School of Education
Matt Segneri, Director, Harvard Business
School Social Enterprise Initiative
Paul Tchounwou, Associate Dean and
Presidential Distinguished Professor,
Jackson State University
Robert Shea, former Associate Director,
White House Office of Management and
Budget, and Principal, Public Sector, Grant
Thornton, LLP
Timothy Renick, Senior Vice President for
Student Success, Georgia State University